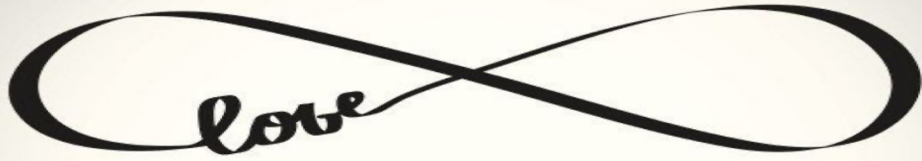


Growing A Love That Lasts..



The Crossings Church – February 14, 2021 – Kerry Cox

“I have loved you with an everlasting love.” Jeremiah 31:3b (NIV)
“I’ve never quit loving you and I never will!” Jeremiah 31:3b (MSG)
“I command you to love each other in the same way that I love you.” John 15:12
“Love never stops being patient, never stops believing, never stops hoping, and never gives up.” 1 Corinthians 13:7 (GW)

4 CHOICES THAT MAKE LOVE LAST

1. LASTING LOVE EXTENDS GRACE

“Love never stops being patient...” 1 Corinthians 13:7a (GW)
“...puts up with anything...” 1 Corinthians 13:7a (MSG)
“...patiently accepts all things...” 1 Corinthians 13:7a (NCV)
“...is always ready to make allowances...” 1 Corinthians 13:7a (NJB)

• WHEN THEIR FLAWS & FAULTS IRRITATE ME

“Disregarding another person’s faults preserves love.” Proverbs 17:9
“Be humble and gentle by being patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love.” Ephesians 4:2

• WHEN THEIR WORDS OR ACTIONS HURT ME

“Love forgets mistakes, nagging parts the best of friends.” Proverbs 17:9 (LB)
“...Love forgives all offenses.” Proverbs 10:12b (TEV)
“When someone wrongs you, it is a great virtue to ignore it.” Proverbs 19:11b

• WHEN THEY SIN

“Let your love for one another be intense, because love covers over a multitude of sins.” 1 Peter 4:8 (NAB)

“Put up with each other (and) forgive as quickly and completely as the Lord forgave you!” Col 3:13 (GW/MSG)

2. LASTING LOVE EXPRESSES FAITH

“Love never stops believing...” 1 Corinthians 13:7b (GW)
“...always trusts...” 1 Corinthians 13:7b (NIV)
“...never loses faith...” 1 Corinthians 13:7b (NLT)
Jesus “could not do many mighty works there because of THEIR lack of faith.” Mark 6:5-6
“Let us be always seeking the ways that lead to peace and the ways in which we can support each other.” Romans 14:19 (NJB)

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU CAN’T TRUST A SPOUSE?

TRUST GOD

“Trust God all the time. Tell him all your problems, because God is your protection!” Psalm 62:8 (NCV)

3. LASTING LOVE EXPECTS THE BEST

“Love never stops hoping...” 1 Corinthians 13:7c (GW)
“...always expects the best...” 1 Corinthians 13:7c (LB)
“...always looks for the best...” 1 Corinthians 13:7c (MSG)
“If you love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him.” 1 Corinthians 13:7 (LB)
“Encourage each other and build each other up.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)

4. LASTING LOVE ENDURES THE WORST

“Love never gives up...” 1 Corinthians 13:7d (GW)
“...endures through every circumstance.” 1 Corinthians 13:7d (NLT)
“...always perseveres...” 1 Corinthians 13:7d (NIV)
“...never looks back, but keeps going to the end.” 1 Corinthians 13:7d (MSG)
“Then the Lord said Hosea, ‘Go and get your wife again. Bring her back to you and love her, even though she loved adultery.’” Hosea 3:1
“When desperate people give up on God Almighty, their friends, at least, should stick with them!” Job 6:14 (MSG)