

Outline

What Would You Do...For Love? Boundaries

Have you ever paused to think about the question: What would you do...for Love?

- ◇ I'm not really focusing on romantic love – we will take a look at that next week.
- ◇ How important is it in your life to be loved and what are you willing to do to be loved? – Tolerate uncivil treatment? Be abused physically, emotionally, or sexually? Allow consistent manipulation of your time, good will, money, resources, life?
- ◇ Why is it that the lines of civility and tolerance are allowed to be blurred in the name of love? Like the old song says, “you only hurt the ones you love, the ones you shouldn’t hurt at all.” – **Insert Momzilla video** What Would You Do?
- ◇ Why do we tolerate so much pain from relatives that we would never tolerate from others who we do not love?
- ◇ Is there a time when a line is crossed in a “love” relationship that should result in the breaking of relationship – even when it comes to our loved ones?

Let's Define Love - Love is an action that produces a feeling – not the other way around.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. **1 Corinthians 13:4-8 NIV**

This is what we should DO for love.

- ◇ Want your children to love you for a lifetime and not feel manipulated? Practice this.
- ◇ Having marriage problems? Practice this once a day.
- ◇ Someone has said that you should say “I Love You.” To every loved one in your life 10 times each day in a different way each time. (Turn in groups and discuss how this can be done – then we will share these out loud.)

Know the Love Language of your Loved Ones and speak it at least once daily.

- ◇ Words of Affirmation – Verbal appreciation and encouragement
- ◇ Receiving Gifts – Visual symbols of love that say “You’re special.” 57 Years Married and Still “Hot” for Each Other – Letter to Dr. Laura
- ◇ Quality Time – Time Spent together in mutual activity with undivided attention given to each other and authentic self revelation
- ◇ Physical Touch – asexual touch that communicates intimacy of heart
- ◇ Acts of Service – Serving another by doing a simple task for them out of love and not obligation
- ◇ All the above taken from the book, *The 5 Love Languages* by Dr. Gary Chapman

What Do We Do That We Should Never Do For Love?

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Never Accept Disrespect and Abuse For Love!

Of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Ephesians 5:5 NIV

- ◇ If God draws a boundary on relationship, they why shouldn't you?
- ◇ Never allow another to treat you disrespectfully or abusively. That is not love.

Never Accept Deception and Manipulation For Love!

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them. Ephesians 5:6,7 NIV

- ◇ You hold the responsibility of deception and manipulation. You must draw the line and be authentic in love.
- ◇ You should not tolerate dishonesty.
- ◇ A dishonest relationship is an unsafe relationship and must be terminated. Even if it is a familial relationship.

Never Accept Dishonesty For Love!

Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. Ephesians 5:9-11 NIV

- ◇ Anyone who is doing something illegal needs to be brought to the light and this only happens as they feel the sting of their consequences.
- ◇ Anyone who would jeopardize your safety through illegal activity is acting out of selfishness and not love.

So How Do I Protect Myself for Love? Be Trustworthy with Yourself.

When you stay trustworthy with yourself, you act in ways that express your value and vulnerability. Whenever you let someone have access to the most sensitive part of you and they start getting careless, you must take back that part of yourself and think, *Excuse me. Apparently, you've lost track of how valuable and how vulnerable I am. But I haven't, and I can't let that happen.* *The DNA of Relationships* by Gary Smalley

All relationships involve choice. When people treat you badly, you can choose to be trustworthy to yourself...Your ability to feel safe in a relationship depends on your being trustworthy to yourself...If I can't trust myself to remember how valuable and how vulnerable I am, then my whole well-being depends on the other people's remembering. To the degree that they remember, I'm safe; but to the degree that they forget, I'm not. In that case, I'm helpless and have no say. *The DNA of Relationships* by Gary Smalley

What Do I Do For Love?

1. Command Respect by respecting yourself and knowing the lines of respect.
2. Confront Disrespect and refuse to relate in a disrespectful environment.
3. Allow only loving touch rather than negative touch.
4. Allow relationships on your terms rather than the terms of others.

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5. Sever all relationships that are not safe.

Therefore do not be partners with them. Ephesians 5:7 NIV

6. Choose to live in relationships of mutual submission.

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21

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