

# Is Your Love Rude

## No More Perfect Date Night

**Jill Savage:** You know, before I learned how to take my thoughts captive, they were out of control, critical, off mark.

**Mark Savage:** And honestly, I felt that.

**JS:** I know you did.

**MS:** Hmm.

**JS:** And it's humbling to admit that, but it's true. When our thoughts are critical or prideful, we are not loving.

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** And we don't usually think about what is going on, on the inside as being loving or not loving.

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** But honestly, we need to.

**MS:** Right.

**JS:** Because that's usually where the not loving starts.

**MS:** Right.

**JS:** It starts on the inside.

**MS:** It totally starts in our mind and what we're, uh, ruminating on that's fueling that criticalness.

**JS:** Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

**MS:** You know, in 1st Corinthians 13, it tells us that, love does not envy or boast. It's not arrogant or rude.

**JS:** Yeah.

**MS:** You know, how do we apply that to marriage? How do we... How do we roll that out?

**JS:** Yeah. Well, you know, envy refers to comparing.

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** So, you know, think about this. Do you compare your marriage to other marriages?

**MS:** Hmm.

**JS:** Or your spouse to other spouses who seem to do things better or seem to be more attentive, or seem to provide better or take care of the house better?

**MS:** Or the spouse that's in your head.

**JS:** Yeah.

[laughter]

**JS:** Oftentimes that's so true. Like this imagined spouse that never has shown up.

**MS:** Right.

**JS:** Right? But when we compare, we're comparing, uh, our insides to other people's outsides. So let's even say that you're sitting at church and you see the couple in front of you and he puts his arm around her. Okay?

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** And let's say that, uh, as the wife, you're like, "Oh, I wish my husband did that."

**MS:** Yeah.

**JS:** Okay? Well, what you're seeing is you're seeing one little action that he does that's positive, umm, but what we... What we don't see is all the actions that he does that's negative.

**MS:** Right. Right.

**JS:** Like we don't see that at all. But when we envy, what we do is we actually maximize what others have and minimize what we have.

**MS:** Wow, that is... That... And that is so true.

**JS:** We do because like, okay, I can see that this guy, you know, has all these good character traits that I see, you know.

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** When I see this couple at church on Sunday. Umm, and that... Because maybe those aren't the

same character traits you have, if I maximize that, then I'm blind to see what you do have.

**MS:** Right.

**JS:** And that produces an unloving response in us towards our spouse. I mean, that's what happens, is we feel, because we are disappointed...

**MS:** Right.

**JS:** We're comparing, we're envying...

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** We're disappointed, and so then we, umm, don't feel loving and we don't act loving.

**MS:** Right.

**JS:** Towards our spouse.

**MS:** Right.

**JS:** Yeah.

**MS:** It's like, based upon our observations and our assumptions...

**JS:** Mm-hmm.

**MS:** We're shutting our heart down to our very real spouse.

**JS:** Mm-hmm. Who has good traits.

**MS:** Yes.

**JS:** Who has good... Maybe different ones than the ones...

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** And... And God's growing them, but oftentimes, not at the pace that we would like.

**MS:** Right.

**JS:** And then that causes that envy and God says... God does... It's that love doesn't envy or boast.

**MS:** Hmm.

**JS:** I mean, there's the... The other words, boast and arrogance.

**MS:** Yeah.

**JS:** Right? Love isn't arrogant.

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** And those are words that indicate pride and judgment.

**MS:** I think of how destructive pride and judgment are, because in a sense, they keep our spouse under our own thumb.

**JS:** Hmm.

**MS:** And our spouse wants to be out from under it, wants to be free, but can't be.

**JS:** Yeah. Right. Because our judgment keep us there, and when we are prideful, it creates a condescending attitude in us.

**MS:** Right.

**JS:** And that feels anything but loving.

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** Because here's the truth. Judgment and love cannot co-exist.

**MS:** Wow.

**JS:** I mean, they cannot co-exist. You cannot have judgment and love. Now, you know, it's okay to give our spouse feedback like places...

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** We can ask... You know, I could even ask you if I see a husband put his arm around a wife, I could say to you, "I loved seeing that couple sitting in front of us, and, and he put his arm around her."

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** "You know, would you do that every once in a while in church?"

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** And I think you and I actually have had that conversation.

**MS:** Right.

**JS:** Here's where we struggle. I'm taller than Mark is.

**MS:** Yeah.

**JS:** And so it's not a comfortable position.

[laughter]

**MS:** No.

**JS:** But, umm... But if we don't understand that comparison, judgment, pride and criticism do, inside our heart, then we don't... We, we have to understand that those actually birth a rudeness.

**MS:** Yeah.

**JS:** A rudeness in our relationship.

**MS:** And honest... Honestly, rude people are not fun to be around.

**JS:** Uh-huh. Yeah, and so then we become unkind, we become impatient.

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** And we become hyper-critical of each other.

**MS:** Yeah. And, uh, the crazy thing is that if, if one spouse is being hyper-critical or rude to their spouse, their spouse will put up with it for a time, and then all of a sudden, they're giving the same action back.

**JS:** Yeah. And then...

**MS:** So if we stop being, uh, critical and rude, and started loving...

**JS:** Mm-hmm.

**MS:** Our spouse would in turn...

**JS:** Mm-hmm.

**MS:** Reflect that back.

**JS:** Mm-hmm. Oh, there's a higher per... There's a higher chance.

**MS:** Higher... Right.

**JS:** Because you... And it's not a, uh, for sure, because you just... There... Sometimes our spouse is going through their own struggles too.

**MS:** True, that's true.

**JS:** But, umm, bottom line, how are you doing with these marching orders from God?

**MS:** Hmm.

**JS:** If you are being rude to your spouse by envying, boasting or being arrogant, take some time to clean that up with God.

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** And then, clean it up with your spouse. And that will help you to love well.

**MS:** Yeah.

**JS:** Moving forward.

**MS:** Yeah.

[music]