

SERMON NOTES

July 25 & 26, 2026

Relationship Status: "It's Complicated" Relationship with others

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

1. We live in an age where _____ thinks they're _____.
2. Truth transcends _____ and _____.
3. Speaking truth in love is anchored to a _____ of what both parties seek.
4. Truth without Love and Love without Truth _____.

How to check yourself by asking these questions:

1. Is this really a problem or just an irritant or style difference?
2. Does this person know I love them and have their back?
3. Do we want the same thing?
4. Is this about them, me, or us? Is there any jealousy, envy, or pride at play here? **Philippians 2:3-4**
5. Can I address this without anger and getting into a fight? **Ephesians 4:26-27**
6. Can I be patient with the change I'm asking them to make? **Colossians 3:13**
7. Can I speak kindly to them about this?
8. Am I hopeful for what might be?
9. Am I willing to acknowledge my own part in it?
10. Am I willing to work with the person toward change?

Life Steps

Relationship Status: "It's Complicated" Relationship with others | July 27- August 2, 2026

Speaking truth in love requires that love is firing on all cylinders. This week, examine the spirit in which you engage with others.

Monday: Love is Patient & Kind

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Reflect: Today, practice active listening. When you're talking to someone else, give complete focus and attention to what they are saying with their words, tone, and body language. Don't think of how you'll respond while they're speaking. When it is time to respond, give a brief pause before doing so, and then consider how you can convey kindness through your words, tone, and body language.

Prayer: God, give me the strength to be kind to others today, even when they're not kind to me. Amen.

Tuesday: Love does not envy and does not boast

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Reflect: What are you like in competition? When you win, do you gloat and rub it in the opponent's face? And when you lose, are you a "sore loser"? Practice graciousness in both winning and losing as you support and celebrate others in their own efforts.

Prayer: Lord, may your joy radiate through me today as I seek to celebrate others around me, and remove my insecurities so as not to get in the way of doing your will in my relationships. Amen.

Wednesday: Love is not proud and does not dishonor others

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Reflect: Sometimes we find ourselves in an argument, and we don't want to give in. We feel it would be weak to let others have the win or to have the last word. Sometimes our pride prevents us from admitting we were wrong. One of the best ways to honor someone else is to trust them with your vulnerability. In what relationships are you able to do that? How can you work to expand that?

Prayer: Father, help me swallow my pride today and give me the strength and courage to admit to myself and others when I am wrong. Strengthen my relationships with others so that they might grow even more trusting. Amen.

Thursday: Love is not self-seeking nor easily angered

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Reflect: Examine the reasons you want to see change in others around you. Is it really for their well-being, or is it so that the changes would serve you better? How are the changes you seek in others connected to the changes you want to see in yourself?

Prayer: God, help me be the change I want to see in the world today. Before asking others to change, show me how I can change to make the greatest impact for you and your will. Amen.

Friday: Love keeps no record of wrongs

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Reflect: "You always" and "you never" are strong judgments we throw at people when we're frustrated with them. While usually not true, these statements also signal to the other that while we might say we forgive, we don't forget, and we're keeping count. Remove these phrases from your speech for good.

Prayer: Lord, help me to remember that my words have power— for good and for bad. Remove hurtful language from my mouth, so that others might never be harmed by anything I say. Amen.

Saturday: Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Reflect: "Gaslighting" is a term used to describe convincing others their reality is skewed, or their memory is wrong about something that happened. This is not truth, and it is evil. Resolve today not to do it, to find strength to resist it when it's done to you, and courage to call it out when you see it done to someone else. Be slow to accuse others of it as well, since just because someone doesn't remember something the way you do doesn't mean they're being malicious towards you.

Prayer: God, help me to discern what is true and what is not, and give me strength to speak truth and call out falsehoods when I hear them. Amen.

Sunday: Love Protects, Trusts, Hopes, Perseveres

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Reflect: Good relationships are built on trust, which takes years to build and moments to destroy. When two people commit to building trust by protecting each other and "having each other's backs", there is hope for the relationship. Commit to persevering in your relationships to give Trust time to grow.

Prayer: Lord, may others find sanctuary in me in a safe relationship. Help me to be trustworthy and loving, that I might reflect the nature of your love to others. Amen.