

**IT TAKES LOVE TO MAKE A MARRIAGE**  
**(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)**

**Introduction:**

1. **A lawyer tested Jesus: “What is the great commandment in the Law?”**
  - a. **There are more than 600 statutes in the Law of Moses.**
  - b. **The scribes frequently debated which one was the greatest.**
2. **Jesus answered: “You shall love the LORD your GOD with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets” (Matt. 22:37-40).**
  - a. **One’s love for GOD and for his fellow man was the foundation and purpose of the Law as well as of the teaching of the prophets.**
  - b. **If one truly loves GOD, he will obey Him in all things.**
  - c. **If one truly loves his fellow man, he will deal kindly and justly with him.**
3. **The late Thomas Warren wrote a book entitled “Marriage is for Those Who Love GOD and One Another.”**
4. **Unhappy homes and escalating divorce rates would decline if those who marry truly loved GOD and one another.**

**Discussion;**

- I. **THOSE WHO MARRY SHOULD LOVE GOD ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE.**
  - A. **Most ignore this fundamental point of marriage.**
    1. **It never enters the mind of most people that GOD has anything to do with falling in love and getting married.**
    2. **A letter to the Knoxville News-Sentinel attempted to justify homosexual unions by saying, “it is not a discussion of religion or of the Divine will, but of a human institution” (5-27-12).**
    3. **I replied by setting forth what the Bible says.**
  - B. **GOD has everything to do with marriage.**
    1. **He originated marriage (Gen. 2:18-25).**
    2. **He defined marriage as involving a male and a female (Matt. 19: 4,5).**

3. He gave the fundamental law governing marriage (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5; Eph. 5:31).
4. He placed a wall around marriage to protect it (Exod. 20:14; 1 Thess. 4:3).
5. He stated His hatred for the disregard of His marriage law (Mal. 2:16).
6. He will judge those who disregard His will (Heb. 13:4).

C. If we truly love God, we will marry in harmony with His will.

“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3).

## II. THOSE WHO MARRY SHOULD LOVE ONE ANOTHER ABOVE EVERYONE ELSE.

A. People divorce because, “We don’t love one another anymore.”

1. Some substitute, “As long as we both shall love” for “As long as we both shall live.”
2. Love is more than a feeling; it is a commitment.

B. Most do not know what love really is.

1. They mistake a temporary feeling of euphoria as love.
2. The Greeks had four different words for love:
  - a. “Eros” was romantic love.
  - b. “Storge” was family love.
  - c. “Phileo” was the love of friendship.
  - d. “Agape” was a deep abiding love which involved the welfare of the one loved regardless of circumstances.
3. In the movie, “Shenandoah,” Jimmy Stewart asked a young soldier who wanted to marry his daughter, “Do you like her?”
  - a. The soldier responded, “Like her! I love her!”
  - b. The father replied, “I know you love her; what I need to know is, do you like her, what she is, the way she is, what she does.”

C. True love (agape) is described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

1. “Love suffers long.” It is steadfast, patient, and forgiving.
2. “Love is kind.” There is no mental, verbal or physical abuse in a marriage where real love is present.

3. **“Love does not envy.” Each partner seeks the best for the other and rejoices in the other’s achievements.**
4. **“Love does not parade itself; is not puffed up.” There is no feeling of superiority in true love.”**
5. **Love does not behave itself rudely.” Real love is courteous and considerate of others’ feelings.**
6. **“Love does not seek its own.” It is not selfish nor demand its rights but fulfills its responsibilities.**
7. **“Love is not provoked.” It is not quick tempered or irritable.**
8. **“Love thinks no evil.” It does not keep a record of faults and mistakes, but forgives and forgets.**
9. **“Love does not rejoice in iniquity.” It does not gloat over another’s misfortune or gossip about one who has fallen.**
10. **“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” Love is constant even when the one loved is not worthy of it.**

**Conclusion:**

1. **True love comes from a heart that is right with GOD.**
2. **An ancient proverb says:**

**“Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character;  
Where there is beauty in the character, there is happiness in the home;  
Where there is happiness in the home, there is harmony in the nation;  
Where there is harmony in the nation, there is peace in the world.”**
3. **There must be true love which transcends an emotional feeling of euphoria for marriage to be successful.**
4. **There must first be love for God.**
  - a. **God’s law of marriage will be respected and obeyed.**
  - b. **God will come first, even before one’s marriage partner.**
5. **There must then be love for one another.**
  - a. **The “being in love” stage will give way to a deep, abiding love.**
  - b. **This kind of love guarantees a happy and permanent marriage.**
6. **The best foundation for marriage is for both partners to be Christians.**
  - a. **One must believe that Jesus is the Christ Who died for him (Jn. 8:24).**
  - b. **One must repent of all his sins (Luke 13:3).**
  - c. **One must confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Acts 8:37).**
  - d. **One must be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).**

