

LEARNING TO LOVE OUR SPOUSE

LESSON FOUR: LOVE IS NOT JEALOUS, DOES NOT BRAG

- ✦ LOVE IS MUCH MORE THAN AN EMOTION
- ✦ LOVE ACTS/DOES NOT ACT IN A CERTAIN WAY
- ✦ LOVE IS LEARNED
- ✦ LOVE IS HARD, NEVER ENDING WORK

(Answer the following on the back or on a separate sheet of paper to allow yourself space to comment fully)

1. Love is not self-centered. When there is a lack of love in marriage or any other relationship, the parties involved are acting toward each other in a way that is selfish. All of the descriptions which tell us what love is not or what it does not do in 1 Cor 13:4,5 emphasize this point. Write down in your own words what it means to be "jealous", to "brag", or to be "arrogant", "act unbecomingly", "seek its own", "provoked", "take into account a wrong suffered" using "I", "me", or "self" in each one. How well will the marriage relationship work if one or both spouses are self-centered?
2. Jesus did not have a handsome appearance, money, or power. He had fame at times, but Jesus knew it was shallow. He ate with the rich and spoke with the powerful. But, despite what he did not have and others had, is there any record of Him being jealous? Though many deserted Him, did he live His life with an unhealthy fear of losing men's affection? The Pharisees were His spiritual rivals, as He and they both sought to make disciples of the people. They were resentful and bitter and such jealousy led to His death. But did He have the same attitude toward them?
3. In what ways can jealousy rear its ugly head in marriage? What problems does it cause? How can one overcome jealousy?
4. When Jesus performed awesome miracles, he did not brag. In fact, what he said was quite the opposite. What did Jesus say after He performed miracles? (Mt 8:1-4; 9:27-31; Mk 5:35-43; 7:32-37). How is this in keeping with the character of the Messiah, as predicted by the O.T. prophets? (Mt 12:15-21; cp. Isa 42:1-4)
5. What harm does bragging do to marriage? How does Prov 27:2 serve as a solution?

LET "SELF" BE CRUCIFIED AND SLAIN, AND BURIED DEEP; AND ALL IN VAIN MAY EFFORTS BE TO RISE AGAIN, UNLESS TO LIVE FOR OTHERS.

OTHERS, LORD, YES OTHERS, LET THIS MY MOTTO BE, HELP ME TO LIVE FOR OTHERS, THAT I MAY LIVE LIKE THEE.

