

Alpha Counseling Service

June

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Hello Friends,

I think of June as a month for weddings. This month our church listed 8 couples celebrating their wedding anniversary.

Having spent a lot of time counseling couples that are struggling in their marriages—it is obvious that many couples haven't been able to apply the Bible's definition of LOVE! I've mentioned before about talking with a woman, in her 60's, who had recently become a Christian but had been through eleven (11) divorces! I remember her saying that she had "spent her whole life looking for LOVE in all the wrong places"!!

1 Corinthians 13 is known as the LOVE chapter! Many Christians know where this chapter is located in the Bible but I've found that few are earnestly applying it in their relationships!

For the sake of space I give you a condensed version of the LOVE chapter.

Love is characterized by patience and kindness. It does not envy, boast, or display arrogance. Love is not rude, self seeking, irritable, or resentful. It does not find joy in wrong doing but rejoices with the truth. LOVE is enduring, believing, hoping, and persevering through all things. Unlike prophecies, tongues, and knowledge, which will fade, LOVE is eternal!

I find it interesting that these same qualities are listed in Galatians 5:22&23 as the Fruit of the HOLY SPIRIT!

In this chapter we are encouraged to walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. First is a long list of 'fleshly' behavior and then the fruit of the Holy Spirit! You can look up the bad ones but notice the fruit of the Spirit!

Verses 22 and 23. *But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control.* Verse 25 says *If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit!*

I am learning to choose, daily and sometimes hourly to walk in the Holy Spirit so His fruit will flood me and I can share it with others! I hope you will join me in this walk in the Holy Spirit!

Summer is coming and with the cost of travel my guess is that this may be a stay home vacation year please pray for Alpha's summer season. I plan to stay right here and help folks find a deeper walk with Jesus.

Thank you for your prayers and your financial help! GOD BLESS YOU!!

Richard