



## 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

"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: **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: Having Christian goals is one element of being compatible.

### 2. What is marriage?

Genesis 2:20-24

 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



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



#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

#### 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



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



**#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: 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: 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: 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: 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 Proverbs 26:21: 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](http://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...!**

