

Love Is...

STICKING WITH IT

When starting over seems easiest

*[Love] always protects, always trusts,
always hopes, always perseveres.
1 Corinthians 13:7 NIV*

Philippians 4:2-3 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. NIV84

Relationships, pain, and commitment

a) We all desire meaningful long-term relationships.

Proverbs 18:24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. NIV84

2 Samuel 1:26 I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women. NIV84

b) Nobody likes to get hurt.

c) Some hurt is inevitable in long-term relationships.

d) When we get hurt, we will respond in some way...

a. Completely avoid future hurt

b. Try to mitigate (reduce) the hurt

e) For us to have meaningful long-term relationships we need to have a certain level of commitment that helps us stick in there while there is time for growth and healing.

Things that help commitment:

- The likelihood of ongoing interaction
- The hopefulness of change
- That someone is committed to you
- That you have granted commitment before significant conflict
- Balancing fear of commitment with desire for meaningful relationship