

Does Your Love Listen Well

No More Perfect Date Night

Mark Savage: We're looking at God's marching orders for love, and 1 Corinthians 13:5 tells us that love does not insist on its own way.

Jill Savage: Hmm, doesn't insist on its own way.

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: Okay, stepping on my toes on this one. [laughter]

MS: Yeah.

JS: 'Cause I like things done my way. I mean, after all, I, I, I wouldn't do them the way I do them if it wasn't the right way, right? And you wouldn't do them the way that you do them if you didn't think it was the right way.

MS: Right.

JS: Right?

MS: Right.

JS: I mean, we all have our own sense of how we like things to be done and that's to be expected. I mean, that's to be expected.

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: Because we all have our own perspectives, we see the world a certain way, we learn in a different way, we make decisions in different ways. So, we have this sense of...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: Our own way.

MS: Right.

JS: Right?

MS: But the key is, how do we respond when life doesn't roll out our way?

JS: And how do we handle those preferences...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: Right? 'Cause they really are preferences. How do we handle those preferences, um, when we're in relationship with another person?

MS: Right.

JS: Because this is often when we try to insist on our own way.

MS: Right.

JS: And so 1 Corinthians is telling us, [chuckle] "Wait a minute, but love doesn't insist on its own way."

MS: Right, insist... Yeah.

JS: So we really have to grab hold of this and we have to understand it...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: Because, really, what God's saying is, "Hey, you're not being loving when you insist on your own way."

MS: Right.

JS: And so, it could be all kinds of practical things, like the way that the dishwasher is emptied or filled...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: The way that you drive, uh, the way that...

MS: The way that trash is collected and emptied throughout the house. I mean, there's so many different things that can seem pretty simple, but they trip us up.

JS: Yeah, they do. And I think that this is particularly hard for those of us who, um, really are focused on efficiency and strategy.

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: So, this is really where we have to use our God tool of acceptance. So in our book, No More

Perfect Marriages, we talk about different God tools that help us in our marriage, and one of them is the God tool of acceptance. And we have to accept differences. We have to allow for those differences. And when we use that God tool, it helps us to live out this verse where it says that we are to, um, not insist on our own way...

MS: Right.

JS: 'Cause it says "Love doesn't insist on its own way."

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: But that means we have to be okay with ways that are less efficient, or less ideal, or less strategic. And I'll just be the one to put the confession on the table, um...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: As one that really values strategy and efficiency.

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: Um, I have to begin to realize that when I start to insist on my own way because I think it's the right way...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: Because I'm so focused on, "Well, it'll get three more dishes in the dishwasher," or "It'll cut off two minutes in the drive," or "It will do whatever better"...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: This is where, uh, where pride starts to creep in.

MS: Yeah. You know, I'm not as efficient or as, uh, strategic as you are. They are important to me...

JS: Mm-hmm.

MS: But I'm just not to that level that you are.

JS: Mm-hmm.

MS: I do like to be a part of the plan. I like to be, um, uh, informed as to what's going on.

JS: Mm-hmm.

MS: I like to have a voice.

JS: So, those are the things that are your preferences...

MS: Yeah.

JS: And things that you've requested.

MS: Yeah.

JS: But sometimes...

MS: But sometimes, life doesn't roll out that way.

JS: It doesn't.

MS: And we may work a plan, but then life throws us a curve ball and it just doesn't play out the way we had thought.

JS: Right. And you know, I even think about, like, you like a certain pace of life, you like a slower pace of life, um, than I do...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: But it's it's totally fine. But when our grandkids are here, when we have six grandkids in our house between the ages of one and 11, okay, that pace of life is like out the window.

MS: Right, it's like herding cats.

[laughter]

JS: And so, um, another part of insisting on its own way...

MS: Yeah.

JS: Is to recognize that sometimes life doesn't even allow for our preferences.

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: And so, if we become irritable because of that...

MS: Right, right.

JS: Then we're not loving.

MS: Right.

JS: And God's call to us is to love.

MS: Is to be loving, yeah.

JS: Yeah.

MS: To love.

JS: Yeah. And so it's not that we can't make requests to our spouse to meet a need or a desire that we have. I mean, we can, you know, as long as, you look at the other parts of 1 Corinthians 13, are you making the request in a patient way and in a kind way?

MS: In a kind way, yeah.

JS: Right. And so...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: We can we can make those requests. We just can't demand or insist on our own way. That's not love, and that's not God's way. So let's allow for differences, so we can love intentionally and love well, according to the directions that God has given to us.

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