



THE LOVE CHALLENGE
Part 10 – Love Lasts Forever
I Corinthians 13:1-8a

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I. RELATIONSHIPS THAT LAST CONSISTENTLY PROTECT THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE.
(...love always protects...)

A. By sharing in the **hurt** and help.

*Proverbs 17:17 “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for **adversity**.”*

Philippians 1:27 “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one person for the faith of the gospel...”

B. By telling them the **truth** in love.

*Proverbs 27:6 “Faithful are the wounds of a **friend**, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”*

II. RELATIONSHIPS THAT LAST BUILD A SOLID **TRUST.** (...love always trusts...)

A. Four things that grow trust:

1. We keep our **promises**.
2. We do not take wrongful advantage of another.

3. We do the right thing even when no one is **watching**.
4. We do these things consistently over time.

John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

III. RELATIONSHIPS THAT LAST KEEP FEEDING **HOPE** TO THE FRIENDSHIP. (...love always hopes...

- A. Hope: the desire and search for a future good, that is difficult but not impossible to attain with **God’s help**. (American Heritage Dictionary)
- B. **Focus** on the positives instead of the negatives.

Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things.”

*Proverbs 4:23-25 “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. 24 Put away **perversity** from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. 25 Let your eyes look straight ahead, _____ your gaze directly before you.”*

- C. Have a willingness for **restoration**.

Colossians 3:13 “Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.” (TLB)

- D. Choose to look to the future when the present is **doubtful**.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 16-18 “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed., 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

IV. RELATIONSHIPS THAT LAST REFUSE TO **QUIT**. (...love always perseveres...)

I refuse to give in to my own selfishness...

I refuse to give into despair...

I refuse to quit loving...

With God as my strength, I will keep on keeping on in what I know is right. This is perseverance.

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Notes:
