



CHRISTIANITY Q&A **"What About Shaky Marriages?" 1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

No. 5079

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Marriages become shaky for a number of reasons, and there are numerous helpful ways of handling the problems. But there is one ingredient that all marriages need—"agape" love. What it is and how it is experienced should top every marital agenda.

I. Dimensions of Marital Love.

- A Physical and sexual attraction and fulfillment—"Eros."
- B. Friendship and companionship—"Philia."
- C. Commitment to **the other's well-being**—"Agape."
 - 1. A matter of duty. 1 Corinthians 14:1
 - 2. A ministry of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22

II. Descriptions of Marital Love. vv. 4-8a

- N.B. Love is more than a feeling—it behaves!
- A. Love suffers long—"Makrothumia."
 - 1. Purpose. 2. Limits.
- B. Love is kind.
 - 1. Generosity of spirit. 2. Leads to repentance. Romans 2:4
- C. Love is not jealous.
 - 1. Valid jealousy. 2. The possessiveness power.
- D. Love is not boastful.
 - 1. **Insecurity's language.** 2. **Desire for approval at other's expense.**
- E. Love is not proud.
 - 1. The essence of "me-ism." 2. Deifying of self.
- F. Love is not rude.
 - 1. Rudeness despises, denigrates, and destroys.
- G. Love is not self-seeking.
 - 1. Self-seeking never serves. 2. It says me, not us; mine, not ours.
- H. Love is not irritable.
 - 1. Instead of the personal hurt. 2. The attempt to understand.
- I. Love does not keep records.
 - 1. Remembering. 2. Rehearsing.
 - 3. Resenting. 4. Revenging.
- J. Love does not enjoy evil.
 - 1. Imagining it. 2. Assuming it. 3. Looking for it.
- K. Love rejoices in truth.
 - 1. Promoting it. 2. Protecting it.
- L. Love always...**
 - 1. Protects. 2. Trusts.
 - 3. Hopes. 4. Perseveres.
- M. Love does not fail.
 - 1. Commitment. 2. Continuance.

III. Dynamics of Marital Love.

- A. Desire—to love.
- B. Decision—to love.
- C. Dedication—to go on loving.
- D. Devotion—to source of love.