



Say to wisdom, "you are my sister," And make understanding your closest friend. For they will keep you from the immoral woman.  
Proverbs 7:4-5a

**Women's Discipleship Group – 2006**  
**HELPMATES, HANDMAIDENS & HARLOTS ON-LINE BIBLE STUDY**  
**LOVE LIFE SERIES**  
**LESSON #1 WHAT IS LOVE?**

Website: [www.terrimcfaddin.org](http://www.terrimcfaddin.org)  
Presented by: Terri McFaddin Solomon

**Definitions: *Helpmate – Handmaiden – Harlot***

**Helpmate:** *A married woman who is committed to the well being of her husband.*

**Handmaiden:** *An unmarried or married woman who is committed to serving the Lord.*

**Harlot:** *An unmarried or married woman who will sacrifice her soul or body for personal gain.*

**Scripture Focus:**

**Helpmate:** 1 Corinthians 13:7-8a It (love) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

**Handmaiden:** 1 Corinthians 13:3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

**Harlot:** 1 Corinthians 13:6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth.

**Love – Definition:** The deepest possible expression of affection and commitment that is most clearly demonstrated through acts of sacrificial giving. Example: *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son... John 3:16a.*

**Opening Statement:**

**The Helpmate's Story:** The rain was just starting as I arrived to visit my friend Sydney who was serving a life sentence for murder. One hour later as we sat near the window in the visitor's room a bus pulled up outside and Sydney's wife got off. By now the rain was coming down in sheets and a gust of wind blew her umbrella inside out. Her head was getting soaked and her feet sank into the mud as she made her way across the courtyard to the prison entrance. Sadness filled Sydney's eyes as he spoke. "When we got married, I never dreamed that my wife would have to walk through the mud and into a prison to see me." What he said next stays with me even to this day. "Love is a high risk venture...you never know what it's going to cost you." Fortunately for Sydney and his wife, five years later the murder verdict was overturned and he was released. One of the greatest challenges for married women is that most of them are not prepared to deal with "for-better-or-for-worse." For better – may include success that can be challenging, time consuming and require changes that you weren't prepared to make. For worse – may include unemployment, financial setbacks or the heartbreak of adultery.

*1 Corinthians 13:7-8a It (love) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.* Pray with your husband and ask the Lord to show you both how to endure, "For-better-or-for-worse." Here are a few tips:

1. Find a good church home and attend as a family.
2. Pray together and pray for your marriage on a daily basis.
3. Don't live in a manner that cannot withstand a financial setback.
4. Make friends with mature and godly married couples.
5. Write a covenant together that will set guidelines for your marriage.
6. Don't allow the Devil to control your thoughts. Give and forgive, "quickly!"
7. Be an encourager. Loving words bring peace and give you strength to endure.

**The Handmaiden's Story:** I have a girlfriend in Atlanta who has been abundantly blessed by the Lord. Whenever I come to visit, she calls in a personal chef who prepares my favorite foods. Oprah said as she was planning her Legend's Ball, "Love is in the details." When it comes to details, my sister/friend in Atlanta is overflowing with love. The salads that her chef prepares are a work of art and the seafood is straight out of heaven. Her love and friendship are truly from the heart. Not far from Atlanta in a small town in Alabama, I have another sister/friend who invited me to visit her home. She's a hard working lady who lives a very modest lifestyle, but when I came to her house I was queen for a day. The barbeque grill was fired up and the potato salad, greens and cornbread were filling the house with a sweet aroma that said, "I love you and I'm so glad you're here." How many times have you been around people who prepared a nice meal, or did something special for you but you didn't feel the love? *1 Corinthians 13:3 says – If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.* People can do a lot of things that seem right, but it's for the wrong reason. Whatever you do, if love is not your reason and love it not your motive, you gain nothing. However, when you do something that's from the heart, the love shines through every time and the Lord will bless the work of your hands and reward your kindness.

**The Harlot's Story:** If Delilah lived in this day and age, I know exactly what she would say to the Philistines about her big romance with Samson. "That man is so in love with me he'll give me anything I want...I've got him wrapped around my finger. Show me the money... I'm giving Samson a haircut." I think most of us know women like Delilah. You watch men step over 20 godly women just to be with her. I know what you're thinking: "Why can't he see that she's not for real? Why doesn't he want to be with someone who can give him real love?" The answers are simple. Either he's never had "real love," so he doesn't know what it is. Or...he's messing around with the kind of harlot that can imitate love like a master counterfeiter. Sometimes it takes real discernment to figure out that she's a fake. If you want to know how to recognize real love, let 1 Corinthians 13:5-8 be your guide.

1. *Love is not rude.*
2. *Love is not self-seeking.*
3. *Love is not easily angered.*
4. *Love keeps no record of wrongdoings.*
5. *Love does not delight in evil.*
6. *Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes and never gives up.*
7. *Love never fails.*

## Observations and Personalization:

**Helpmates:** 1 Corinthians 13:7 states: *Love bears all things.* As you think about the magnitude of this statement, search the scriptures to determine how God uses the following spiritual gifts to help us *bear all things*.

Example:

1. **Grace:** 2 Corinthians 12:9 “My **grace** is sufficient, for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”
2. **Faith:**
3. **Prayer:**
4. **Power:**
5. **Your choice**

**Handmaidens:** 1 Corinthians 13:3 states: If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, *but have not love, I gain nothing.* For what reasons (other than love) would a person or group give all their possessions to the poor? Use the following words to search for answers.

Example:

1. **False Prophets:** Matthew 7:15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.
2. **Deceive:**
3. **Led astray:**
4. **Discern:**
5. **Your choice:**

**Harlots:** 1 Corinthians 13:6 states: *Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth.* Using the list of words below, search the scriptures for tricks that a harlot will use to imitate love.

Example:

1. **Smooth Tongue:** Proverbs 6:24 Stay away from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of an adulterous woman.
2. **Lust:**
3. **Seduce:**
4. **Heart:**
5. **Your choice:**