

"Love Like You Mean It"
Home Front Series
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6.27.21

"Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, love does not boast, love is not proud. Love does not dishonor others, love is not self-seeking, love is not easily angered, love keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

- "Now these three remain: **faith, hope, love**. But the greatest of these is **love**." Verse 13

In marriage we need:

1) A God-centered **FAITH**

- "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh." Genesis 2:23
- "For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:24
 - God's plan is for 2 people to become 1.
 - To move from ME to WE.
 - To not just think about yourself anymore, but begin to think about US.
 - Intimacy exposes our SELFISHNESS.
 - Building a strong marriage is more about your relationship with **GOD** then it is about your relationship with your **SPOUSE**.

2) We need HOPE

- Hope is what gets us thru the **TOUGH TIMES**
 - 86% of unhappy couples who remained married, were happy 5 years later.

3) We need **UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**

- The lack of feeling is a <u>REFLECTION</u> of the marriage, which means you need to <u>WORK</u> on the marriage.
- Love is a <u>CHOICE</u>.
- The Bible commands us to be students of the person we're married to.
 - "Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself, and let the wife see to it that she respects her husband." Ephesians 5:33