



Are There Secrets to Staying in Love?

1 Corinthians 13:4-5: (NASB) *4Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered...*



So Valentine's day is just a few days away. Another opportunity to outwardly express your love and devotion to that special someone. What if every day was such an opportunity? What if we, instead of using a holiday as an excuse to be self-absorbed for the other 364 days of the year, what if we used each day of the year as a reason to outwardly express our true devotion to that special someone? Stay with us as we look into love and marriage and the truly unique and important role they play in our lives!

What is the marriage institution all about?

The first marriage:

Genesis 2:18-25: (NRSV) *18Then the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner. 19So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.*

There is a conspicuous absence here - all of the animal kingdom had mates and were there to share the garden with their earthly master Adam - he named them - they were a joy to him, yet the absence of a mate for Adam was not overcome...



Man's responsibility - first interruption, joelandkathy.com

- *(A man goes to a marriage seminar by Dr. Paul Hagstrom) For the first day I listened to man's responsibility in marriage is to love his wife, lay down his life for her and listen to her heart and meet her needs, I sat there for the whole day and the next morning I couldn't stand it any longer. I stopped the class, raised my hand and said...when are we gonna talk about the wife?*

*21So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23Then the man said, This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken. 24Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and **clings <1692>** to his wife, and they become one flesh.*

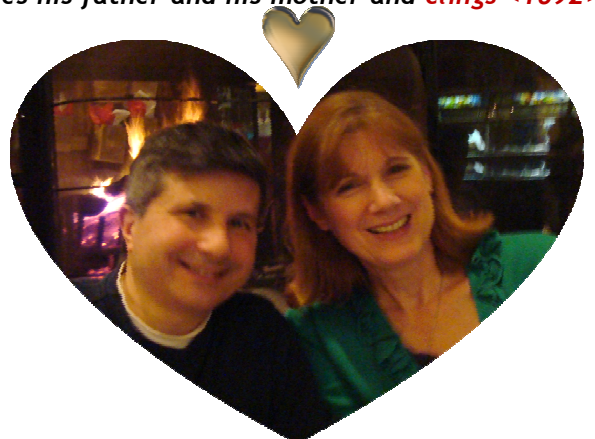
25And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Cling: Strong's #1692 1) to cling, stick, stay close, cleave, keep close, stick to



Bill and Kay married 43 years, best marriage advice I've heard, youtube.com

- *Every day if you have a disagreement or problem, you correct it before you go to bed,*





then you never wake up with a carry-over. That is to me good advice.

Observations regarding the first marriage:

- The noticeable absence of the woman revealed the emptiness the man had without her.
- God's creation of woman from man gives a sense of equality and companionship.
- Adam's desire for companionship was now fulfilled and he expressed this by saying, "at last..." and "bone of my bone," etc. There must have been some time without Eve, thus allowing him to feel the contrast.
- "Therefore a man leaves his mother and father and clings" implies a lifelong devotion - not just for a moment or until you get tired.
- They become one flesh, inseparable and united in every way.

What kind of promise is the marriage vow?

Mark 10:6-9: (NASB) ⁶But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.

What God has joined together - what does this actually mean? Pinky swear? Cross my heart?

When we ask God to be a witness to something, we need to take that very seriously.

 **Man's responsibility - second interruption, joelandkathy.com**

- *By 2pm of the second day, I'm itching again... Everything he is saying up to this point went like water off a duck's back, because it wasn't my fault! It's all her fault! So I thought, this is all great, but in my case, I'm a wonderful husband, this great man of God I just can't get her to submit! It's her fault!*
- *(He points to his wife) Dr. Paul, it's not always the man who is the problem, sometimes it's the wife!*



Hebrews 10:24: *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.*

How about instead of trying to change a person, change your thinking to how you can help that other person become their best - not who you want them to be, but who God wants them to be.



Marriage is a "covenant" (contract) but not just any covenant, it is "a covenant of God":

Proverbs 2:11-17: (ASV) ¹¹Discretion shall watch over thee; Understanding shall keep thee: ¹²To deliver thee from the way of evil, from the men that speak perverse things; ¹³Who



forsake the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; ¹⁴Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the perverseness of evil; ¹⁵Who are crooked in their ways, and wayward in their paths: ¹⁶To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the foreigner that flattereth with her words; ¹⁷That forsaketh the friend of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God:

(Source: McClintock and Strong's Bible Cyclopedia) Covenant: A mutual contract or agreement between two parties, each of which is bound to fulfill certain engagements to the other.... The Hebrew word is derived...from the root... "he cut," and taken to mean primarily "a cutting," with reference to the custom of cutting or dividing animals in two, and passing between the parts in ratifying a covenant.... In making such a covenant God was solemnly invoked as witness (Genesis 31:50), whence the expression "a covenant of Jehovah" 1 Samuel 20:8; comp. Jeremiah 34:18, 19;...and accordingly a breach of covenant was regarded as a very heinous sin (Ezekiel 17:12-20).

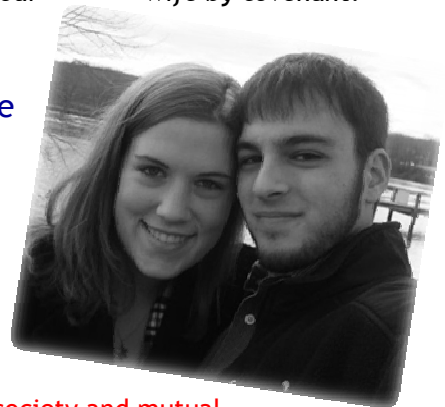
 **Bill and Kay married 43 years, best marriage advice I've heard, youtube.com**

- *Be realistic that sometimes our marriage expectations are so high - most of marriage is lived in between the ups and the downs and it's hard work!*

Malachi 2:13-14: (NASB) ¹³This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. ¹⁴Yet you say, For what reason? Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.



Marriage is not "I do until I decide I don't." Don't take this lightly because God does not take it lightly. You have made a vow to stand by your spouse through all parts of life. Marriage takes work!



(Source: Biblical Commentator Matthew Poole) The covenant of her God; the marriage covenant; so called, partly because God is the author and institutor of that society and mutual obligation; and partly because God is called to be the witness and judge of that solemn promise and covenant, and the avenger of the transgression of it.

Are the marriage roles of men and women really all that different?

Ephesians 5:22-24: (NASB) ²²Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, he himself being the Savior of the body. ²⁴But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

 **Man's responsibility - third interruption, joelandkathy.com**

- *It was the third time I interrupted the class and again said, in some marriages it's just not the man's fault - what about the wife!!! And he nailed me to the wall publicly. He said, Joel, if you would ever grow up and deal with your issues, your wife will deal with whatever issues she has on her own!*

The "submissiveness" of the wife CANNOT be taken out of the context of the required submissiveness of the husband.



Husbands must be *worthy* of being submitted to:

Ephesians 5:25-33: (NASB) ²⁵*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself up for her,* ²⁶*so that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,* ²⁷*that he might present to himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.* ²⁸*So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;* ²⁹*for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,* ³⁰*because we are members of his body.*

This is a high standard the husband must take on!

³¹*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* ³²*This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.* ³³*Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.*

Notice how the wife need only be given a one line admonishing regarding her behavior while the husband is given a paragraph!

 Introduction, couple dies holding hands, *KCCI 8 News Iowa*

- *Gordon and Norma Yeager lived a love story up until the moment they died. They married May 26, 1939. Norma accepted Gordon's marriage proposal on her high school graduation day. They're very old fashioned. They believed in 'til death do you part...*



We should make our commitment based on maturity, commitment and that we will do our part no matter what. By our actions and focus, we can change things if we are in a rough spot.


"Love and Marriage," Frank Sinatra

 A fresh look at marriage, *firstthings.org* (Children put in roles of husband and wife)

- *I just don't want to argue anymore...*
- *Why are you always on my case?*
- *I try not to make you mad, but sometimes..*
- *Why does he get so mad?*
- *Why is it so hard to say I'm sorry?*
- *He said I had to sleep somewhere else tonight.*
- *He said maybe it would be better for us to take a break.*

Some further scriptural principles regarding our roles in the marriage relationship:

1 Peter 3:1-4: (NASB) ¹*In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,* ²*as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.* ³*Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;* ⁴*but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.*

Even if the husband is not naturally a leader, a wife can build him up to that position. He should know that you respect him in that role and see him that way. By your actions, he can start fulfilling that role.



What does an old Billy Joel 45 record have to do with L O V E? Listen to this week's program for the story as told by Rick's wife Trish!



Marriage Secret!

Look at the intent, not the action. Our spouse might express appreciation in a way different than we do.

1 Peter 3:7: (NASB) *You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.*

What is meant by weaker? Trish always reminds that she "is a delicate flower."

Doesn't this fit right in with how Jesus loves the church?

 Always together, couple dies holding hands, *KCCI 8 News Iowa*

- *Of course everyone argues once in awhile, but he said, "I can't go until she does. I will stay here for her." She would say the same thing. Last Wednesday they left home to go into town and there was a car accident...*

What causes marital strife?

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5: (NRSV) *³For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from fornication; ⁴that each one of you know how to control your own body in holiness and honor, ⁵not with lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;*

Marriage Secret!

We have to want what we have. It's easy to look elsewhere and allow your mind to go down that path. Unfulfilled needs are a great opportunity to let the Lord fill those needs. Any void is an opportunity to work on you.

 The point of no return bog, *fulfilledcouple.com*

- *...the wife is in the point of no return bog - a dark and foggy place...In the bog a wife sees her children as resilient kids who will be fine after the divorce- she imagines that life after the divorce will be filled with happy times, happy children, financial security and everything will work out just fine... It's her new hope...*



Good or bad, every marriage has a foundation...

1 John 2:15-17: (NASB) ¹⁵Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.



Every marriage is built on something, some foundation. What is your marriage built on and does it need to be repaired? Every problem in marriage will come from one of these three things: *the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life*. Knowing this gives us a huge advantage in dealing with those difficulties! By God's grace there are a lot of things that can counteract marital strife.

Proverbs 5:15-18: (NASB) ¹⁵Drink water from your own cistern and fresh water from your own well. ¹⁶Should your springs be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets? ¹⁷Let them be yours alone and not for strangers with you. ¹⁸Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth.

Stay at home with your thoughts and desires where they belong.



Intensive care, couple dies holding hands, KCCI 8 News Iowa

- *At the hospital, nurses knew not to separate Gordon and Norma. They brought them in the same room in Intensive Care. They were holding hands, on morphine and not really responsive.*

Proverbs 19:11-13: (NASB) ¹¹A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook a transgression. ¹²The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass. ¹³A foolish son is destruction to his father, and the contentions of a wife are a constant dripping.

Holding grudges and constant complaining are not good for the marriage. We have to rise above those things that pull us down.

Ephesians 4:25-27: (NASB) ²⁵Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not give the devil an opportunity.

Generally it is pride that is behind our martially destructive behavior:

Proverbs 16:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling. ¹⁹It is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly than to divide the spoil with the proud.

What is the most important secret of marital success?

Is there only one "most important secret" for successful marriage? Probably not - there are several and the best news is, they aren't even secrets!



Let's look at the attributes from our theme text to begin our answer:

1 Corinthians 13:4-5: (NRSV) ⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

The secret: Love in its highest form!



For our married lives, it is important that God is called in to witness our covenant. If you are a Christian, you have dedicated yourself to following after His son, Jesus. If you are a true Christian called of God, you are given a gift of God's power and influence, the Holy Spirit. That helps us and guides us through those difficult times. When you take God as the Creator, His Son as the sacrifice for all sin and the power and the influence of God in our lives, that is what can help us through the difficult times.

1 John 3:17-18: (NRSV) ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

Your words won't be believed unless followed by action.

 **Mutual heartbeat, couple dies holding hands, KCCI 8 News Iowa**

- Gordon died at 3:38, holding hands with his wife, the family they built surrounding them. He stopped breathing, but the heart monitor was still going. When questioned, the nurse told the family that because they were holding hands, Norma's heartbeat was beating through him. At 4:48, exactly one hour after Gordon's death, Norma passed too.
- Neither of them would have wanted to be without the other.



"You Are So Beautiful," Joe Cocker

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12: (NIV) ⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: ¹⁰If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! ¹¹Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? ¹²Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

The secret: Weaving God into every part of your married lives.

Matthew 6:33: (NASB) But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Forgiveness is a necessity!

Ephesians 4:32: (NRSV) and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

The secret: Forgive with liberality!



Mark 10:6-8: (NASB) ⁶But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

The Secret: Commitment!!!

If you are truly committed to your marriage, then it matters not how anyone feels, what your circumstances are or who is right. If you are





truly committed to your marriage, then you will selflessly love, humbly give and joyfully endure first, then ask questions later!

Marriage is a lifetime commitment, a promise made before God. The potential of a marriage is to give you a happy, peaceful, tranquil, wonderful life if you focus on doing your part and allow your spouse to focus on their part. If we just put scriptural principles in place, we can be a shining example.

*So are there secrets to staying in love?
For Jonathan and Rick (and Kathy!) and Christian Questions,
Think about it...!*



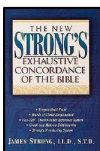
Live from Rick and guest-host Kathy!

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition of CQ Rewind!***



A little expansion on the meaning of "weaker vessel" from 1 Peter 3:7:

1 Peter 3:7: (KJV) *Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving **honour <5092>** unto the wife, as unto the **weaker <772>** vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*



Honour: Strongs #5092 time (tee-may'); a value, i.e. money paid, or (concretely and collectively) valuables; by analogy, esteem (especially of the highest degree), or the dignity itself: KJV-- honour, precious, price, some.

Weaker: Strongs #772 asthenes (as-then-ace'); strengthless (in various applications, literal, figurative and moral): KJV-- more feeble, impotent, sick, without strength, weak (-er, -ness, thing)

Give great esteem to your wives, as you would to something that is of great value, yet fragile.



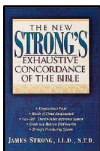
This principle is exhibited in the following text - it does NOT mention men and women, but does use the same words to explain relationships within the body of Christ:

1 Corinthians 12:21-23: (ASV) ²¹And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of thee: or again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. ²²Nay, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be **more feeble <772>** are necessary: ²³and those parts of the body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant **honor <5092>**; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness;

The above comparisons speak volumes - eyes to hands - both have OBVIOUS value, yet the eye directs the hand. Head to feet - both have obvious value, yet the head directs the feet.

A bit more on the details of the theme text for this program:

1 Corinthians 13:4-5: (NRSV) ⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;



Love is patient:

Patient: Strongs #3114 makrothumeo to be long-spirited, i.e. (objectively) forbearing or (subjectively) patient:

Exercising patience means a willingness to be non-reactive, to be willing to wait for a situation to completely unfold, to be disciplined in holding back. This "patience" gives the benefit of the doubt and can only *truly* be displayed through a humble spirit.



Love is kind:

Kind: Strongs #5541 chresteuomai (khraste-yoo'-om-ahee); to show oneself useful, i.e. act benevolently: KJV-- be kind.

be·nev·o·lence Function: *noun*

1: disposition to do good

2a: an act of kindness b: a generous gift

Luke 6:35-36: (NRSV) ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is **kind <5541>** to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Ephesians 4:32-32: (NRSV) and be **kind <5541>** to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

1 John 3:17-18: (NRSV) ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

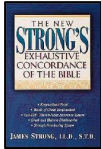
It does not insist on its own way:

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12: (NIV) ⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: ¹⁰If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! ¹¹Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? ¹²Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Philippians 2:3: (KJV) Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.



Romans 12:3-10: (NRSV) ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. ⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.



Not Arrogant: Strong's #5448 phusioo (foo-see-o'-o); to inflate, i.e. (figuratively) make proud (haughty): to puff up, make proud, to be puffed up, to bear one's self loftily, be proud

1 Corinthians 4:6-10: (NRSV) ⁶I have applied all this to Apollos and myself for your benefit, brothers and sisters, so that you may learn through us the meaning of the saying, Nothing beyond what is written, so that none of you will be puffed up in favor of one against another. ⁷For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift? ⁸Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! Quite apart from us you have become kings! Indeed, I wish that you had become kings, so that we might be kings with you! ⁹For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, as though sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to mortals. ¹⁰We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute.

1 Corinthians 8:1-3: (NRSV) ¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Clothing ourselves with grace:

Colossians 3:8-15: (NRSV) ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all! ¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and **patience <3115>**. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.



Motto for a Great Marriage

A great marriage begins with two people in love with each other, loving each other with all their hearts... unconditionally, deeply, crazily, wonderfully, sweetly, madly, freely. They think about sharing forever together, supporting each other's dreams, making plans to walk together as one, yet keeping and enhancing their own identities.

A great marriage is made up of two people who practice showing their love the way they show it best, the way that brings out the best in each other. They listen to each other as they would listen to a friend because in so many great marriages, the two people are best friends.



They learn from their mistakes and find ways to communicate their concerns, share their feelings, and manage their differences. They make the success of their marriage a priority and keep their marriage new and interesting.

Partners in great marriages have a sacred contract. They are settled in their commitment to love, cherish, and care for their love and their marriage, and they do what they need to do to keep it strong through sickness and health, poverty and wealth, and all the in-betweens. They choose to solve their problems in a spirit of cooperation with each other, assuming an attitude of togetherness, not separation. They forgive each other. They are loyal to each other. They treat each other as sweethearts.

Great marriages begin and end with love. They never give up, no matter what, and love anyway... always.

— Donna Fargo