

## Relationships/Love Languages

### The "GATTE" To Your Mate

#### 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13

Based on the Handout by Tom Sooter by the Same Title

Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: ... And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

#### Introduction:

Learning how to love your life-mate is the secret to a happy and fulfilling marriage. This study investigates the five love gates to help meet the individual needs of your spouse and other significant relationships in your life. **The Secret "GATTE" To Your Mate, is to Love Them The Way They *Want To Be Loved*.**

## G - Gate #1 is the Giving of Gifts

Many people attach special significance to receiving gifts. It's not necessarily the expense of the gift, but the thought that "I was remembered," that is really important. Gifts are visible signs of love. Certain people have an inner love gate that opens up and returns warm feelings to those who say, "I'm thinking of you," by giving them gifts. Of course, the greatest give we can give is the gift of our self.

Often, the "Gift Gate" is misunderstood. It may be viewed as selfish, or as a temporal value system. Certain little children may frequently ask if Mom or Dad brought them back something from the store. Often, they are really asking, "Was I important enough for you to remember me while you were gone?"

You can usually spot the person whose Love Gate is receiving gifts, because they will tend to *give* gifts. Of course, God is the author of giving, and spiritual maturity will always move a Christian to a life of giving.

<b>Proverbs 19:6</b>	Many will entreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts.
<b>Proverbs 17:8</b>	A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth.
<b>Matthew 7:11</b>	If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him.
<b>James 1:17</b>	Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

## A - Gate #2 is Acts of Service

Some spouses feel they are really being loved and accepted when those around them do little acts of kindness for them. Cooking a meal, washing dishes, emptying the trash, vacuuming, putting up a shelf, polishing shoes, and so on, are perceived as "tokens" of love - "they love me enough to serve me."

To the one who is not aware of the way this gate needs to be loved, it may be misinterpreted as demanding or nagging. As you listen to your spouse's most frequent requests, you will discover what specific items you can do for them to confirm to them that they are cherished.

If someone in your house is always doing things for you, take note - they may be revealing the specific way in which *they* want to be loved.

- Galatians 6:10** As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.
- Luke 6:31, 33, 38** As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.
- 1 Corinthians 10:31** Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.
- Matthew 6:24** No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.
- Galatians 5:13-14** For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

## T - Gate #3 is Time

Time is always a wonderful gift of love, but to some it is the primary gate that opens up their heart. Your spouse may not be nearly as excited about the gift you brought her while you were both at the mall, or the way you helped her fold clothes, as she was about the time you spent with her.

*Time is not always quality time.* Being in the same room with your spouse, is not necessarily the same as *spending time with* your spouse. One person talking, while the other person is reading the paper, or watching TV, is not necessarily "spending quality time" together. Togetherness without distractions, and giving undivided attention, qualifies as "quality time" to this person.

The person with this "gate" is hurt by body language that says, "My body is here, but my mind is elsewhere." And interrupting their words to speed up the conversation, is quickly perceived as the other person's saying, "I'm being held hostage behind your love gate."

If you are consistently being invited to step aside from activities just to talk or be together, you are probably being given a hint that your spouse's love-gate is Quality Time.

**Matthew 19:5** For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh.

**Hebrews 13:5** *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

## T - Gate #4 is Appropriate Physical Touch

In American culture, the shake of a hand serves as evidence of some level of acceptance or friendship. An embrace among family members is a special manifestation of love, and of closeness in relationships. A pat on the head or shoulder of a youngster is always received as a "Well done," "I'm proud of you," or "You're special to me." Adults with the "love gate of Touch," also receive physical touch as a special sign of acceptance and love.

Everyone knows how encouraging and healing a hug can be curing a crisis or a time of discouragement. For some people, their primary gate through which they receive confirmation that they are accepted and appreciated, is through the simple act of touch. For instance, even within the same family, one child may be a "hugger," while another child seems to be *allergic* to embracing. One will always ask, "Daddy, did I color this picture good?" or "Do you like my dress (or hair, and so on)?" while another will frequently ask if he can *do* something.

To discover the precise love gate that best describes your special relationship, listen to and watch how your child wants to express *their* love to *you*.

**Song of Solomon 2:6** His left hand *is* under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me.

**Mark 10:13** And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and *his* disciples rebuked those that brought *them*.

## E - Gate #5 is Words of Encouragement and Affirmation

Words can bring death - and they can also bring life - **Proverbs 18:21** - "A brother offended *is harder to be won* than a strong city: and *their contentions are* like the bars of a castle."

"You can catch more flies with sugar, than with vinegar." And so it is with our words. Words can build us up, or they can tear us down. There is a sensitivity in all of us to words, but this is *especially* true to those of us whose love language is Words of Encouragement and Affirmation.. When these people hear kind words of praise or gratefulness, they receive those words as a declaration that they have importance, worth, and significance to the one *speaking* those words. Often, the need of a spouse to hear encouraging words leads them to develop wrong relationships, especially if they are not hearing those words in their own marriage.

To get good at giving encouraging words to your spouse, you must be willing to do two things: **First**, be willing to *listen*. And **Second**, practice *empathy* - try putting yourself in *their* shoes. And once you hear what your spouse is *really* saying, then giving them love through encouraging words can be done more easily and effectively.

If your spouse is frequently hurt by the words or the body language you use with them, then you have probably found what love gate they are hiding behind.

- Proverbs 16:24** Pleasant words *are as* an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.
- Proverbs 15:23** A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word *spoken* in due season, how good *is it!*
- Proverbs 25:15** By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.
- Proverbs 29:20** Seest thou a man *that is* hasty in his words? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.

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**Concluding Remarks:**

