



Blueprint for Marriage

Philippians 2:3-8

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: Relationship comes before rights, rank, or respect.

Review

Anyone can fall in love. All of us want to believe it's possible to stay in love, but we have our doubts.

It's much easier to fall in love than to stay in love.

So, last week we looked at the first requirement for staying in love:
Make love a verb!

Introduction

Today, we want to cover how to make love a verb. What does this look like?

Falling in love requires a pulse. Staying in love requires a plan.

As Christians, we have an amazing role model in this regard. Not only did Jesus command us to love, but he showed us how.

Struggle

His love for you is the pattern you are to follow in loving [verb] the person [noun] you fell in love with.

Truth

Philippians 2:3-8, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but [rather] in humility consider [value] others better than [above] yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped [used to his own advantage,] but made himself nothing taking the very nature of a servant [used all that potential for the benefit of others] being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”

Jesus had a dilemma.

He could maintain his rights. He could get what he deserved, or he could subordinate all of that to our need for a Savior.

To refuse to submit is to demand more for ourselves than Christ demanded for himself.

Conclusion

Imagine a marriage relationship where in husbands and wives mutually submitted, where the relationship came before personal rights.

That kind of humility is a powerful thing. There is no defense against it.

So, in humility, out of reverence for Christ, consider others better than yourself.

If you do, and if you both do, and that becomes the pattern of your relationship, chances are you will stay in love.

Application

Next Steps

- Memorize Philippians 2:3-8
- Put your husband/wife above yourself.
- Read the Staying in Love card every day this week.
- Review the questions on the back of the Staying in Love card.
- Go on a date night this week [Husband, plan and do something your wife loves.]