

Real Love

Did you know:

More people get engaged on this day than any other day of the year. It is also the most popular day to get married on. But studies show getting married on that day increases the chances of divorce which are already high, by almost 40%.

Sometimes we want something so bad we pretend to have what it takes but, it's not real.

Most of us don't know what *Real Love* is, so we struggle in our relationships.

Here is a verse that will help you have success in your marriage or in any relationship:

Romans 12:9,10 NLT Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

10 Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other.

1 Corinthians 13 is the wedding chapter. Its read a lot at weddings and then forgotten when the grind of life hits the couple.

Here is what real love does: 1 Cor. 13:7,8 NIV Love always **protects**, always **trusts**, always **hopes**, always **perseveres**. Love **never fails**.

Great relationships are possible when you let God work in your life.

5 Keys to Successful Marriage

1) Make a Commitment.

- a) Nothing great happens without a great commitment.
- b) Commitment is most important for the days when you don't feel like it.
- c) You will never have a great relationship with anyone unless you make a commitment.

2) Celebrated Differences.

Celebrate your differences, don't let them irritate you.

- a) You can really tell the difference In the bathroom: The average number of items a man has in his bathroom is 6! Toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, a towel, a razor and shaving cream. And, maybe a 7th - Some deodorant.

The average number of items in a woman's bathroom is 437. Most of which a man cannot identify.

- b) Be careful that you don't put so much confidence in compatibility! Diversity makes life fun! If you choose to have fun with it!

3) Work on Communication.

- a) Joe Magee says the average woman speaks 30,000 words a day and the average man speaks only 15,000.
- b) Scary Stat: The average couple only spends 4 minutes a day on meaningful conversation.
- c) 3 Necessary Topics

- i) Your Schedules
- ii) Your Finances
- iii) Your Hearts

4) Feed the Romance.

Romans 12 - Don't just pretend to love others. v. **10** Love each other with **genuine affection** and **take delight** in **honoring** each other.

A tradition fireplace is so romantic isn't it. But a fire takes work!

It's not the fireplace's fault if it doesn't have any logs in it!

5) Put Jesus at the Center.

- a) If you leave God out of the process that he created, it is going to fail.

"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain". Ps 127:1

- b) And you can't do it your own way, it won't work! Invite the inventor into the process and speak into it the marriage.

Real Love

1 Cor. 13:7,8 NIV Love always **protects**, always **trusts**, always **hopes**, always **perseveres**. Love **never fails**.

1) Real Love is God's Love.

- a) It is so hard to love someone who has hurt you or is continuing to hurt you isn't it.
- b) I can't help but think about Jesus - John 13:1 "... Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" He loved his disciples until the very end.
 - i) He also loved the ones who were hurting him in the end.
 - ii) From the cross he cried out Father forgive them for they don't know what they are doing!
 - (1) While they were spitting on him, he was forgiving them.
 - (2) While they were driving nails in his hands, through the pain he was loving them.

Real love was saying through the pain, "I have never loved you more than right now and even though you are hurting me, you have never needed me more than right now".

- c) The love of Jesus is inside of you. You can love the unlovely through His love.
 - i) Romans 5:5 ESV "... hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

- ii) In the NLT "... hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love."

2) Real Love is Covenant Love.

Marriage is a Covenant

Malachi 2:13-14, 16 NIV You flood the Lord's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. **14** You ask, "Why?" It is because the Lord is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your **marriage covenant**.

16 "The man who hates and divorces his wife," says the Lord, the God of Israel, "does violence to the one he should **protect**,". So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.

Every relationship needs someone else on the worst day.

a) Covenant Love vs A Contract

- i) Covenant is based in mutual commitment. A contract is based on mutual distrust.
- ii) Covenant surrenders rights and assumes responsibility. A contract protects rights and shirks responsibility.
- iii) Covenant has the interest of the other in mind. A contract has personal convenience in mind.

b) Contracts are not needed when Real Love is operating in the relationship.

3) Real Love is a Choice not a Feeling.

Col. 3:14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

- a) We don't feel it, we put it on!
- b) Amazing how many people still live by what they feel and not by their covenant.

Real Love Doesn't give the person what they deserve, it gives them what they need.

c) When you make a great choice, that choice leads and the feelings follow.

Conclusion:

The capacity to loves comes from receiving love!

1 John 4:19 NLT We love each other because he loved us first.

Ephesians 3:17-18 LB I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your heart, living within you as you trust Him. May your roots go deep into the soil of God's marvelous love, and may you be able to **feel** and **understand**...how long, wide, deep, and high His love really is, and **experience** this love for yourselves.