

## LEARNING TO LOVE OUR SPOUSE

## LESSON NINE: LOVE NEVER FAILS

- ✧ 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

One of the most celebrated things about "love" is its endurance. How many love songs talk about "forever"? One such song, popular several years ago, said, "So what's the glory in living, doesn't anybody ever stay together anymore; if love doesn't last forever, tell me what's forever for?" In a world where one out of two marriages end in divorce, it is obvious that endurance is the missing ingredient. Love never fails, but people fail to show love.

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

1. In 1 Cor 13:7, four descriptions of love are given which lead up to "love never fails" in vs. 8. These four descriptions tell us the reason that the marriage relationship and all relationships continue despite difficulties. Why does a person who loves keep on loving, come what may? Meditate on the four descriptions of love, "bears all things", "believes all things", "hopes all things", and "endures all things" and then comment briefly on the meaning of each phrase. Tell why, if a couple practices things things toward one other, their love will not fail, but will endure to the golden anniversary and beyond.
2. Comment on Jesus' unflinching love for His apostles despite their many faults. What did Jesus have to deal with in His relationship with them? (Mt 8:23-26; Jn 14:8-9; Mk 9:30-34; Mt 26:36-46, 47-50, 56, 69-75). Yet, what does the Scripture say about Jesus' love? (Jn 13:1). What was the end result of Jesus' unflinching love with all but Judas? (cp. Acts)
3. Comment on Jesus' unflinching love for those who rejected Him. What did Jesus have to deal with, especially from the Jewish leaders, as He taught and worked miracles? (Mt 13:13-15; Lk 11:53-54; Jn 12 37-43; Mk 8:11-12). Yet, what was His attitude? (Lk 19:41-42) Ultimately, what did the Jewish leaders and the people ask for? (Mt 27:20-26) Yet, what did Jesus say as He hung on the cross? (Lk 23:34) What was the end result of His unflinching love toward those who rejected Him? (Acts 2:36-38, 41; 6:7)
4. Why is it so hard for husbands and wives to continue to love each other for a lifetime? Why is it so common for them to stop loving one another and divorce?

"I have one deep, supreme desire That I may be like Jesus  
 To this I fervently aspire That I may be like Jesus.  
 His Spirit fill my hungering soul His power all my life control  
 My deepest prayer, my highest goal, That I may be like Jesus.