

HOW LOVING AM I?

(According to I Corinthians 13:4-7; NASB, RSV, NIV)

Characteristics of Love	Little or No Performance			High Performance	
1 Patient	0	1	2	3	4
2 Kind	0	1	2	3	4
3 Not envious	0	1	2	3	4
4 Does not brag	0	1	2	3	4
5 Not arrogant	0	1	2	3	4
6 Not rude	0	1	2	3	4
7 Not insist on own way	0	1	2	3	4
8 Not easily angered	0	1	2	3	4
9 Keep no record of wrongs	0	1	2	3	4
10 Do not rejoice in wrongdoing	0	1	2	3	4
11 Rejoice in the truth	0	1	2	3	4
12 Bear all things	0	1	2	3	4
13 Believe all things	0	1	2	3	4
14 Hope all things	0	1	2	3	4
15 Endure all things	0	1	2	3	4

Throughout the whole Bible, God requires us to not only hear and read his Word but to do it. See, e.g., Deuteronomy 27:26; 28:1-2; Matthew 7:21-23; 23; John 14:21; Titus 2:7-8; James 1:19-27. Furthermore, we are glad to commit to doing so out of gratitude and to honor and glorify God for his great and steadfast love for us, at such a huge cost to himself, and because we know living accordingly results in the best for others as well as for us.

The Holy Spirit, speaking through the Apostle Paul, defines the highest form of love (ἀγάπη [*agape*]) in the Word of God in the famous chapter, 1 Corinthians 13. In that chapter he also reveals that we do not know ourselves as others perceive us. (13:12) Therefore, it is good to ask others for feedback as to how well we are doing with the behaviors God requires and reveals that it is important for us to do.

How do we obtain that feedback? We can ask our closest friends, especially our spouse, who are willing to let us know, “speaking the truth in love.” (Ephesians 4:15) To help people respond to this question of how well I am functioning in doing the loving God has called us to do, I developed the above chart, which is a quick way to obtain the information and, if I give it to several people, obtain an understanding of how widely people agree with my performance in these aspects of loving as God would have his people do.

You can use this instrument as a template for obtaining feedback on other subjects as well. In all cases, receive the information with gratitude and appreciation that those who love you are willing to give you their perspective of how you’re doing in your daily walk with the Lord, trying to grow more Christlike. Good outcomes result, including helpful suggestions when we ask for help to do better in specific ways, and the others to whom we give this instrument and ask for their feedback, learn much for themselves as well.

Rev. Edward D. Seely, Th.M., Ph.D.