



## **The Secret to Staying in Love**

John 13:34; Ephesians 5:21

About Marriage: Falling in Love. Staying in Love.

We all know what's required to fall in love . . . a pulse. Falling in love is easy, but staying there, that's something else entirely. With more than a thousand matchmaking services available today and new ones springing up all the time, finding a romantic match is easier than ever. But staying with the one you've found seems to be the real challenge. Is it possible for two people to fall in love and actually stay there? Absolutely. That's what this series is all about.

Today's Bottom Line: Make love a verb in your life. You fall in love with a noun. You stay in love with a verb. We are to love and submit to one another as Christ loved us and submitted Himself for us.

### Introduction

"I guess I wonder sometimes if people ever stay together for good . . . like people in love. Dad, I just need to know that it's possible for two people to stay happy together forever." – Juno

Is it possible for two people to fall in love and actually stay there? The requirement for falling in love is a heartbeat and/or pulse. Staying in love . . . that requires a whole lot more!

Everyone can fall in love, but few people stay in love.

With more than 1,500 matchmaker websites, finding someone has never been easier, but staying with someone has become increasingly more difficult for many reasons. Here's two:

### Struggle

It's hard to stay in love because of what we see and feel growing up.

So many people don't know what healthy looks like, so we move into relationships and re-create what looks and feels normal to us.

We ...

Do unto others as they deserve to be done unto.  
Do unto others as they do unto you.  
Do unto others as your mood would have it.  
Do unto others to get them to see things your way.  
Do unto others until you wear them down and get your way.  
Do unto others until you are ready to leave.

This may be normal, but it's a normal that doesn't set us up well for the future.

It's a normal that leaves us wondering, "is it possible for two people to stay happy together forever... in love?"

Yes. The key to staying in love is not finding the **right** person.

We move into relationships looking for, expecting, and craving the same things.

Here's what we're looking for: respect, encouragement, comfort, security, support, acceptance, approval, appreciation, attention, and affection.

The problem is your mate, your girlfriend, your boyfriend, your whoever is also looking for, expecting, and craving the same things.

And... You can't give what you don't have, but you will take what you need.

It's into the sea of confusion that Jesus throws us a lifeline.

## Truth

A new command ...

John 13:34, "A new command I give you: Love one another."

This is a foreign concept to us.

Jesus is not commanding us to **feel** something.

He's commanding us to **do** something.

John 13:34, "a new command I give you: Love one another. **As I have loved you, so you must love one another.**"

The apostle Paul's thought on the subject.

Ephesians 5:21, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

Submit means voluntarily placing oneself under the authority of another. It's to place someone else's needs, desires, and wants ahead of my own.

Mutual submission is a powerful thing. You do not see it much, but when you do, you're going to want some of it.

Singles: Don't marry someone who does not understand this.

## Conclusion

Is it possible for two people to stay happy together forever?

Yes. But the key to staying in love is not finding the **right** person. It's finding someone who is not afraid to put you first while you overcome your fear of putting them first. Mutual submission.

## Application

Make love a verb.

Mutual submission is the key to successful relationships.

Read the Staying in Love card every day this week to prepare for part two next week.

Answer the questions on the back of the Staying in Love card.

## Next Steps

- Memorize John 13:34
- Make love a verb.
- Read the Staying in Love card every day this week.
- Answer the questions on the back of the Staying in Love card.