# Are You Loving On the Inside and the Outside?

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JILL SAVAGE: Love makes the world go round.

MARK SAVAGE: It sure does.

[laughter]

MARK SAVAGE: It's everywhere.

JILL SAVAGE: We see it everywhere. I mean, it's in the movies we watch.

MARK SAVAGE: It's in the romance novels.

JILL SAVAGE: Yeah.

MARK SAVAGE: The music.

JILL SAVAGE: The music that we listen to.

MARK SAVAGE: Right.

JILL SAVAGE: And all love songs. And we really... We operate as if love does make the world go round. And you know what? God says love is pretty darn important. He talks about it a lot.

MARK SAVAGE: Right.

JILL SAVAGE: And it's the heart of his relationship with us.

MARK SAVAGE: Absolutely.

JILL SAVAGE: And his word talks about it a lot. And that's where we wanna go today. We wanna look at love, and we wanna understand, you know... We wanna understand what God's call is for us to love in our marriage. So if you have a Bible nearby, will you grab it? Just press pause on this video and go grab it. 'Cause sometimes it's really powerful to not only hear the words, but to see the words.

MARK SAVAGE: Right.

JILL SAVAGE: Now, we're gonna be reading out of the English Standard Version of this particular verse, it's a short little verse... A few verses, but... It doesn't matter what you're reading from, they all have the same idea. We'll look at 1 Corinthians 13, I want to start in verse 4. Now, you probably heard of the 1 Corinthians 13.

MARK SAVAGE: Right. It was probably in your wedding.

[laughter]

MARK SAVAGE: Or it's in the weddings of many.

JILL SAVAGE: Yeah. So you've probably been to a wedding where it's been read, 'cause it's kind of called that "love chapter".

MARK SAVAGE: Right.

JILL SAVAGE: But it has some really powerful marching orders for us. Alright, so we're gonna look at 1 Corinthians 13, and we're gonna start at verse 4. "Love is patient and kind. Love does not envy or boast. It is not arrogant or rude. It doesn't insist on its own way. It's not irritable or resentful. It does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away. As for tongues, they will cease. As for knowledge, it will pass away." Now, skip down to number... Verse 11. "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. And when I became a man, I gave up childish ways." God wants our love to grow up, that's what he's saying there. But how does it grow up? What is it that we need to do to better understand these marching orders of love? And what we've come to understand is that we need to look at how we're doing loving on the inside as well as loving on the outside. So the difference in that is attitudes versus actions.

MARK SAVAGE: Absolutely. And for me, if I am not loving on the outside, then most often it's because of what I'm thinking on the inside.

JILL SAVAGE: Yes.

MARK SAVAGE: Our thinking impacts our ability to put love in action.

JILL SAVAGE: It does. And so, if we wanna have actions that are loving towards our spouse, we have to have thoughts that are loving towards our spouse.

MARK SAVAGE: So if our thoughts are negative or judgmental, then we're going to have actions that reflect that.

JILL SAVAGE: That's right. So, when we think about the concept of love, oftentimes it is culturally considered a feeling. And in marriage, the feelings of love come and go.

MARK SAVAGE: They do.

JILL SAVAGE: That is normal. Sometimes we feel more in love, and sometimes we don't. And that is to be expected. If more often we don't, then that really is something that we need to be paying attention to. If it just... If occasionally we have those times where we're not feeling it, that's to be expected. If it's pretty consistent, then we need to pay attention to what's going on inside of us. Now, here's what we tend to do, when we're struggling, we think it's because of the other person.

MARK SAVAGE: Right.

JILL SAVAGE: We immediately go, "Well, I don't feel loving because of the way he's acting".

MARK SAVAGE: Right.

JILL SAVAGE: Or, "I don't feel loving because of the way she's acting". And that really isn't what we read about, because God loves us no matter how we're acting.

MARK SAVAGE: Right. And our thoughts are totally driving that. We're justifying ourselves, but we're even more than that, we're negatively hoarding those things that are frustrating us about our spouse, and then fueling our actions.

JILL SAVAGE: Yeah, so we're hoarding our hurts.

MARK SAVAGE: Yes.

JILL SAVAGE: Yeah. So today we wanna ask you, how's love for you? Are you loving on the inside and the outside? And if the honest answer to that question is no, then begin with what's going on the inside. You might need to use your God tool of forgiveness, you might need to use your God tool of grace. By the way, grace... We use grace for things that irritate us. We give our spouse grace to be human. We use forgiveness...

MARK SAVAGE: Right.

JILL SAVAGE: For the things that hurt us.

MARK SAVAGE: Mm-hmm. And we might need to use our God tool of acceptance to accept those differences and those personality traits that we so loved in the beginning or at times, but then at other times, not so much.

JILL SAVAGE: Yeah. They bug us. [laughter]

MARK SAVAGE: Yeah. Right. Yeah.

JILL SAVAGE: It's so...

MARK SAVAGE: And we all have those.

JILL SAVAGE: Oh, we do. We all do. So are you loving on the inside and the outside? Be honest with yourself, and then start to do what it takes to start loving on the inside. And when you do, I think you'll find that loving actions will follow.