

ICEBREAKER

As I read the Scripture passage, my first thought was (circle one):

- "I wish my husband (or wife) could read this."
- "Who does he think I am?"
- "I'll never make it."
- "Wow!"
- "This is impossible."
- "If I could only be this way."

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Considering the Scripture definitions of love, if I were to rank myself on a scale between 1 and 10 — 1 being very weak and 10 being very strong — I would do so as follows: (circle one number in each area).

Love is patient: I am slow to get angry with those I love;

I never holler at the children or "lose my temper" with those at work.

WEAK - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - STRONG

Love is kind: I am thoughtful and considerate of those closest to me; generous in my praise; extravagant with my time; always on the lookout for ways to "build up" the others in my family and friends.

WEAK - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - STRONG

Love envies no one: I am not jealous when others get promoted ahead of me or I am threatened by their gifts and accomplishments. I do not sit back and pout or pick flaws when I am set aside or go unnoticed.

WEAK - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - STRONG

Love is never boastful: I do not hog the conversation, bragging about my own gifts and accomplishments, exaggerating the facts deliberately to leave a better impression than what is absolutely true.

WEAK - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - STRONG

Love is not conceited: I do not harbor an inflated view of my own importance, or have to be coaxed, honored or pampered to do my part; I do not twist the conversation around to my own interests to draw attention to myself.

WEAK - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - STRONG

Love is not rude: I am not cruel, nasty, crude, cutting, sarcastic or cocky; but instead am polite, well-mannered, courteous and gracious with employees, friends, and those in my family — even my brothers and sisters and spouse.

WEAK - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - STRONG

Love is not selfish: I am not self-centered or self-seeking, making others fit into my mold or laying expectations on others for my own interests; I am not possessive of those I love, insisting on my own way or my own rights.

WEAK - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - STRONG

Love does not take offense: I am not touchy, cranky, defensive, brittle or super-sensitive; I am not easily hurt at any slightest little thing, or offended by an oversight by my spouse, friends or business associates.

WEAK - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - STRONG

Love keeps no score of wrongs: I am quick to forgive those who have harmed me; I don't have to retaliate or "defend myself" when criticized by my wife or husband, boss, friend, or associate at work.

WEAK - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - STRONG

Love does not gloat over other men's wrongs: I do not secretly rejoice when others make a mistake or are proven wrong; I don't take pleasure in reminding others in my family or office of their faults, or by saying "I told you so."

WEAK - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - STRONG

Love delights in the truth: I am glad when right and justice prevail, no matter who gets the credit; I am strong in my own convictions while still leaving room for my own human error.

WEAK - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - STRONG

DEPTH ENCOUNTER

1. After taking this inventory, I feel like (circle one):

- crawling into a hole
- giving up
- trying harder
- starting all over again
- crying for help
- shouting

2. For the next seven days, I will consciously do one unselfish act every day for my family or friends — something I would not ordinarily do — as a "faith" experiment (circle one):

- yes
- no
- I'll try