



What about Love and Marriage?

1 Corinthians 13:7: (NASB) *(Love) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

Ah, Valentine's Day! That day when everyone celebrates LOVE!! The fact of the matter is that one in two marriages end in divorce and countless other "live in" relationships fall apart as well. This translates into a dismal fact - MOST people are less than happy in their relationship. Why? What is missing in all of these broken unions? Are romance and reality compatible in our day? Do people really fall in love? Can we find our own happily ever after? Stay with us as we talk about love, marriage, reality and the Bible!

Questions for consideration:

1. What is love?
2. What is marriage?
3. Do people really "fall in love?"
4. How do you know that you have found your "soul mate?"
5. What happens when life happens?
6. Can we find our own "Happily Ever After?"

1. What is love?

(For a review of the Four Levels of love, please refer back to our archived program and corresponding CQRewind from February 7, 2010 called, "Is Christian Love Different?")

First Level: Strong's #5362 philandros, Strong's #5387 philostorgos, Strong's #5388 philoteknos: The first level of love describes the affection between spouses, parents to children, and children to parents - the family bond. This level is the most basic and instinctive.

Love: Strong's #5362 philandros (fil'-an-dros); fond of man, i.e., affectionate as a wife

Love: Strong's #5388 philoteknos (fil-ot'-ek-nos); fond of one's children, i.e., maternal

Titus 2:3-5: (NKJV) ³the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— ⁴that they admonish the young women to **love <5362>** their husbands, to **love <5388>** their children, ⁵to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

 **"Find the maiden that belongs to that voice," Disney movie, Enchanted (2007)**

The plot focuses on Giselle, a Disney Princess, who is forced from her traditional animated world of Andalasia into the real world of New York City. Primary characters are: Giselle, Prince Edward, Robert, and his six-year old daughter Morgan.

- *My heart longs to be joined in song!*
- *I MUST find the maiden that belongs to that sweet voice!*

On what kind of love do the Scriptures focus?



1 Corinthians 13:4-7: (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, ⁶does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Fourth Level: Strong's #25 agapao, Strong's #26 agape: This is a level of selflessness and benevolence that surpasses philanthropy as it encompasses a level of giving that has no thought or need of reciprocation. This fourth level has no concern for such things - it is only concerned with the well-being of those to which it is giving.



#1: Have common goals, Love vs. Infatuation: Rabbi Efim Svirsky, Five ingredients for a strong marriage from torahealing.com

- What are the most important things in my life?
- Have or create common goals and you become closer and closer.

2 Corinthians 6:14: (KJV) *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

Having Christian goals is one element of being compatible.

2. What is marriage?

Genesis 2:20-24: (NASB) ²⁰The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. 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 the flesh at that place. ²²The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. ²³The man said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. ²⁴For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.



Marriage is a Carriage, SikhNet, Hindu perspective

- When you invest in your commitment and it becomes an abiding part of your consciousness, it will carry you through things in your life that would be much more difficult otherwise.



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.



))) #2: Bring out the best in them, *Love vs. Infatuation: Rabbi Efim Svirsky, Five ingredients for a strong marriage from torahealing.com*

- *Do you bring out the best in each other? Do they suppress you or are they boring?*

Marriage is a covenant, a solemn promise made before God:

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.

(Source: Bible 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.

))) "Edward will rescue me to share love's first kiss," *Disney movie, Enchanted (2007)*

- *I am certain that Edward is searching and will rescue me, take me home and we can share in true love's kiss! It's the most powerful thing in the world!*

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.

Jesus restates this quote from the Old Testament. The commitment of marriage remained over time.

3. Do people really "fall in love?"

))) Real Deal Tripping into Infatuation, *The Real Deal on What's Love: freeteenusa.org/publications.html*



- *That larger than life feeling is not love - it's infatuation! This is a stage and this too shall pass...*
- *Make no hasty decisions while "under the influence" because during this period of time you can only see the positives, you can only see the bright side.*

Genesis 2:24: (NASB) For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

To be joined means cling or adhere; figuratively, to catch by pursuit. Does this sound like the infatuation described above?

(Source: National Geographic, Feb. 2006 page 35) NatGeo pointed to a neurotransmitter called dopamine as a cause for infatuation. "In the right proportions, dopamine creates intense energy, exhilaration, focused attention and motivation to win rewards. It is why, when you are newly in love, you can stay up all night, watch the sun rise, run a race, ski fast down a slope ordinarily too steep for your skill. Love makes you bold, makes you bright, makes you run real risks, which you sometimes survive and sometimes you don't."

))) #3: Do they have the most important traits I need, *Love vs. Infatuation: Rabbi Efim Svirsky, Five ingredients for a strong marriage from torahealing.com*

- *Do they have the most important character traits that I NEED?*



))) "Sing to assure her of your affection," *Disney movie, Enchanted (2007)*

- *You should sing to her to reassure her of your affections - rush to her side, pull her to your arms, pour your heart out in a beautiful ballad and then she'll know for sure...*

Ecclesiastes 9:9: (NASB) *Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward in life and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun.*

4. How do you know that you have found your "soul mate?"

))) "We've been together one day," *Disney movie, Enchanted (2007)*

- *How long have you two been together?*
- *A day - and tomorrow will be two days!*
- *You're joking. You're going to marry somebody after a day because you fell in love with him?*
- *Yes! Yes!*

Ephesians 5:21-24: (NASB) ²¹and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. 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.

))) Infatuation's illusions and delusions, *The Real Deal on what's Love:*
freeteenusa.org/publications.html

- *Because they have brain chemicals soaring through their veins, they see this person as larger than life;*
- *When you fall in love you are in a delusional and illusional state;*
- *Illusional means you're not in touch with reality;*
- *Delusional means you create your own reality, so of course they are going to be larger than life.*

How many times do we spend nagging each other about our faults, or complaining to others about our spouse? We gnaw away at something that could be very solid.

Here is what husbands are supposed to do:

Ephesians 5:25-31: (NASB) ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶so that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷that 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. ²⁸So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. he who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

))) #4: Mutual trust, Love vs. Infatuation: Love vs. Infatuation: Rabbi Efim Svirsky, *Five ingredients for a strong marriage* from torahealing.com

- *Can I trust my weaknesses to this person - would they put me down or help me?*
- *Can I trust myself with their weaknesses?*



Galatians 6:2-5: (ASV) ²Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. ³For if a man thinketh himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. ⁴But let each man prove his own work, and then shall he have his glorying in regard of himself alone, and not of his neighbor. ⁵For each man shall bear his own burden.

To bear one another's burdens is to show the highest trust one for another.

5. What happens when life happens?

Life can easily make us cynical...

 No such thing as "happily ever after," *Disney movie, Enchanted (2007)*

- *Forget about happily ever after - it doesn't exist! Most marriages are considered a success if they manage not to end, period! Forget about happiness. I don't know if I'll make it through today, let alone a lifetime. It's complicated.*
- *It doesn't have to be - not if she knows...how much you really love her!*
- *Of course she knows - we just don't talk about it every minute of the day, but she knows.*
- *How?*

Do people marry wanting to divorce?

Matthew 19:3: (NASB) *Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing him and asking, Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?*

We understand that this covenant is of the most serious in nature - serious to the point of "til death do you part" - not just a line in a marriage ceremony. Yet approximately 50 percent of all marriages end in divorce. Why?

Do people marry only as an experiment?

Do people marry with low expectations for longevity?

Do people marry without enough preparation for the depth of the commitment?

Do people marry too soon in their relationships?

Do people marry wanting to divorce?

Do people marry because of peer pressure?



A successful marriage starts with both partners
humbly putting God first.



How stress defines a real marriage, SikhNet, Hindu perspective

- *Life-changing stresses and events present a test - does your marriage carry you through or do you turn away from the marriage and immerse yourself in your work because it's too stressful, and you feel that you need to escape from your marriage?*

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;

This is selfless love and an important principle to remember when life happens. Loving selflessly can be contagious between spouses.

Here lies a key for longevity in marriage:

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.

A relationship that is really strong includes God interwoven with who and what we are. Lasting love is passion joined with compassion. Marriage must be based in faithful friendship because true friendship carries us through high tides and low tides. Passion can fade, compassion can wade.

6. Can we find our own "Happily Ever After?"

Proverbs 21:19: (NIV) *Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.*

Proverbs 26:21: (NIV) *As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.*

Both the husband and wife can both cause trouble, so we need to take care of our part.

#5: Attraction, Love vs. Infatuation: Rabbi Efim Svirsky, Five ingredients for a strong marriage from torahealing.com

- *Chemistry - attraction is #5 because if you don't have the first four, then the attraction and love dissipate and disappear, with the first four, attraction and love will grow and grow.*
- *#1 Have common goals; #2 Bring out the best in them; #3 Character traits that I need; #4 Mutual trust; and #5 Attraction.*

When we apply all five of these tools, what would have seemed impossible now is doable.



That's How You Know, Enchanted Soundtrack

- *How does she know you love her - how does she know she's yours? How do you show her you love her? You must remind her or she'd be inclined to say - How do I know he loves me? Does he leave a little note to tell you, you are on his mind? Send you yellow flowers when the sky is gray? That's how you know he's your love!*



So, the bottom line of Marriage:

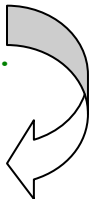
It is a solemn covenant made before God, asking God to be a witness;
It is a decision to "cling," not an emotional response;
It is built upon a selfless love *first*;
It is a give and take experience *second* (don't keep score!);
It simply requires commitment!



And they lived happily ever after...



*So what about love and marriage?
For Jonathan and Rick (and Vicki!) and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*



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

Apply THIS text to your marriage and the rest is academic!!

Philippians 4:8: (NASB) *Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, what ever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.*



A few comments on 1 Corinthians 13:

"Love is kind"

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

be·nev·o·lence Function: *noun*

1: disposition to do good

2a: an act of kindness

2b: a generous gift

Luke 6:35-36: (NRSV) ³⁵*But 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 to the ungrateful and the wicked.* ³⁶*Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*

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

1 John 3:17-18: (NRSV) ¹⁷*How 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?* ¹⁸*Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.*

"Love is not arrogant"

Not Arrogant: Strongs #5448 *phusioo* (foo-see-o'-o); to inflate, i.e. (figuratively) make proud (haughty): 1) to make natural, to cause a thing to pass into nature 2) to inflate, blow up, to cause to swell up 2a) to puff up, make proud 2b) to be puffed up, to bear one's self loftily, be proud

1 Corinthians 4:6-10: (NRSV) ⁶*I 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.* ⁷*For 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?* ⁸*Already 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.

"Love is patient"

Patient: Strong's #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.

"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.

Notable and Quotable:



"We are told that people stay in love because of chemistry, or because they remain intrigued with each other, because of many kindnesses, because of luck...But part of it has got to be forgiveness and gratefulness." --Ellen Goodman

"A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers." --Robert Quillen

"Forgiveness is the final form of love." --Reinhold Niebuhr

"One forgives to the degree that one loves." --Francois de La Rochefoucauld

"'Tis the most tender part of love, each other to forgive." --John Sheffield