

LOVE – COUNTING THE COST - Minister Terri McFaddin-Solomon

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Scripture: Luke 14:28 For which of you intending to build a (love) tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it...

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind, it is not envious. Love does not brag, it is not puffed up. **5**It is not rude, it is not self-serving, it is not easily angered or resentful. **6**It is not glad about injustice, but rejoices in the truth. **7**It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

INTRODUCTION: Whether you are looking for love, dating or married, it is important to know what materials are needed and what skills it takes to build a relationship that is strong and lasting. The word "love" has been misused and imitated in so many ways, that many people can no longer recognize real love from the counterfeits. Many times when my husband and I sit down with a couple for premarital counseling, we find that the blissful feelings between two people who are "madly in love" often outweigh COUNTING THE COST. The best way to avoid love-failure, is to know what it takes to build a real and lasting love relationship.

BUILDING MATERIALS THAT STRENGTHEN LOVE:

1. GODLINESS: (Righteous and prayerful)

Prov. 2:7 NLT - He grants good sense to the godly. He is their shield, protecting those who walk with integrity.

Proverbs 11:23 NLT – The godly can look forward to happiness, while the wicked can expect only wrath.

2. FRIENDSHIP: (Faithful, loyal, dependable)

Proverbs 18:24 MSGB – Friends come and friends go, but a true friend sticks by you like family.

Proverbs 17:17 MSGB – Friends love through all kinds of weather, and stick together in all kinds of trouble.

3. INTEGRITY: (Honest, trustworthy, responsible)

Proverbs 11:3 NKJV – The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.

Proverbs 20:7 CEB – The righteous live with integrity; happy are their children who come after them.

4. COMPASSION: (Caring, generous, kind)

1 Peter 3:8 NLT – Finally, everyone must live in harmony, be sympathetic, love each other, have compassion, and be humble.

Proverbs 31:26 WYC – She opened her mouth to wisdom; and the law of (compassion) mercy is in her tongue.

BUILDING MATERIALS THAT DESTROY LOVE:

1 CORINTHIANS 3:12-13 Now if anyone **builds** on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³each one's work will become clear; for the Day will

declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

1. WORLDLY (Not Christ centered)

1 John 2:16 NIV – For everything in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, comes not from the Father but from the world.

1 John 4:5 NLT – They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.

2. SELF-CENTERED (Needy, demanding, selfish)

James 4:1 NIV – Where do those fights and quarrels among you come from? They come from your selfish desires that are at war in your bodies, don't they?

Romans 8:8 CEB – People who are self-centered aren't able to please God.

James 3:14 NIV – But if you are bitterly jealous and filled with self-centered ambition, don't brag. Don't say that you are wise when it isn't true.

3. UNFAITHFUL: (Dishonest, deceitful, fraudulent, insincere)

Proverbs 25:19 NLT – Confidence in someone unfaithful in time of trouble, is like a bad tooth, or a lame foot.

4. QUESTIONABLE: (Secretive, defensive, poor reputation)

Proverbs 27:21 GNB – Fire tests gold and silver; a person's reputation can also be tested.

Proverbs 22:1 NIV – A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

REFLECTIONS:

- When it comes to giving and/ or receiving love, write down areas where you need improvement?
- Using scriptures from this lesson, write down a plan for developing better building material for love.
 - **Feel free to post your comments or questions in the comments box.**