

Assessing Relationship Patterns:

DIRECTIONS: Check the box (or boxes) in each numbered line that best describes the *patterns* of behavior seen in the relationship between you and your partner. (Each line is reflective of a description of agape love¹ as given in I-Cor 13.)

Column-1 **Column-2** **Column-3** **Column-4**

1. Patience—self-control under difficult circumstances, slow to become resentful

- Patience in conflicts Conflicts strain patience Yelling during conflicts Abuse or violence during conflicts

2. Kindness—patience put into practice, actively patient

- Stays nice during trials Trials strain kindness Meanness during conflict Emotionally abusive during conflicts

3. Does not Envy—is not jealous or self-serving

- Supportive, empowering Praises given, usually Unsupportive of goals Controlling, goals are blocked

4. Does not Boast—is not intellectually prideful

- Humble-mindedness Some “one upmanship” Attitudes of superiority Arrogance, belittling of one another

5. Is not Proud—is not puffed up, inflated or arrogant

- Humble-spiritedness Difficult to admit faults Poor listening, parental No listening, active discounting

6. Is not Rude—is not inappropriate, unmannerly

- Politeness during conflicts Sometimes poor manners Outright rudeness Verbally/emotionally assaultive

7. Is not Self-Seeking—is not self-aborbed or self-important

- Puts the other first Sometimes self-serving Usually self-serving Cares only for self, resents other

8. Is not Easily Angered—not quickly offended

- Anger is not a pattern Angry upsets handled ok Anger is a pattern Angry fits and/or physical abuse

9. Keeps no Record of Wrongs—no score-keeping

- Forgiveness is the norm Offenses resolve okay Grudges are the norm Hatred over past offenses

10. Handling of Evil—wants no part in other people’s wrong-doing

- Protection from evil(doers) Occasional compromises Evil behavior is okay Participation in evil acts demanded

11. Handling of Truth—relationship is open and honest, truthfulness is celebrated

- Safe to be honest Honesty is usually okay Very little openness The truth is hidden, secret-keeping

12. Always Protects—the relationship shields from emotional harm, provides emotional safety

- Emotionally freeing, safe Usually emotionally safe Emotionally at-risk, scary Emotionally harmful, injurious

13. Always Trusts—it is safe to maintain faith in the other person in a loving relationship

- Freedom from control Benefit of doubt is norm Suspensions are the norm Aggressive controlling environment

14. Always Hopes—there is reason (a basis) for optomism in a loving relationship

- Other seen in positive light 2nd chances are the norm Other is seen in neg. light Constant criticism and negativity

15. Always Perseveres—stands firm, doesn’t give up

- Reliable, durable relation. Gets up and tries again Quit trying in relationship Never really did try

Scores: Add the totals checked above in each column and then check the box below that best averages your answers:

Total-1= **Total-2=** **Total-3=** **Total-4=**

- Love as defined in 1Cor 13 The accepted “norm” Relationship is in trouble Relationship is in crisis

¹ Adaptations of the treatment found in the “*New International Bible Commentary*” of the above mentioned Bible passage were made by [Lance Echo-Hawk, MA](#)