

What is the opposite of Love?

(Hint: the correct answer is NOT hate).

[1 Corinthians 13:4-8a](#)

⁴ Love is **patient**, love is **kind**. It does **not envy**, it does **not boast**, it is **not proud**. ⁵ It does **not dishonor others**, it is **not self-seeking**, it is **not easily angered**, it **keeps no record of wrongs**. ⁶ Love does **not delight in evil** but **rejoices with the truth**. ⁷ It **always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres**.

⁸ Love **never fails**.

LOVE vs SELF-PROTECTION

(Characteristic of Love on top – the opposite underneath is a characteristic of what we do when we self-protect)

Patient

- Impatient
- Short
- Irritable
- Rushes

Kind

- Unkind
- Rude
- Mean

Does not envy

- Jealous/Envious
- Discontent
- Covetous

Does not boast, is not proud

- Brags
- Proud
- Arrogant

Does not dishonor others

- Answers harsh words with harsh words
- Always has to win
- Always has to have a comeback
- Manipulates & tricks
- Has the last word

Not self-seeking

- Self-centered & Greedy
- Seeks attention
- Controlling

Not easily angered

- Short-tempered and hot-headed.
- Blows up
- Constantly sarcastic & cynical

Keeps no record of wrongs

- Keeps a list
- Keeps score
- Holds grudges
- Won't forgive

Does not delight in evil

- Delights in evil – thinks it's funny
- Enjoys evil

Rejoices with the truth

- Lies
- Hides in the dark
- Doesn't like the truth
- Argumentative
- Not willing to look at the truth

Protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres

- Harms others in the name of protecting self
- Doesn't trust anyone, is skeptical
- Hopeless, Pessimistic
- Easily discouraged, Gives up easily & Quits

Love NEVER fails

- Self-protection ALWAYS fails
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How do we make the people around us feel when we self-protect? Like we're being hateful!

What is your life characterized most by – the characteristics of love, or the characteristics of self-protection?

The opposite of love is NOT hatred – it is self-protection – and the need to self-protect is deeply engrained in anyone who was violated as a small child. That's why abuse is such a relationship killer – it can easily turn us into hateful people, and it does.