

Marriage Matters

The background of the slide features a large, golden, abstract shape that resembles a heart or a stylized letter 'M'. This shape is composed of several concentric, slightly offset layers, creating a sense of depth and movement. A white, ribbon-like element curves through the center of the golden shape, adding a contrasting color and texture. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, with a focus on warm, golden tones.

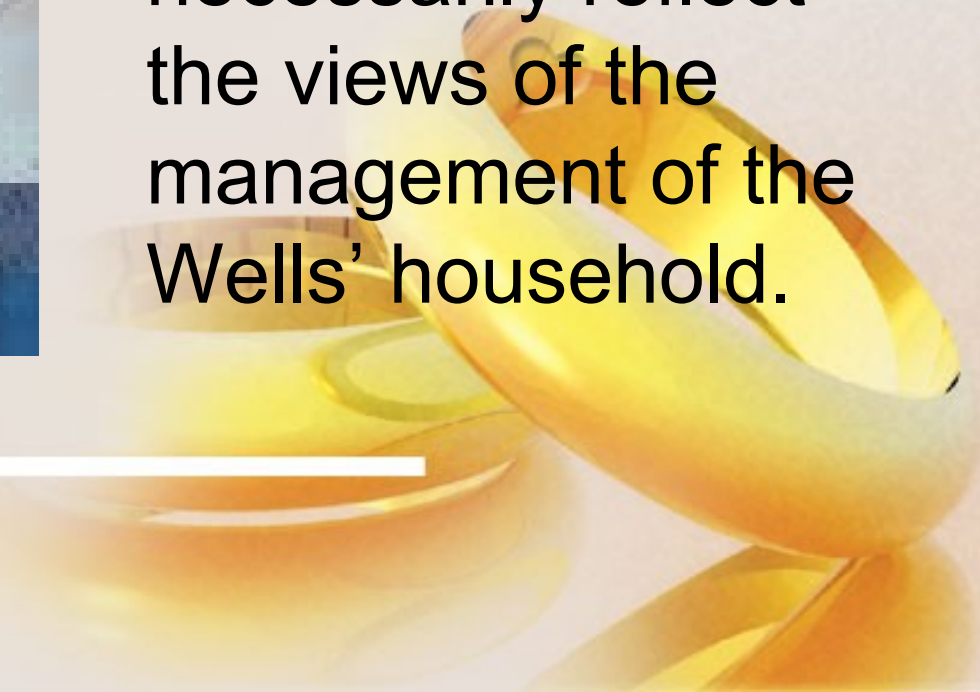
Dale Wells

Palm Desert Church of Christ

November 26, 2006



- Views expressed in this sermon are those of the speaker.
- They do not necessarily reflect the views of the management of the Wells' household.



They say "Marriage is made in heaven."

- So is thunder and lightning!
- Marriage is tough!



If it weren't for marriage ...

- most men would go through life thinking they had no faults at all!



A woman always has the last word



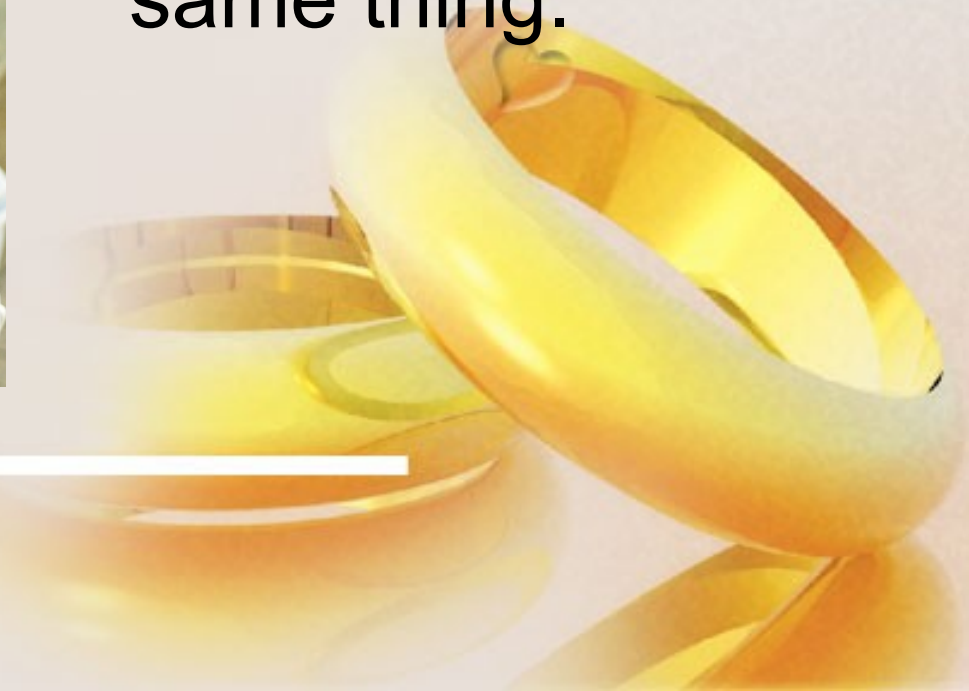
- Anything a man says after that is just the beginning of a new argument.



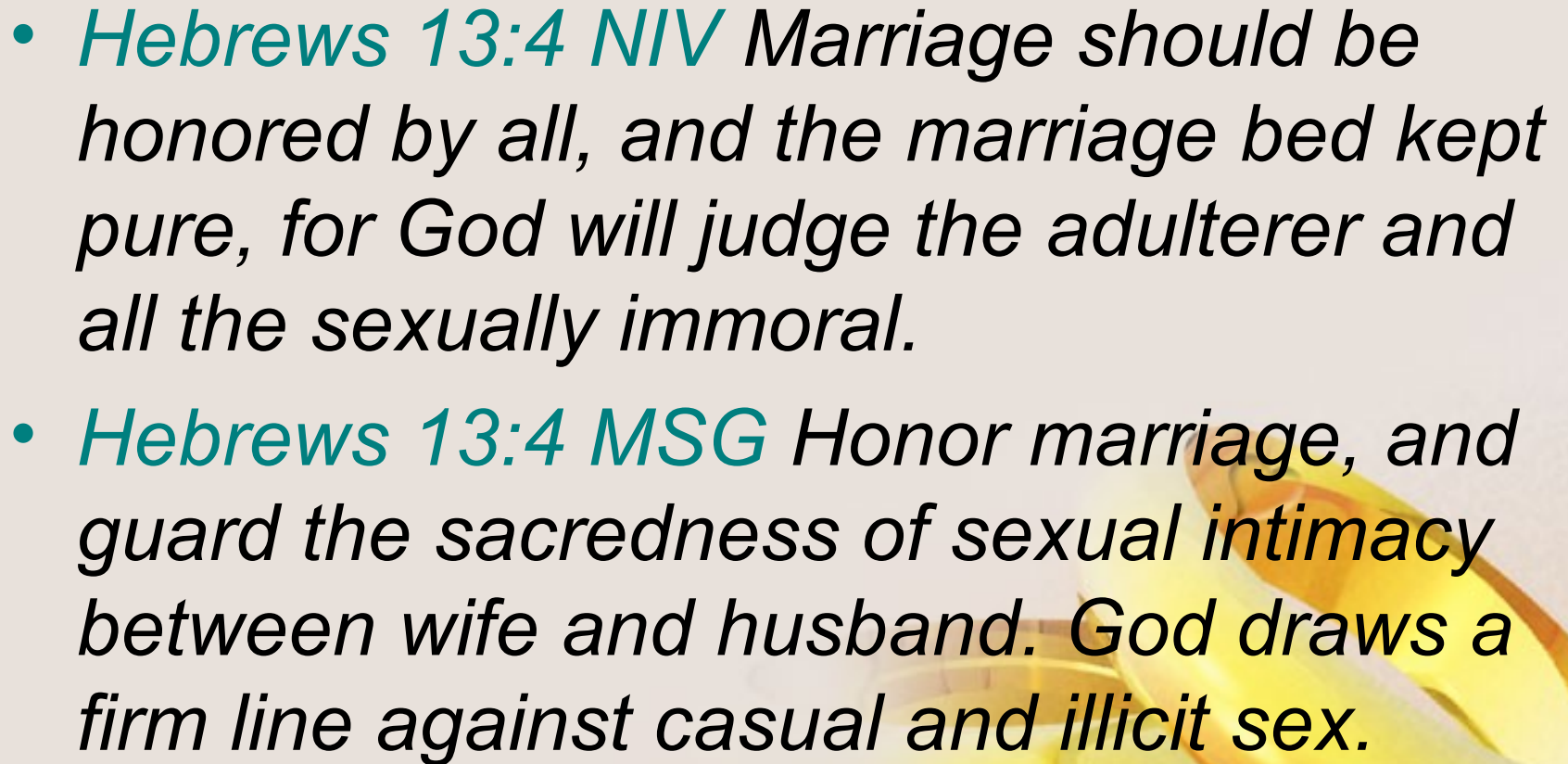
A married man should forget his mistakes



- because there's no reason for two people to remember the same thing.



Hebrews 13:4

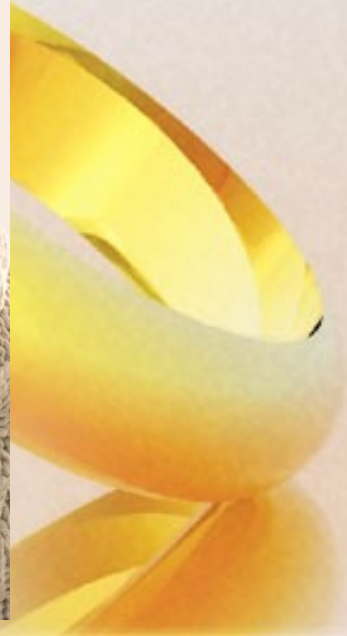
- *Hebrews 13:4 NIV* Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.
 - *Hebrews 13:4 MSG* Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband. God draws a firm line against casual and illicit sex.
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The writer of Hebrews gives pointers to growing a godly marriage

- Marriages have needs that must be met in order to flourish.
- We'll look at four love needs of marriage.
- How well are you doing at meeting the love needs of your spouse?



The first love need is unconditional love

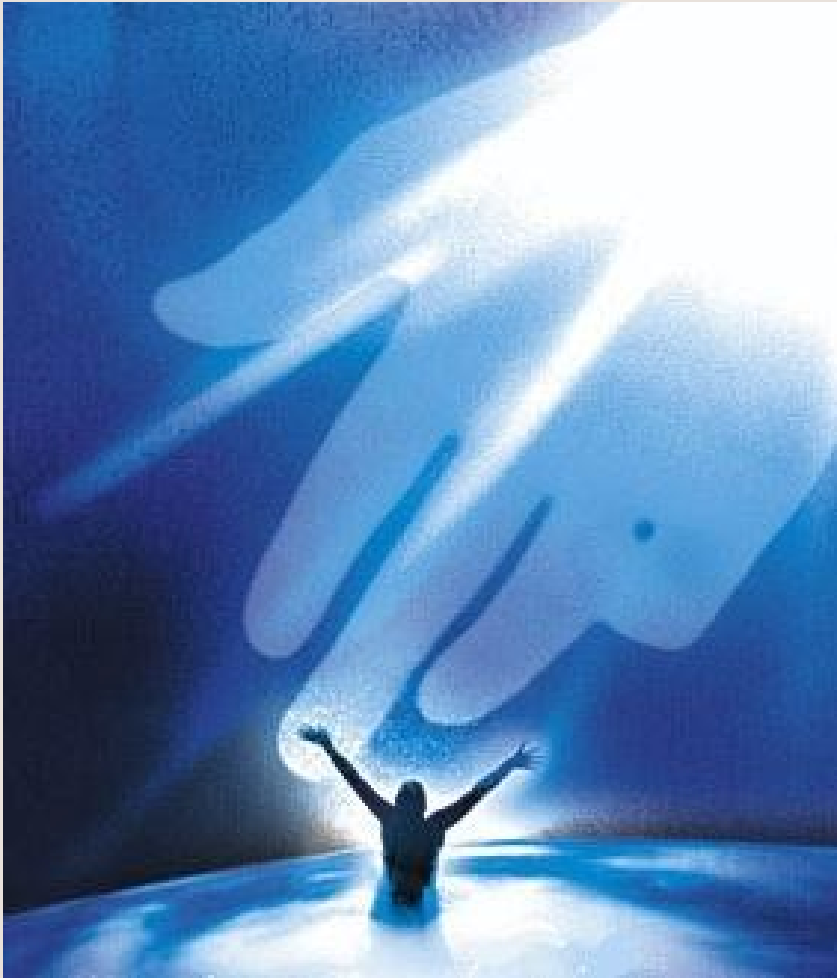


God's love for us is unconditional

- *Ephesians 2:4-5 NIV* But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, (5) made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.



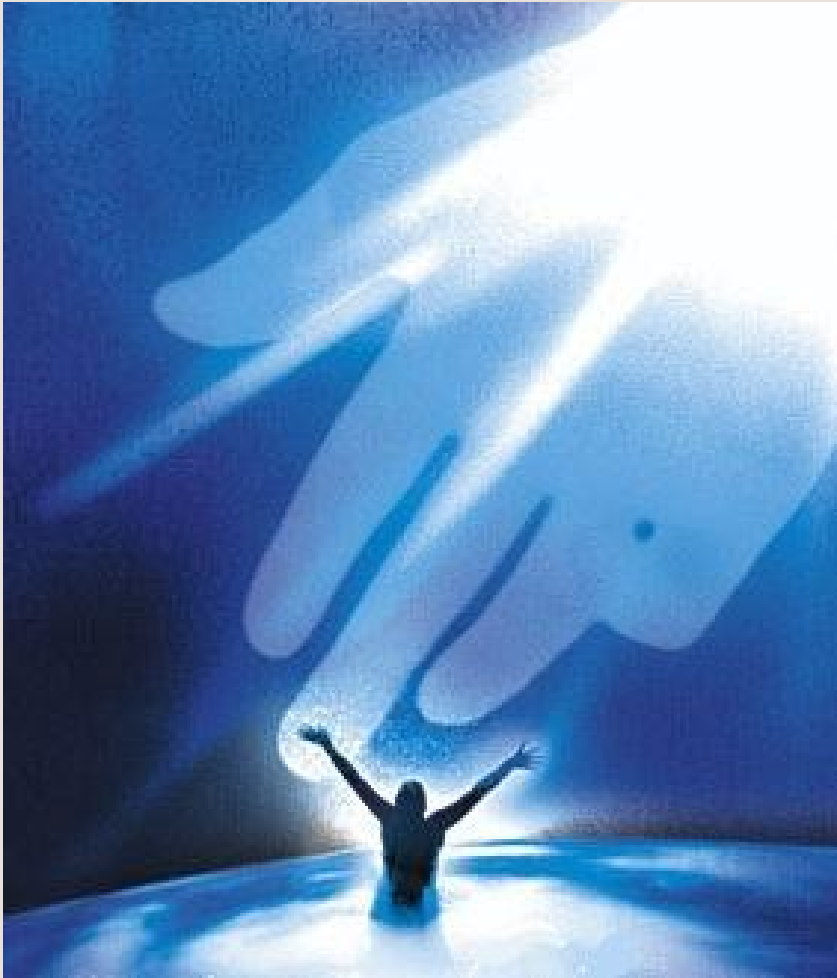
God loves me even though I don't deserve it



- Even though I fail miserably, come up short emotionally, spiritually and relationally.



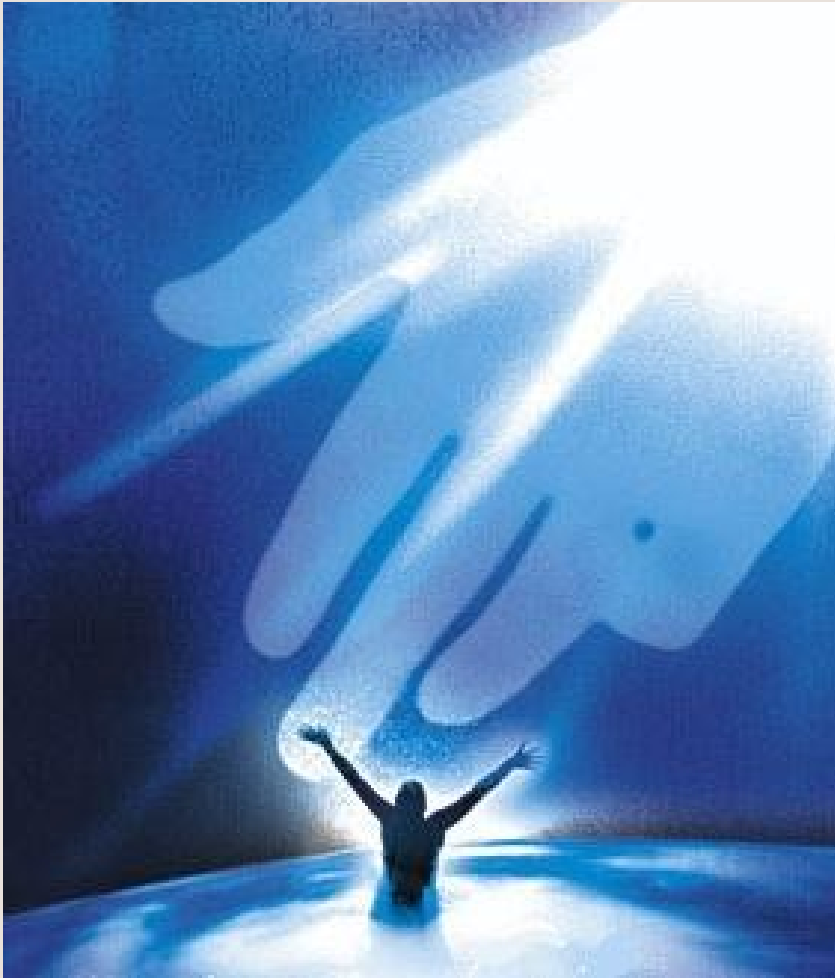
God loves me even though I don't deserve it



- Even though it would be easier not to love me when I disappoint Him with my thoughts, words and deeds.



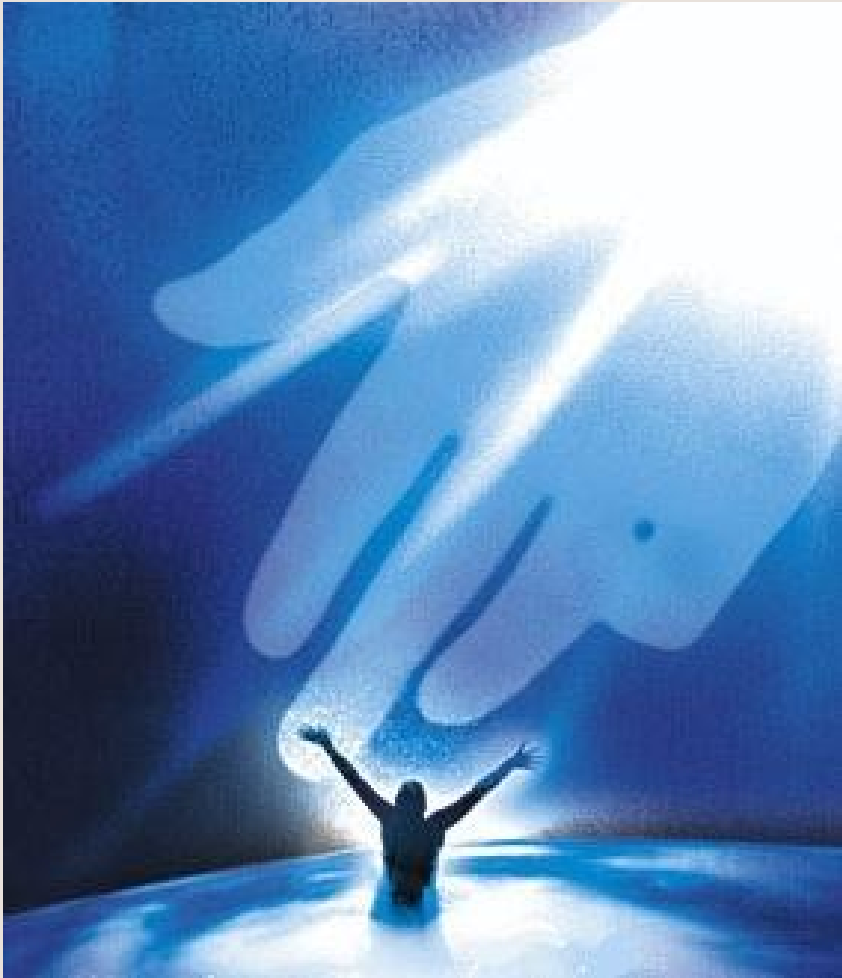
God loves me even though I don't deserve it



- Even though my heart is full of pride and my thoughts are self-centered.



God loves me even though I don't deserve it



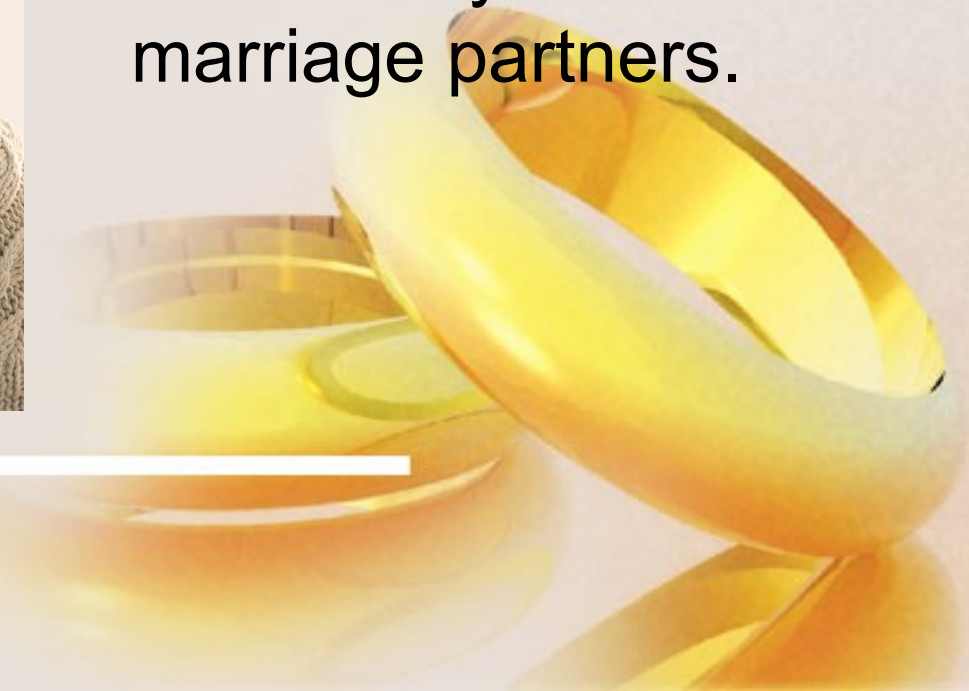
- God loves me no matter what.
- That's how I know what unconditional love is. I've seen the source!



The number one love need for men and women is unconditional love from their spouse



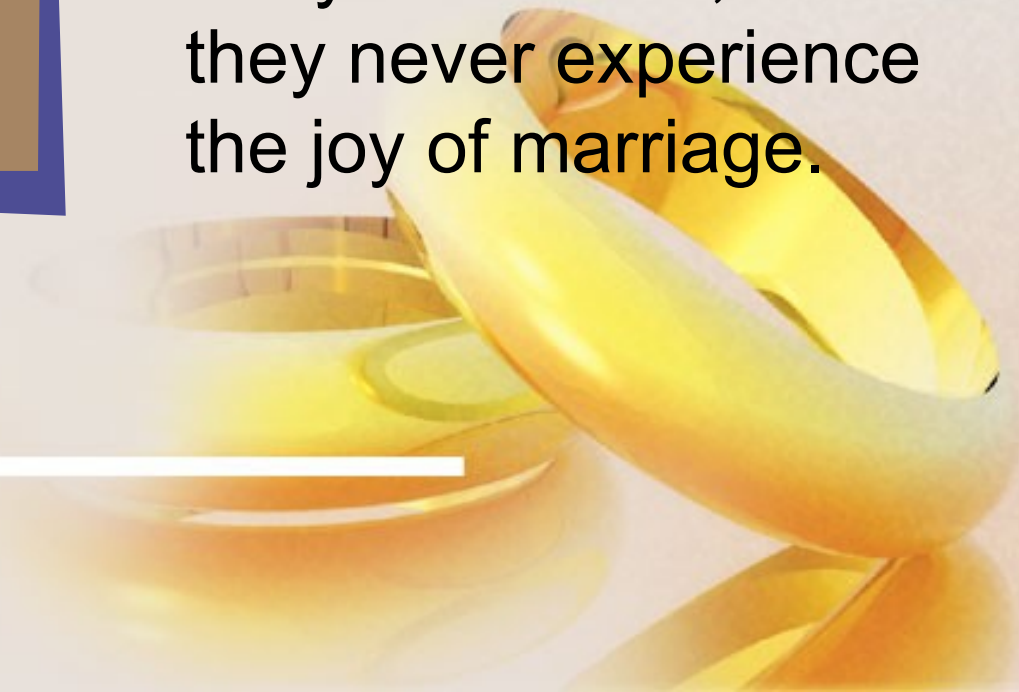
- "Marriage should be honored by all ..."
- If it is to be honored by all, it must first be honored by the marriage partners.



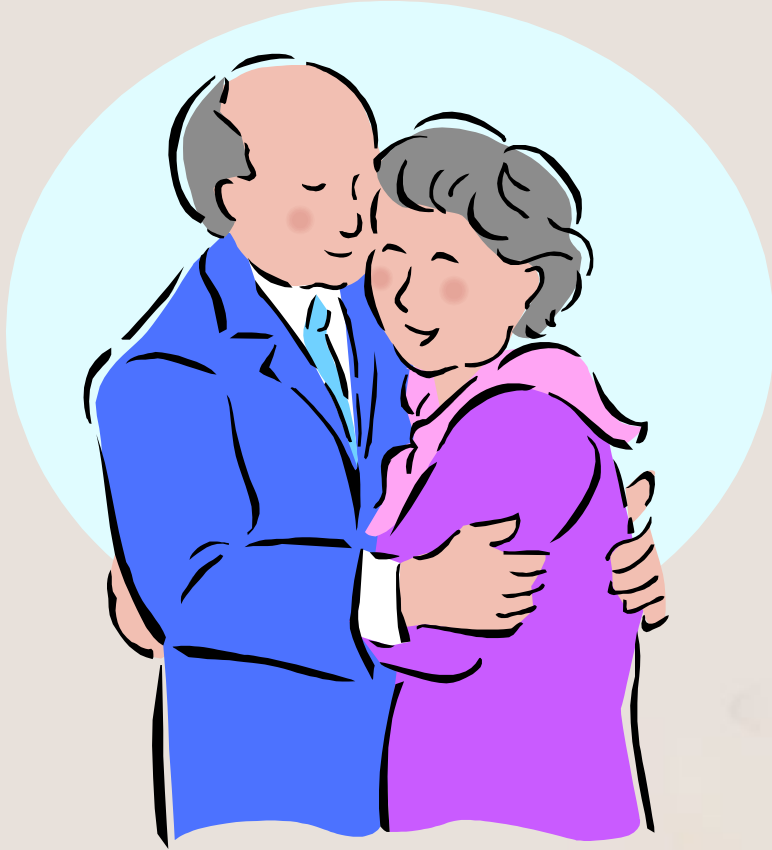
I see marriages made of spoiled kids



- Each wants their own way. When they don't get it they get angry and resentful.
- They're married, but they never experience the joy of marriage.



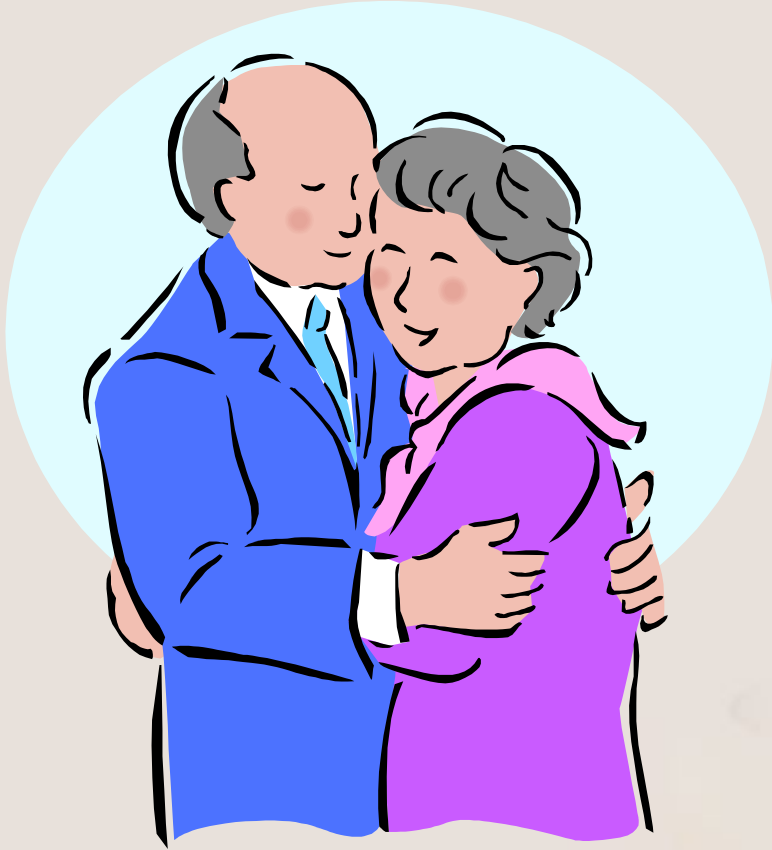
How can you show unconditional love?



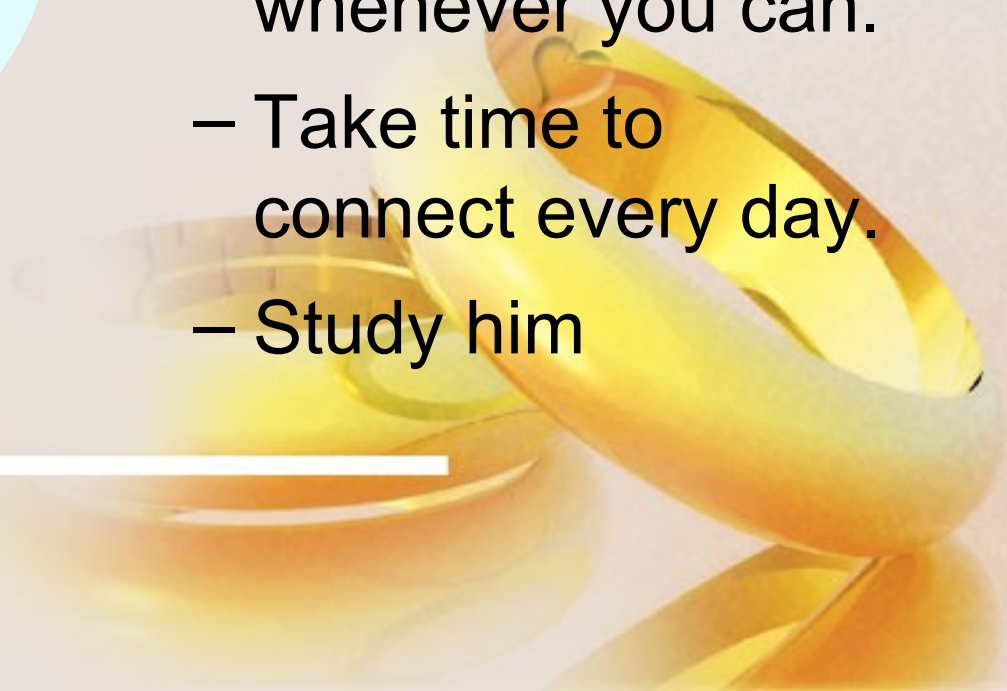
- Husbands:
 - Compliment her every day.
 - Talk with her and listen.
 - Respect her opinion.
 - Serve Her



How can you show unconditional love?



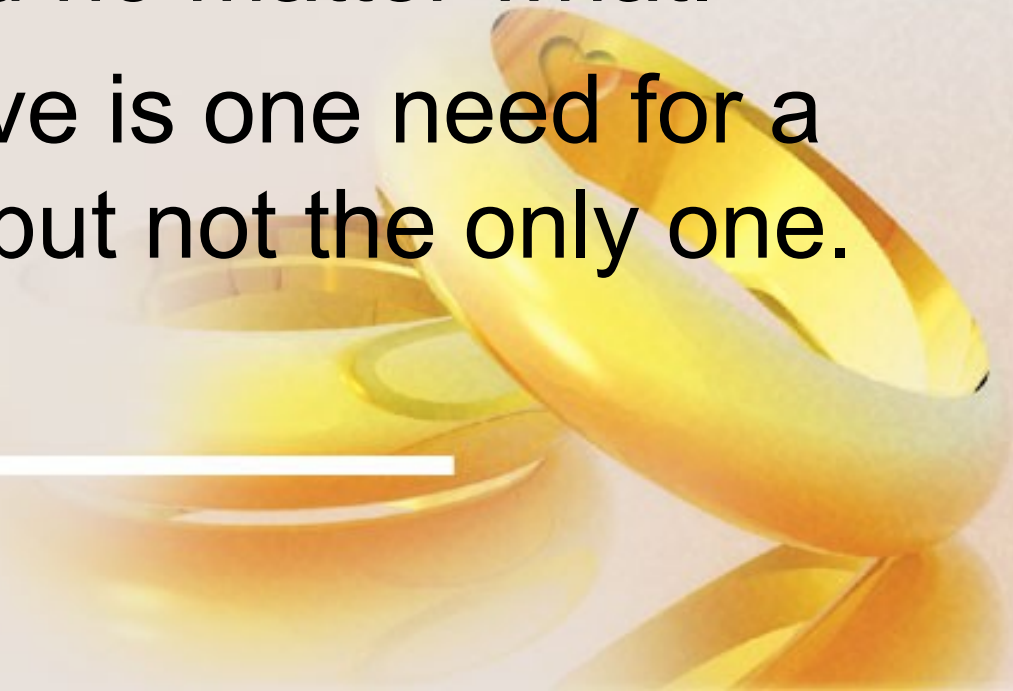
- Wives:
 - Show grace for his weaknesses.
 - Affirm him whenever you can.
 - Take time to connect every day.
 - Study him



Human love: "I love you if ..."

God's love: "I love you even though ..."

- Unconditional love is different from the love that's in the world.
- Spouses need to know that we're going to be loved no matter what.
- Unconditional love is one need for a godly marriage, but not the only one.

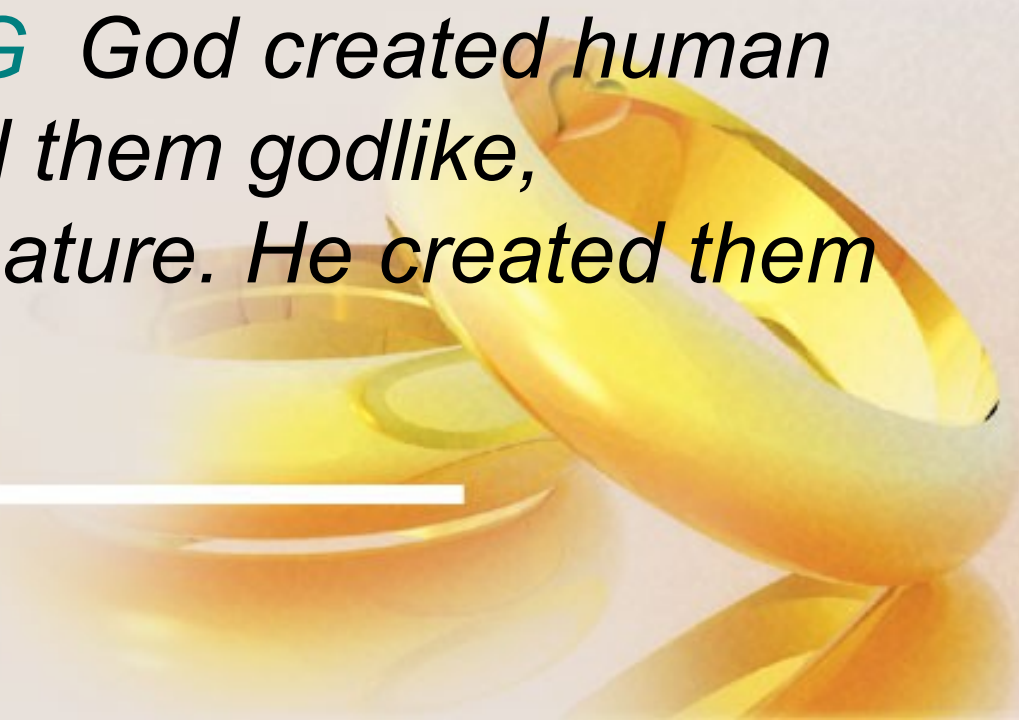


The second love need is intimacy



Genesis 1:27

- **Genesis 1:27 NIV** *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*
- **Genesis 1:27 MSG** *God created human beings; he created them godlike, Reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female.*



God made us and he made us different



- Especially in area of intimacy.
- Men spell intimacy: S-E-X
- Women spell it: T-A-L-K



"Dear Abby" on sexual dissatisfaction



- A 50 year old woman married 30 years wrote that she had given up on sex because there is no satisfaction in it. She continued to have sex because of her love for her husband and his desire for it. She had no desire for any more. She signed, "Tired in Lincoln, Nebraska."

"Dear Abby" on sexual dissatisfaction

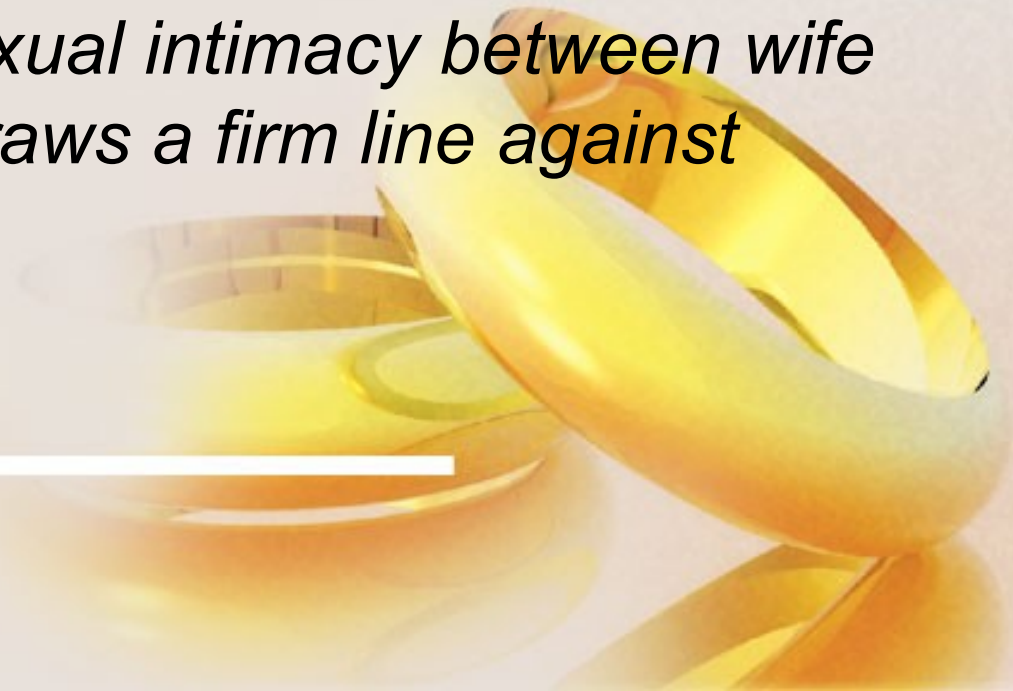


Dear Abby

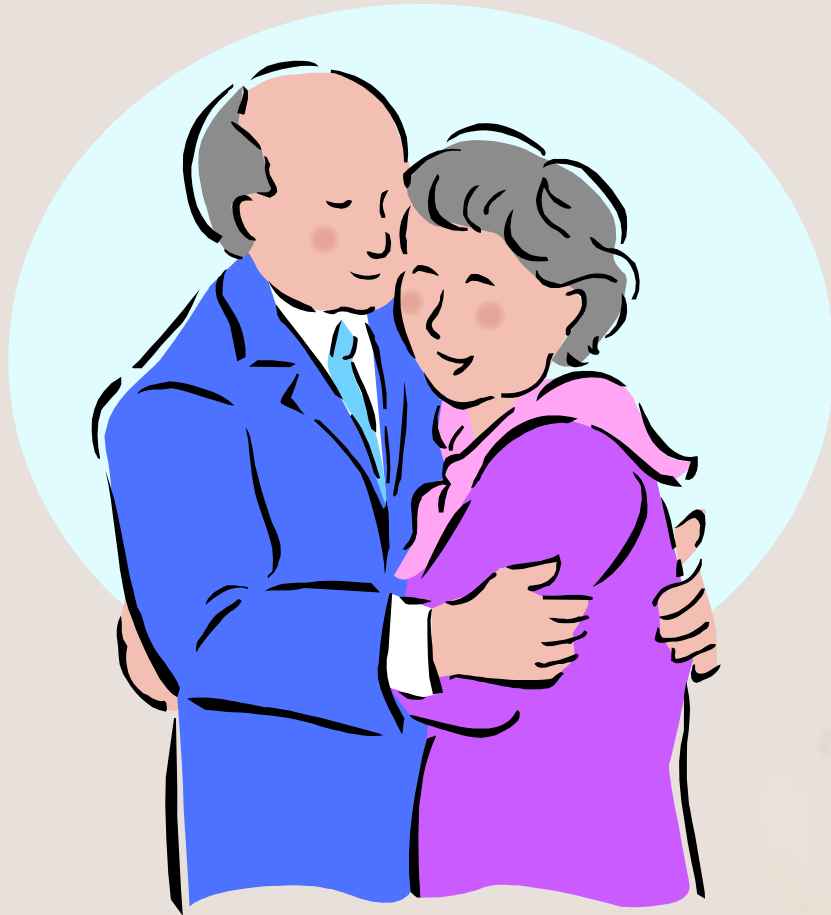
- Within two weeks Abigail Van Buren received over 250,000 letters from women in agreement.
- U.S. News & World Report says only 26% of women experience mutually satisfying sex.
- There is a large rank of men who complain because their "urges" go "unfulfilled."

Hebrews 13:4

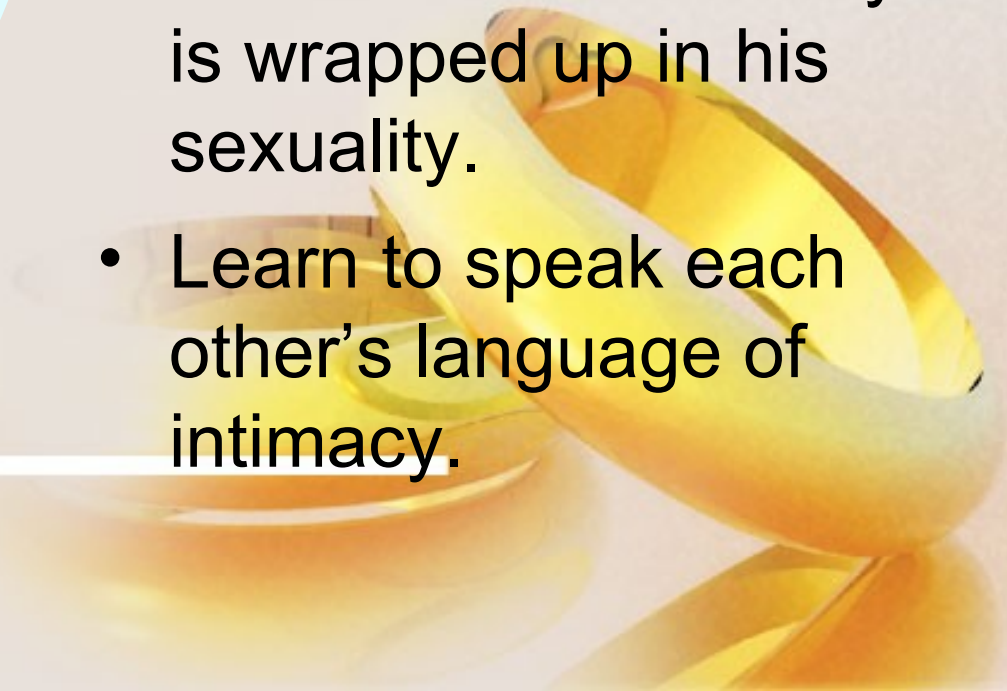
- *Hebrews 13:4 NIV* Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.
- *Hebrews 13:4 MSG* Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband. God draws a firm line against casual and illicit sex.



Communication comes before the physical



- Men: Your wife needs to have her emotional needs met first.
- Women: Much of your husband's masculinity is wrapped up in his sexuality.
- Learn to speak each other's language of intimacy.



The third love need is friendship



Matthew 22:37-39

- *Matthew 22:37-39 NIV* Jesus replied: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (38) This is the first and greatest commandment. (39) And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*



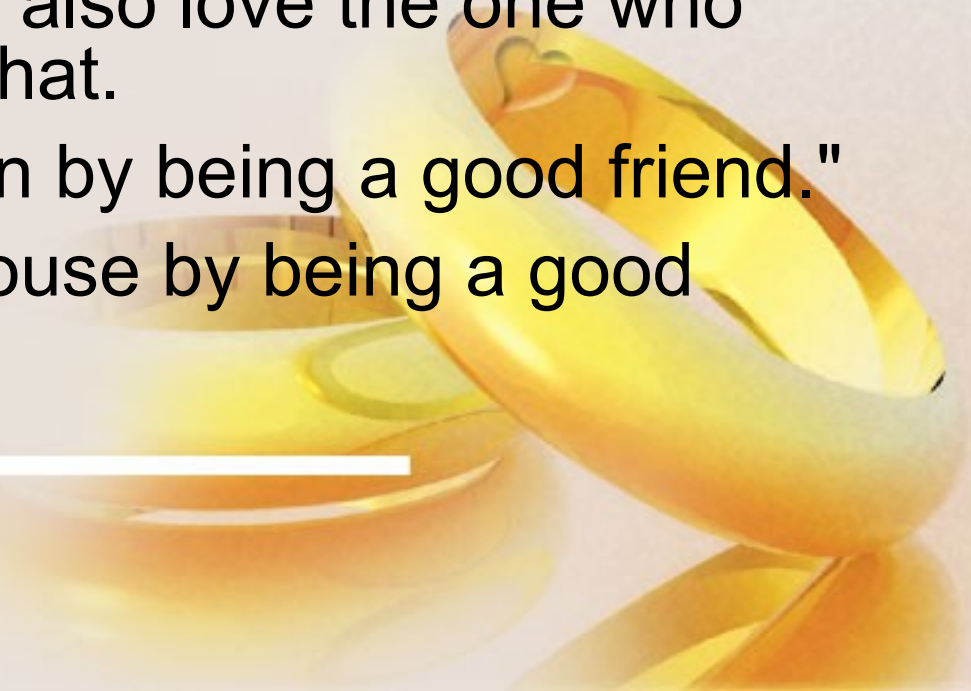
Matthew 22:37-39

- *Matthew 22:37-39 MSG* Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' (38) This is the most important, the first on any list. (39) But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.'



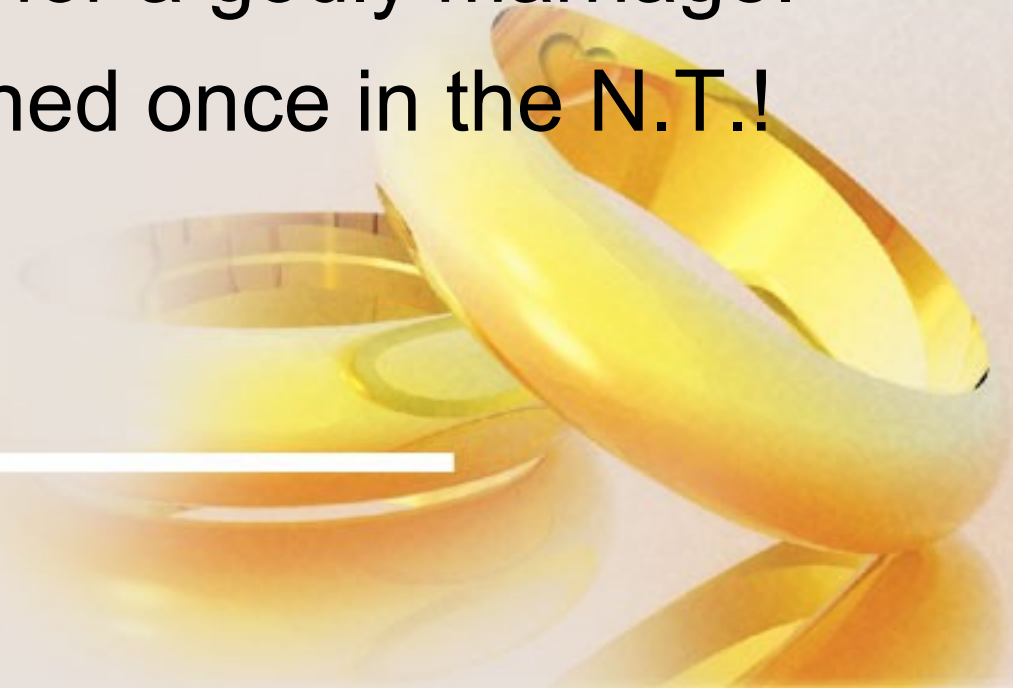
The Great Commands

- Love God with all your heart (passion), soul (prayer), and mind (intelligence)
- Love your neighbor (spouse) as yourself
- Love here is *agape*. (Unselfish, Unconditional, Sacrificial, "I love you even though ..." love!)
- Love God like that, but also love the one who lives close to you like that.
- "Being a good Christian by being a good friend."
- You can be a good spouse by being a good friend.

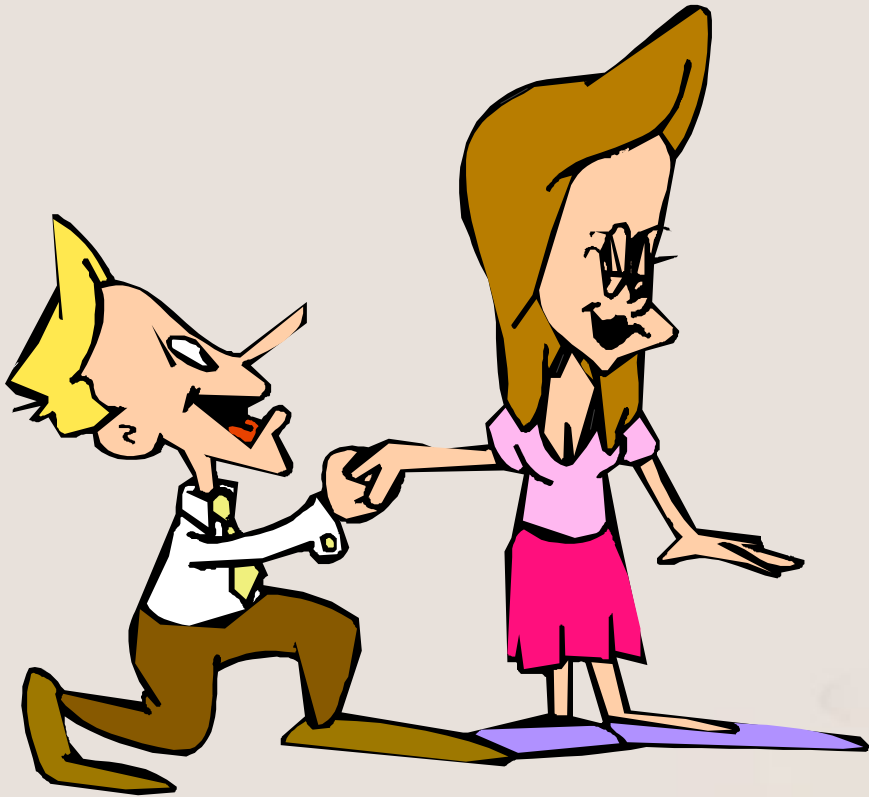


There are 3 words in the NT for love

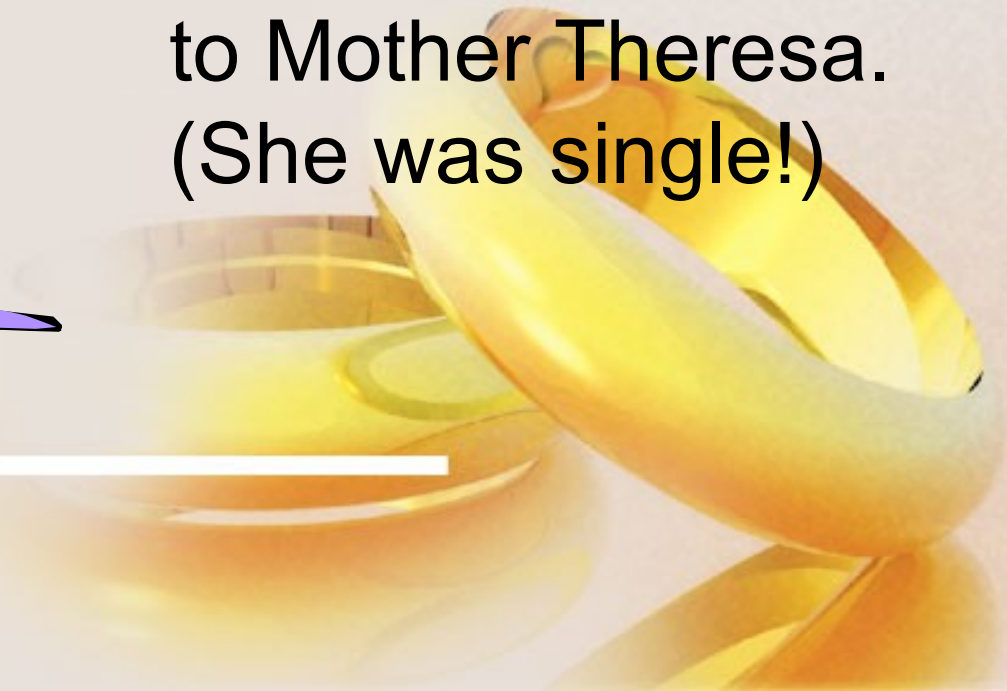
- *Agape* (unconditional)
- *Eros* (physical)
- *Philia* (friendship)
- You need all three for a godly marriage.
- *Eros* is not mentioned once in the N.T.!



Agape without *Philia* ...



- Admirer
- Respect, but feel unworthy.
- Like being married to Mother Theresa. (She was single!)



Philia without *Agape* ...



- Roommates
- I've got LOTS of friends.
- My wife needs to be more than just my friend.



Agape with Philia ...



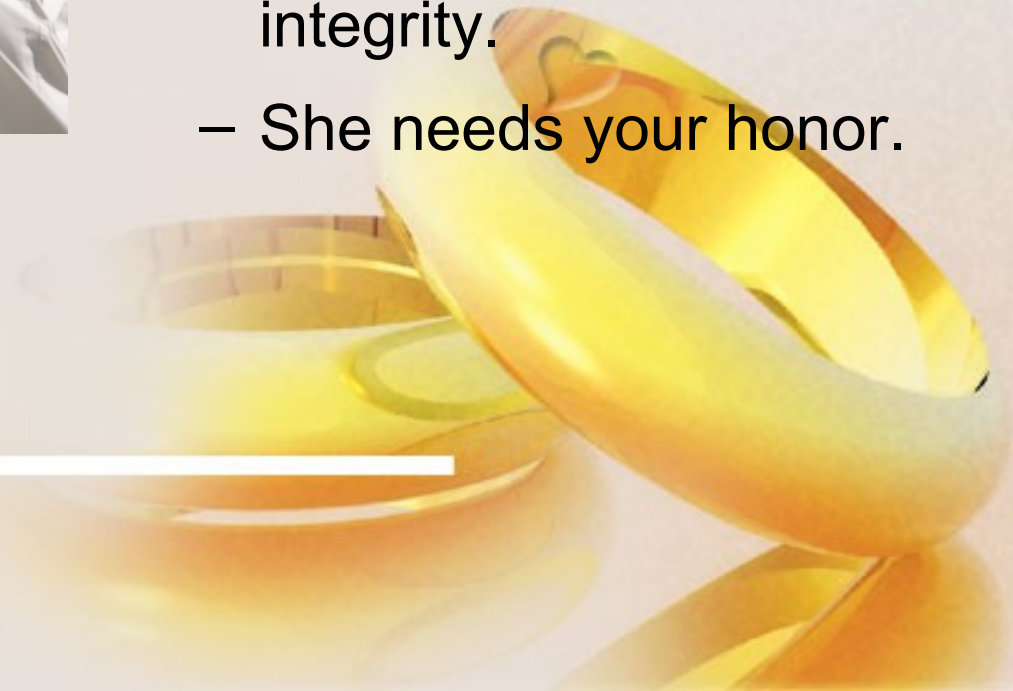
- Sweethearts
- Romance blooms when you love your friend unconditionally!



What can you do?



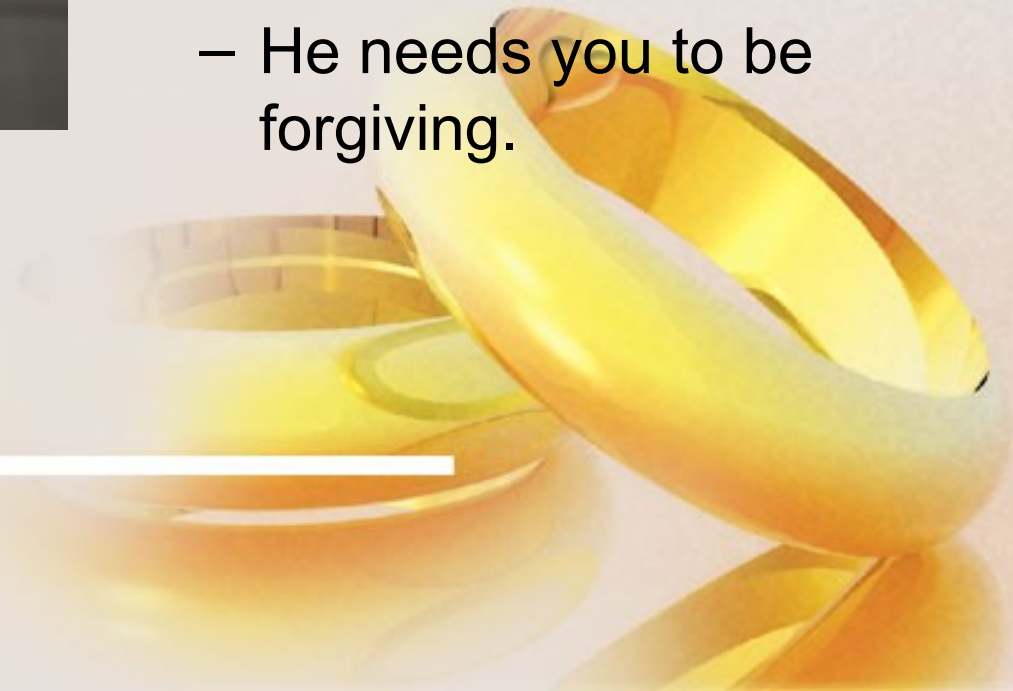
- Husbands:
 - She needs you to be her best friend - not one of her girlfriends.
 - She needs your integrity.
 - She needs your honor.



What can you do?



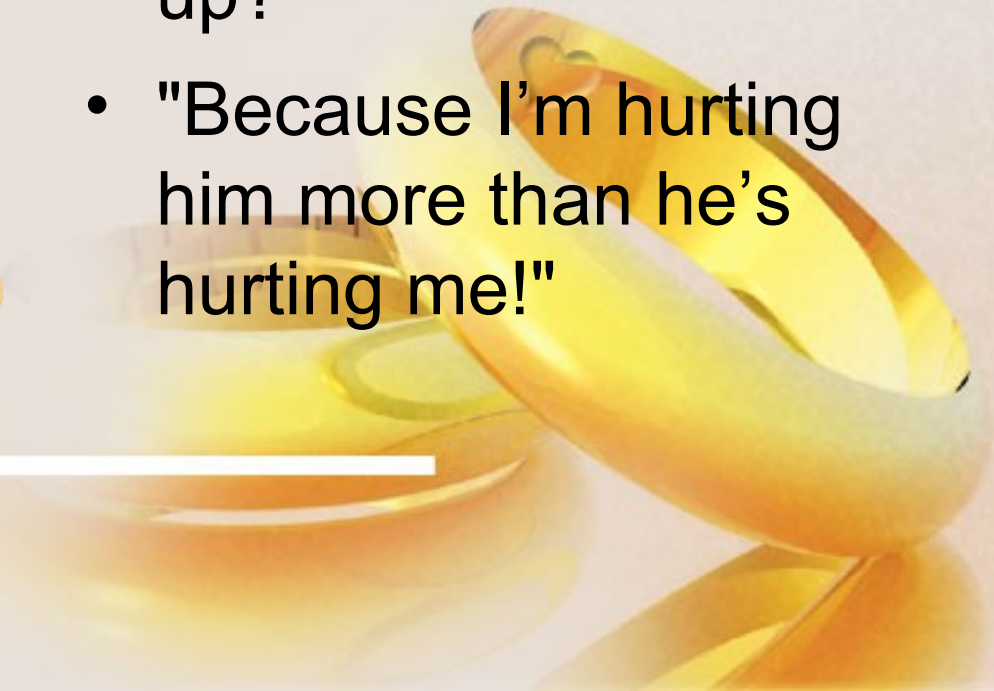
- Wives:
 - He needs you to have realistic expectations.
 - He needs you to be lovingly honest.
 - He needs you to be forgiving.



A boy was sitting on the ground in pain



- A man asked him what was wrong.
- "I'm sitting on a bee."
- "Why don't you get up?"
- "Because I'm hurting him more than he's hurting me!"



A boy was sitting on the ground in pain



- How many of us handle forgiveness like this little boy?
- We endure pain for the satisfaction of thinking we're hurting them more than us.
- When we forgive, both parties can get past their pain.

Don't just love God with heart, soul & mind

- Love your spouse that way!
- Love your spouse/friend like yourself.
- Men & women have a need for friendship, but it's not the only need to be met.



The fourth love need is encouragement

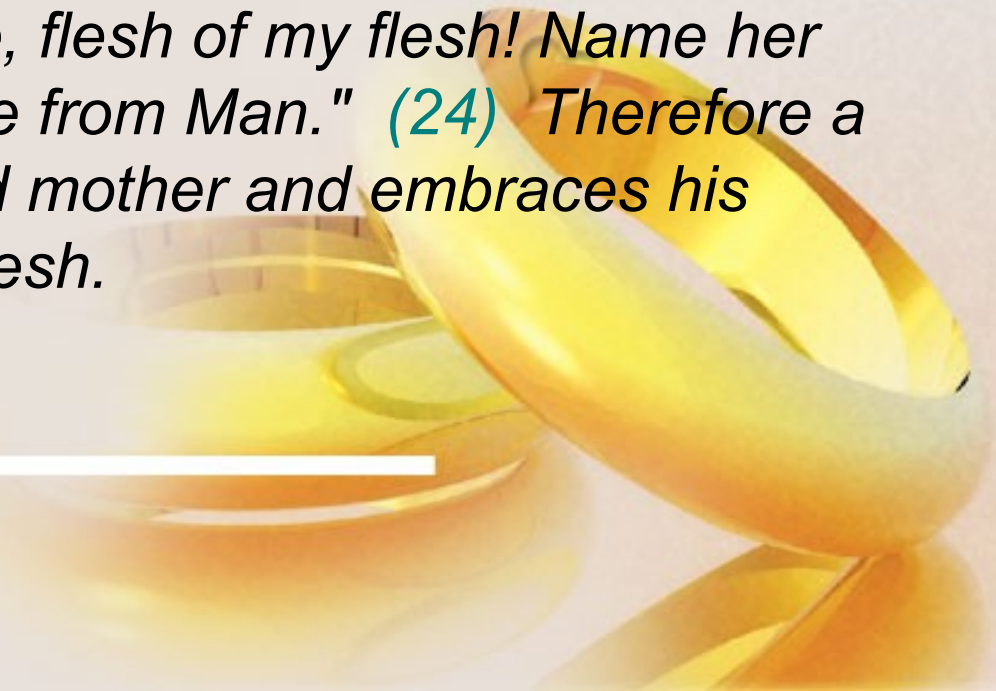


Genesis 2:18-24 NIV

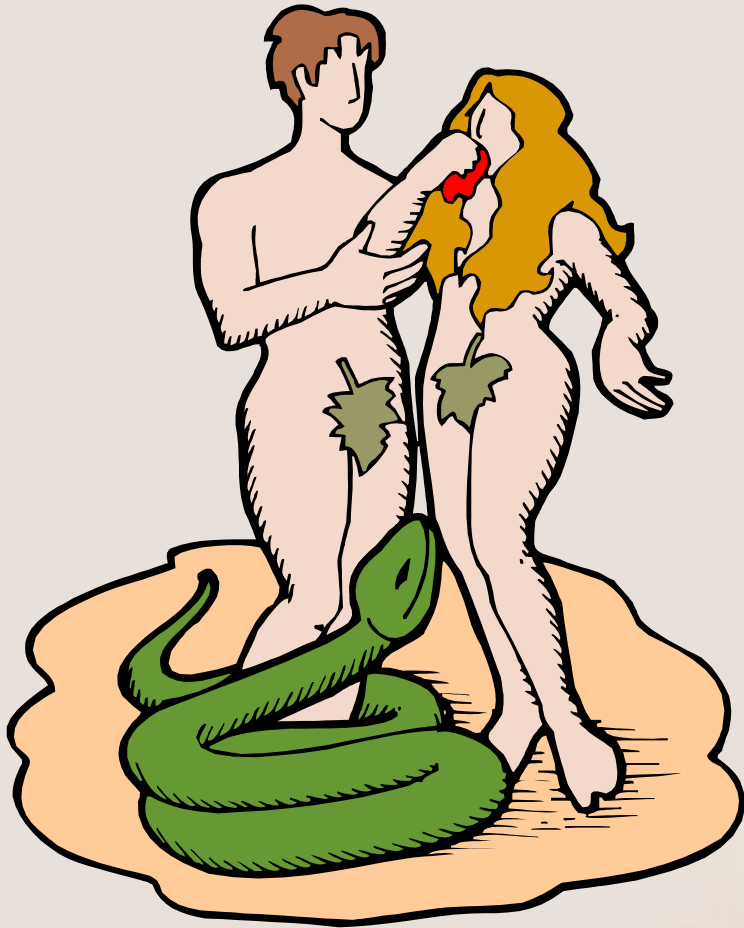
- *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." ... (21) So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. (22) Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. (23) The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." (24) For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*

Genesis 2:18 MSG

- *GOD said, "It's not good for the Man to be alone; I'll make him a helper, a companion." ... (21) GOD put the Man into a deep sleep. As he slept he removed one of his ribs and replaced it with flesh. (22) GOD then used the rib that he had taken from the Man to make Woman and presented her to the Man. (23) The Man said, "Finally! Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh! Name her Woman for she was made from Man." (24) Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife. They become one flesh.*



God gave Adam a mate who would complete & complement him



- Adam spent days naming animals & their mates, but he didn't have one.
- God said, "I'll make you a mate. What would you like?"
- "Make her beautiful, perfect, loving, forgiving."
- "It'll cost an arm & a leg."
- "What can I get for a rib?"

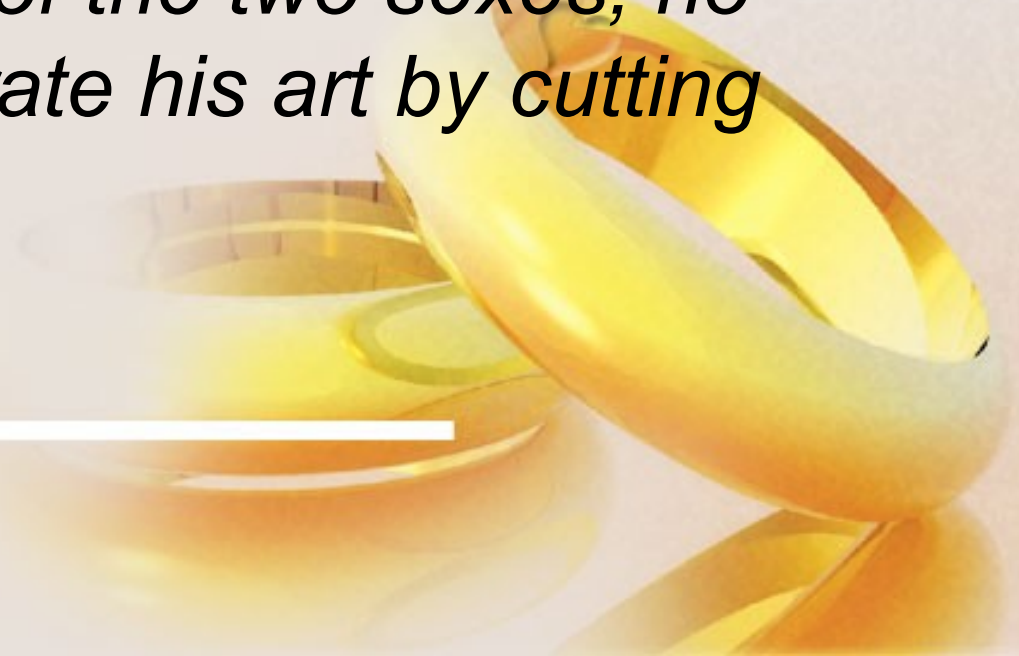
God didn't make another man (not suitable) but a woman

- Eve wouldn't have been all she was if it hadn't been for Adam.
- Adam wouldn't have been all he was if it hadn't been for Eve.
- They completed & complemented each another.



Jesus said that when God joined a man and a woman it was meant to last a lifetime

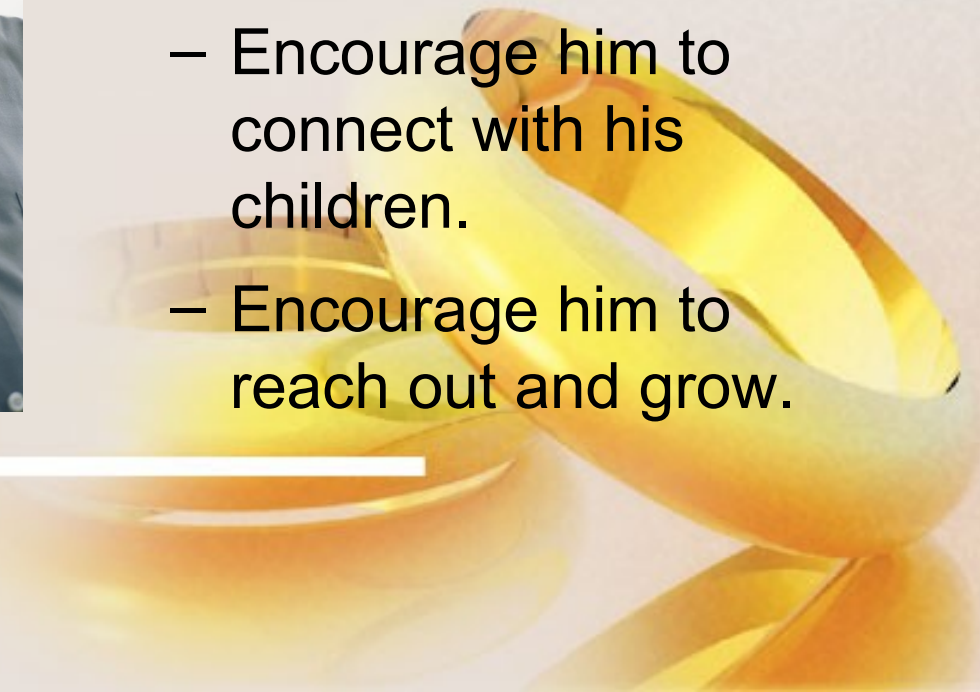
- *Matthew 19:6 NIV* *So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."*
- *Matthew 19:6 MSG* *Because God created this organic union of the two sexes, no one should desecrate his art by cutting them apart."*



Men and Women need spouses who will complete & complement them



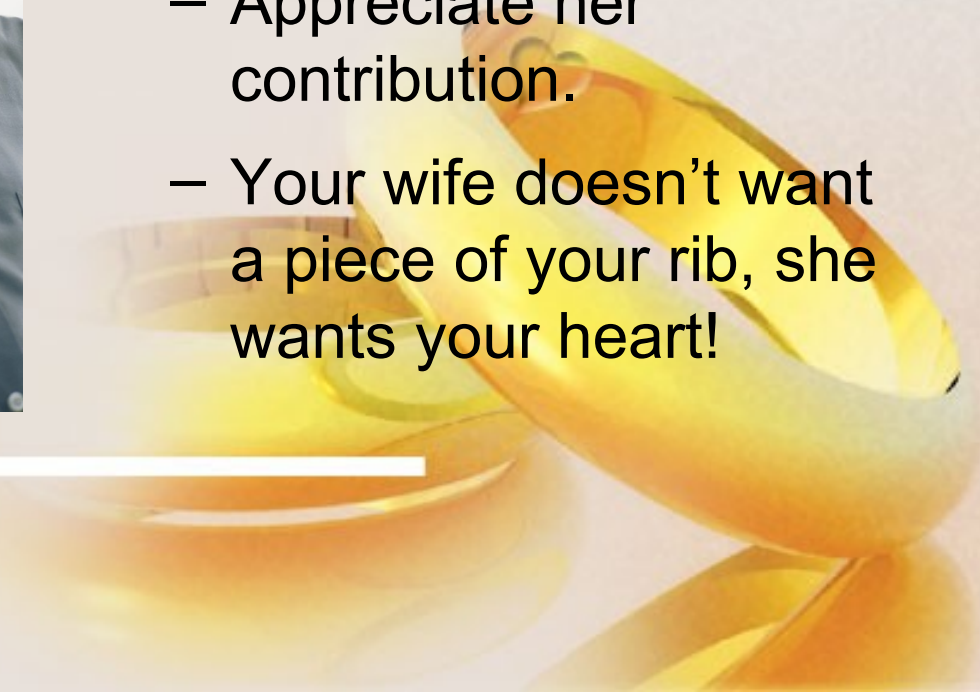
- Wives:
 - Encourage him to hear the applause.
 - Encourage him to be accountable.
 - Encourage him to connect with his children.
 - Encourage him to reach out and grow.



Men and Women need spouses who will complete & complement them



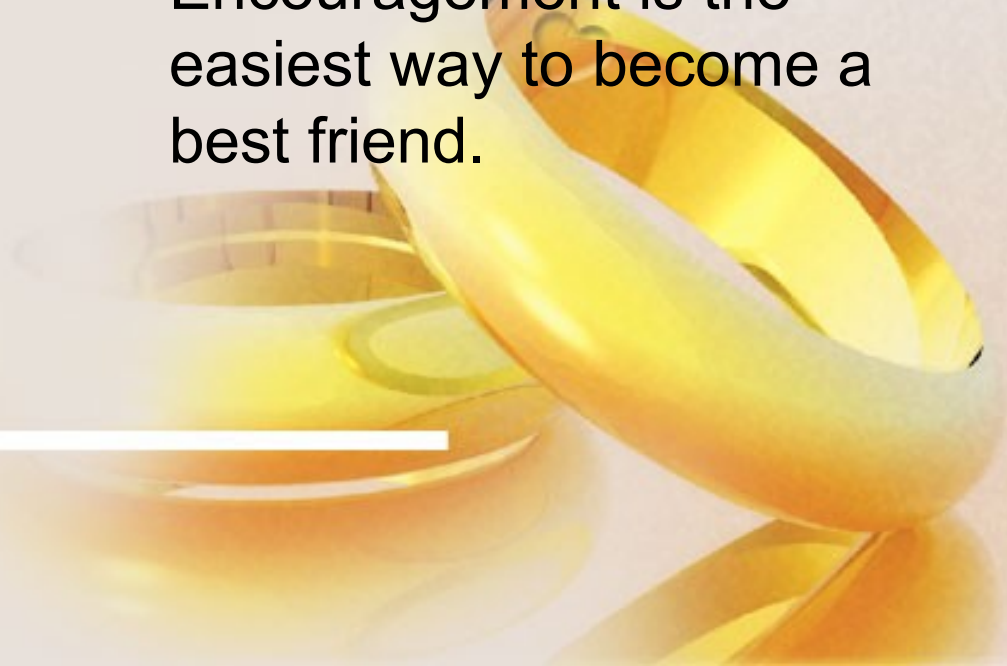
- Husbands:
 - Understand her wiring.
 - Give her first place.
 - Point out her potential.
 - Appreciate her contribution.
 - Your wife doesn't want a piece of your rib, she wants your heart!



Little Shane came home from preschool bursting with enthusiasm.

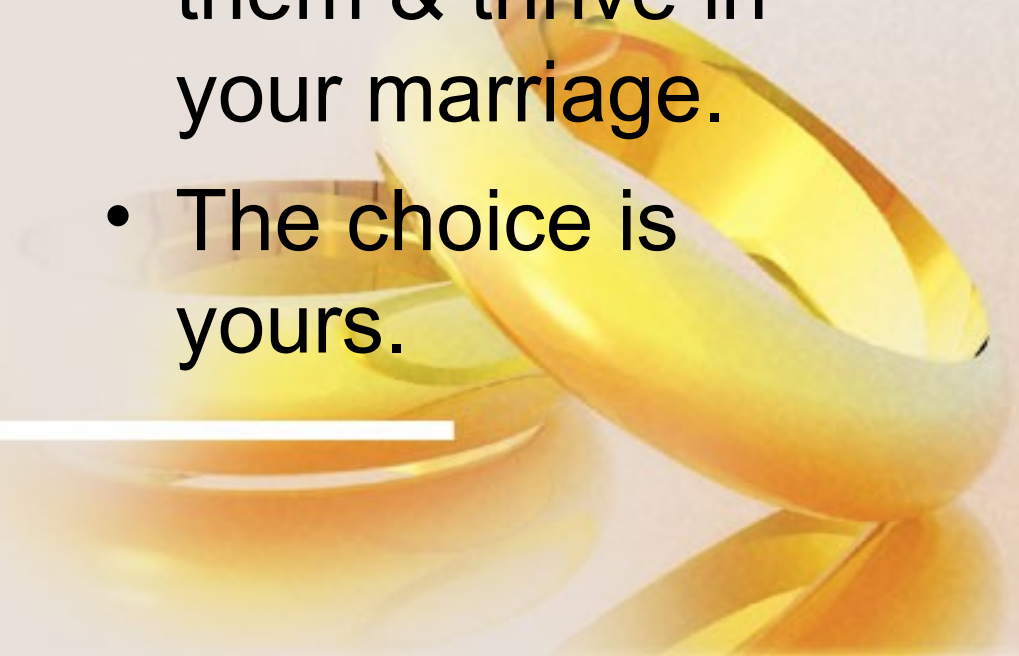


- "Vance said I was the best basketball player in the school."
- "Vance is my new best friend."
- Encouragement is the easiest way to become a best friend.



Godly marriages have certain needs that must be met in order to flourish

- Unconditional love
- Intimacy
- Friendship
- Encouragement
- You can neglect these needs & survive marriage.
- You can meet them & thrive in your marriage.
- The choice is yours.



Daughter & mother on Sleeping Beauty



- Daughter: "Do you know how the story ended?"
- Mother: "Snow White and the Prince lived happily ever after."
- Daughter: "No, Mommy, they got married."
- How well are you doing at meeting the love needs of your spouse?

We haven't discussed the 2nd half of the text

- *Hebrews 13:4 NIV* Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.
- *Hebrews 13:4 MSG* Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband. God draws a firm line against casual and illicit sex.
- Why? Because if we keep the 1st we won't be threatened by the 2nd.

