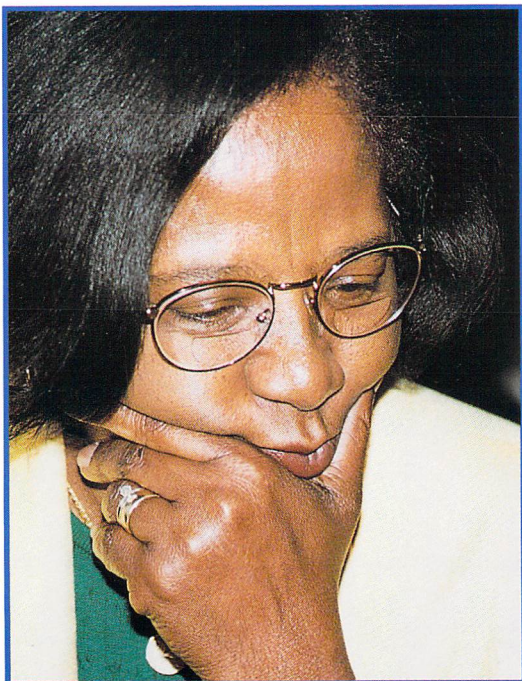


BIBLICAL INVENTORIES

HOW'S YOUR LOVE LIFE?

The best-known passage in the Bible about love is 1 Corinthians 13—the “love chapter.” The personal inventory below is taken from this passage. Get into groups of about 4. Turn to 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 and have someone read the verses out loud. Then, let one person read the first phrase. Go around the group and have everyone pick a number between 1 and 10. Have someone else read the next phrase, etc. until you’ve completed the inventory.



Love is patient: I don't take out my frustrations on those I love. I am calm under pressure and careful with my tongue.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love is kind: I go out of my way to say nice words, and do thoughtful things for others.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love does not envy: I am not envious of others' gifts and abilities or of what they have. Neither am I jealous with my time toward those who need me.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love does not boast: I don't consider my role any more important than those I love—or talk like “I know better.”

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love is not proud: I don't think of myself as better than those I love; or better at sports ... or singing ... or handling money, etc.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love is not rude: I don't make cutting or crude remarks when I don't get my way—or become silent and withdrawn.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love is not self-seeking: I don't put myself first. I try to give those I love spiritual and emotional support.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love is not easily angered: I don't let little things bother me, especially with those I love. I have a muffler on my mouth.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love keeps no record of wrongs: I don't keep score of the number of times those I love have said something or done something that upset me, and I don't bring it up when we have conflict.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love does not delight in evil: There is a difference between acceptance and approval. I accept those I love, but I do not have to approve of everything they do.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love rejoices with the truth: With a compassionate spirit, I will say what needs to be said to someone, even if it might be difficult. I seek the truth in my own life and encourage others to do the same.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love always protects: I am always there for those I love—even when they upset me—seeking to comfort and care as Christ would.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love always trusts: I believe in those I love and I believe in God. And I am willing to let God do the shaping and molding.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love always hopes: I am good at expecting the best and thinking the best about those I love. I always give those I love the benefit of the doubt.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love always perseveres: I am committed to those I love and I am prepared to see that commitment through to the end.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS



THE ARMOR OF GOD

Scripture doesn't promise Christians an easy life. In Ephesians 6, the apostle Paul calls the Christian life a struggle and compares the spiritual equipment of a Christian to a Roman soldier fully dressed for battle.

Get into groups of about 4 to take the personal inventory below. Turn to Ephesians 6:10–18 and have someone read the Scripture out loud. Then, let one person read the first piece of equipment and its application. Go around the group and have everyone give a number from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high), and explain why you gave yourself this number. Have someone else read the next piece of equipment and application, etc., until you've completed the inventory.

BELT OF TRUTH

I am prepared to stake my life on the fact that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I have thought through what I believe, and I am willing to take a stand.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

I am prepared to put my life where my mouth is—in clean and right living—with genuine integrity—as Christ did. I am serious about being God's man or God's woman.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

FEET FITTED WITH THE READINESS THAT COMES FROM THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

I am willing to publicly affirm my faith in Christ—at school, work or wherever. I find it easy to talk about my personal faith.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

SHIELD OF FAITH

I am prepared to step out with Christ—to risk my life, my fortune and my future for him whatever the cost or consequences. And through faith, I am taking a stand against the “evil one.”

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

HELMET OF SALVATION

I know that I am part of the family of God because of Jesus Christ. I have a strong inner peace because I am at peace with God.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD

I actively seek to know more about God and his will for my life through an ongoing study of his guidebook, the Bible. I discipline myself to reflect on it daily.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

PRAYER

I set aside time regularly to talk with God and to let him speak to me. I consciously try to submit every decision in my life to God.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10