Love is patient...  
It always protects”  
-1 Corinthians 13:7

If love always protects, and I love my spouse, then it ought to be true that I always protect my spouse. Not only when she (he) is in physical danger -that’s understood- but also from the danger of emotional injury as well. When others say something derogatory about my wife do I just "let it slide" or do I protect her so that others will know they dare not say one negative word about my wife in my presence? Do I protect her from hurtful words of others? Do I protect her from my own hurtful words? Am I approachable? Is it emotionally safe to talk about anything with me, or is it a matter of “walking on eggshells”? Let’s be honest. Could it be that I am the greatest source of emotional hurt in my spouses’ life? If that’s the case, then I guess I don’t have a clue about what real love is -a love that always, always protects. If I’m not protecting her from my own hurtful words, then I’m really not loving my wife, regardless of what I would like to think. That's the gospel truth -the bottom line.

Questions for Dialogue: What ways do we feel protected by one another? What ways do we feel unprotected? Do we feel unprotected against each other?

Prayer for both of us: Lord, help us to protect one another against hurtful words of others, unhealthy situations, and above all, help us protect each other from ourselves. Help us to always, always protect.

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