

LOVE'S INTENT

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 13:7 NIV “It [Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

How can love achieve its purpose if we are purposeless in our love? What I mean by purposeless is that too often I see couples, families and individuals living a sort of vague or empty type of existence in regard to their relationships.

- When I ask about shared dreams—I often get a blank stare.
- When I ask about when the last time they had fun together—again, a blank stare.
- When I ask why one did not come to the emotional defense of the other in certain situations—it is often explained that is/was “their business.”
- I have asked men, “What if I talked to your wife the way you just did?” They always assure me they would not tolerate it. Then, “Why do you talk to them that way,” I ask? The same goes for the wife.

What is shared other than a home and the parental responsibilities of the children? Is love just co-existing with someone we care about?

Of love, Paul says, “It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” That is love with intention! This definition is filled with purpose and passion!

- I. **LOVE PROTECTS.** - Positive defense and care
 - A. In loving relationships people feel protected, not threatened.
 - B. In loving relationships people feel nurtured, not neglected.
- II. **LOVE TRUSTS.** – Positive confidence
 - A. In loving relationships people feel comfortable depending on the other.
 - B. In loving relationships people there is the absence of suspicion.

- III. **LOVE HOPES.** – Positive expectations
 - A. In loving relationships people expect the other to always try to act in their best interest.
 - B. In loving relationships people see the potential of the other.

- IV. **LOVE PERSEVERES.** – Positive persistence, continues to try
 - A. In loving relationships people resist giving up.
 - B. In loving relationships people finds a reason and a way to try.

- V. **Love Does Not Fail.** – Ultimate dependability.
 - A. In loving relationships people still fail, but love remains.
 - B. In loving relationships people good intentions fail, but love shows grace.

CONCLUSION

To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket--safe, dark, motionless, airless--it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable...The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers...of love is Hell.

C.S. Lewis, [The Four Loves](#), Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1960, p.169.