

1 Cor 13:1-13

I don't think it is a surprise to anyone that this is my text for this occasion. It should be a surprise to everyone that as often as this text is used in occasions like this many couples have and do struggle to live by it and experience the benefit of doing so in their marriage. As beautiful as the words of this text are they are easier said than done.

I simply want to remind you that the most powerful force in the world, which is at all our disposal is love. Listen again to **v4-8**.

⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends."

I believe many couples struggle to live out this text because the human nature, not transformed by the love of Jesus, inevitably bends toward the opposite of love: selfishness. If selfishness had a text in the bible, it might read like this:

Selfishness is impatient and mean. Selfishness will take a back seat to no one; it is intent on being number one and is willing to do whatever it takes to get there. Selfishness will not bend and if it cannot have its way there will be a price to pay. It will step all over anyone who gets in its way and it is willing to do whatever it takes to have what it wants. Selfishness bears

nothing, questions everything, is doubtful about most things, will endure nothing. Its end is loneliness.

Taylor and Rachel, love got you here and love will take you all the way if you let it. Here me! The key to a lasting marriage is not success. It is not wealth. It is not good health. Nor is it children. These things can certainly be of assistance to and a blessing in the marriage, but only love will take to the very end, because love never ends. So, when it gets hard and it will remember these words:

“⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends.”

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.