

## *Let's talk about:* What it Means to Love my Spouse

*Dr. Mike, I am really confused. I love my spouse even though she doesn't believe that I do. If I simply give in to her every wish, then she is happy. If I say no to her, then she cries and claims that I don't love her. Can you help us?*

Obviously I don't know what her wishes are. They may be quite reasonable, such as she wishes to be told that you love her. Or she might wish that you were affectionate and held her hand from time to time. On the other hand, her wishes might be quite unreasonable. It is important to remember that we must be spouses that demonstrate our love in five ways.

1. The demonstration of \_\_\_\_\_ kind of love (John 11:36).

Watching the Lord Jesus at the graveside of Lazarus, the Jewish people observed how much Christ loved him as a friend. What wonderful blessings result from spouses who become best friends (Song of Solomon 5:16).

2. The demonstration of \_\_\_\_\_ kind of love (Song of Solomon 2:1-5).

Beautiful expressions of romance were consistently demonstrated in speech and action. Wise couples, regardless of age, keep romance alive in their marriage.

3. The demonstration of \_\_\_\_\_ kind of love (Song of Solomon 2:8-14).

This is a secure kind of love in that it fits just right and surely is comfortable. This is the "we belong together" kind of fit as he appears in the secret places of the windows and lattice as well as the stairs. There is a comfort and security in this kind of love.

**Stop the video and think through the following:**

Why is trust so very important in marriage?

List several things that destroy trust in marriage.

List several things that build trust in marriage.

In what ways do you demonstrate trustworthiness in your marriage?

4. The demonstration of \_\_\_\_\_ kind of love (Philippians 1:23).

Typically this word is used negatively describing lust. Here Paul uses the word as a very positive passion or strong desire. When used in the framework of marriage, it is the strong attraction to your spouse. It is found in the most intimate expression of sexual connection with your spouse.

5. The demonstration of \_\_\_\_\_ kind of love (1 John 4:7-11).

This New Testament concept of love is expressed even when it is not deserved or returned. What depth and beauty is expressed in this word.

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