

"As a human being, I will always have expectations of others, but if I am to enjoy peace with myself and with others, I can't demand the fulfillment of those expectations as a condition of relationship." FMN

The Power of Enjoying Others for Who They Are
(No one flourishes in an environment where they are constantly being evaluated.)

1 Cor 13:4-7 NLT

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

When we choose to enjoy (love) another unconditionally (with no strings attached), we ignite a powerful and positive chain reaction in that relationship.

1. First, we have gotten out of God's way and demonstrated our belief that only He brings about good and lasting change in the heart of another. (Phil 1:3-6)
2. We cut loose of the undignified and unproductive practice of judging another. (Matt 7:1)
3. We begin to notice many of the positive characteristics in the other person. (Heb 11:1)
4. We honor God's command to love our neighbor. (Lev 19:18)
5. We become easier to be around. (John 15:13)
6. We model God's grace which is the only quality that brings freedom from sin. (Eph 2:3-9)
7. We take undesirable pressure off ourselves. (Matt 7:2)

1 John 4:19-21 NIV

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

