



“Loving Your Spouse on the Journey of a Lifetime”

“She is thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant” (Malachi 2:14). In most wedding ceremonies the couple promises “For better or worse, richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish as long as life shall last.” How important it is to remember that these promises are not a contract. They are a covenant.

Let’s pick out a phrase and focus upon it. Think of the words to “love and to cherish.” Marriage should not simply be endurance to the end. The Lord greatly desires to help couples to build a loving relationship on the journey of a lifetime.

Song of Solomon 2:1-6, 9-16.

1. Determine to _____ (2:1-6). Never assume your mate knows of your love. Express it!

- A. The bride speaks of herself as a common flower (1)
- B. The groom views her as a lily among the thorns (2).
- C. The bride speaks of the love she has for her groom (3-6).

While this is not typical of how couples speak to each other today, think of what would communicate your love to your spouse.

Stop the video. Take a moment to write out several ways you demonstrate love to your spouse.

Then write out several ways that your spouse demonstrates that you are loved.

2. Develop the _____ (2:9, 14). Our English language is limited in some ways. Think of the limited expressions for the word “love.” The early Greeks had five different words to express clearly how they felt and what they desired to express.

- A. Phileo is the friendship kind of love.
- B. Eros is the romantic kind of love.
- C. Storge is the secure “we belong together” kind of love.
- D. Epithumeo is the passionate kind of love.
- E. Agape is the unconditional committed kind of love.

Why would we want to develop the storge kind of love?

3. Delight in the _____ (2:16). This very brief statement is packed with security, joy, celebration, and commitment. Think of several things that must take place to nurture and enhance this kind of celebration. Let's use the word "Facts" to help us.

A. **F**= _____ (Ephesians 4:26, 30-32).

B. **A**= _____ (Philippians 2:2-3).

C. **C**= _____ (1 Peter 5:7).

D. **T**= _____ (Matthew 7:12).

E. **S**= _____ (Psalm 100:2).

Questions to consider:

1. Can you list several things that would break trust in a marriage relationship? _____

2. What happens when married couples do not forgive each other? _____

3. What several things will you do this week to nurture the storage love in your marriage?
