

FINDING AND KEEPING THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE

Finding and Keeping the Love of Your Life
Rick Warren

"The righteous choose their friends carefully." Proverbs 12:26 (NIV)

CORRECTING TWO MYTHS

- _____
- _____

"MUST HAVES"

1. WE MUST HAVE _____

"Stop forming inappropriate relationships with unbelievers. Can right and wrong be partners? Can light have anything in common with darkness? . . . Can a believer share life with an unbeliever?" 2 Corinthians 6:14-15 (GW)

"You are not the same as those who do not believe. So do not join yourselves to them." 2 Corinthians 6:14 (NCV)

"I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you." Romans 1:12 (NCV)

2. WE MUST HAVE _____

"Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?"
Amos 3:3 (NLT)

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

"Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others. Be good servants of God's various gifts of grace." 1 Peter 4:10 (NCV)

"Brothers and sisters, you are holy partners in a heavenly calling."
Hebrews 3:1 (GW)

3. WE MUST BOTH BE _____

A PARTIAL CHECKLIST OF EMOTIONAL HEALTH

- _____

"Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered." Proverbs 22:24 (NIV)

- _____
"Don't associate with people who drink too much wine or stuff themselves with food." Proverbs 23:20 (GNT)
- _____
"Make sure that everyone has kindness from God so that bitterness doesn't take root and grow up to cause trouble that corrupts many of you."
Hebrews 12:15 (GW)
- _____
"If someone curses their father or mother, their lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness." Proverbs 20:20 (NIV)
- _____
"Selfish people cause trouble." Proverbs 28:25 (CEV)
- _____
"People who do not get along with others are only interested in themselves; they will disagree with what everyone else knows is right."
Proverbs 18:1 (GNT)
- _____
"Greedy people bring trouble to their families." Proverbs 15:27 (NCV)
- _____
"Don't eat at the table of a stingy person." Proverbs 23:6 (GNT)
- _____
"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."
Proverbs 11:25 (NIV)
- _____
"A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings trouble on himself."
Proverbs 11:17 (BSB)
- _____
"A righteous person lives on the basis of his integrity. Blessed are his children after he is gone." Proverbs 20:7 (GW)

ENDING A DEAD-END DATING RELATIONSHIP

"In the end, people appreciate frankness more than flattery."
Proverbs 28:23 (TLB)

Next Step

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UNLOCKING THE MARRIAGE MATRIX

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"A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one." Ephesians 5:31-32 (NLT)

"Don't ever forget my words. . . . They are the key to life." Proverbs 4:21-22 (NCV)

SIX KEYS

KEY #1: _____
"Reliable communication permits progress." Proverbs 13:17 (TLB)

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." Ephesians 4:29 (KJV)

"Just say 'yes' and 'no.' When you manipulate words to get your own way, you go wrong." Matthew 5:37 (MSG)

KEY #2: _____
"You must learn to be considerate of one another, cultivating a life in common." 1 Corinthians 1:10 (MSG)

"Husbands . . . show consideration for your wives in your life together . . . so that nothing may hinder your prayers." 1 Peter 3:7 (NRSVA)

"Show your love by being tolerant with one another." Ephesians 4:2 (GNT)

"We must bear the 'burden' of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others." Romans 15:1 (TLB)

"We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord." Romans 15:2 (NLT)

"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

KEY #3: _____
"If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." Mark 3:25 (NIV)

"People who do not get along with others are interested only in themselves." Proverbs 18:1 (GNT)

"Love does not demand its own way." 1 Corinthians 13:5 (TLB)

"May . . . God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all." Romans 15:5 (MSG)

KEY #4: _____
"The husband should not deprive his wife of sexual intimacy, which is her right as a married woman, nor should the wife deprive her husband." 1 Corinthians 7:3 (NLT96)

"There's more to sex than mere skin on skin. Sex is as much spiritual mystery as physical fact. As written in Scripture, 'The two become one.'" 1 Corinthians 6:16 (MSG)

"Let her affection fill you at all times with delight." Proverbs 5:19 (RSV)

KEY #5: _____
"'I hate divorce,' says the LORD. . . . 'Make sure that you do not break your promise to be faithful to your wife.'" Malachi 2:16 (GNT)

KEY #6: _____
"God's secret . . . is Christ himself. He is the key that opens all the hidden treasures of God's wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:2-3 (GNT)
"He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the lord is the key to this treasure." Isaiah 33:6 (NIV)

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HOW TO GET A MARRIAGE MAKEOVER

Finding and Keeping the Love of Your Life
Rick Warren & Tom Holladay

"God . . . raises the dead to life and creates new things." Romans 4:17 (CEV)

WHAT GOES WRONG IN A MARRIAGE

1. _____ expectations
2. _____ differences
3. _____ issues
4. _____ mistakes

STEPS TO A MARRIAGE MAKEOVER

ACCEPT _____

"Each person must be responsible for himself." Galatians 6:5 (NCV)

BELIEVE _____

"Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible."
Matthew 19:26 (NLT)

COMMIT _____

"Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up." Galatians 6:9 (TLB)

DEAL _____

"Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16 (TLB)

"Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." Colossians 3:13 (TLB)

ENLIST _____

"It takes wisdom to have a good family, and it takes understanding to make it strong." Proverbs 24:3 (NCV)

"Get all the advice and instruction you can." Proverbs 19:20 (NLT)

Focus _____

"We must focus on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith." Hebrews 12:2 (GW)

"For it is God who is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve his purpose." Philippians 2:13 (PHILLIPS)

"I'll give you a new heart. I'll put a new spirit in you." Ezekiel 11:19 (MSG)

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HOW TO KEEP YOUR MARRIAGE GROWING

The Marriage Matrix
Rick Warren & Tom Holladay

"Homes are built on the foundation of wisdom and understanding."
Proverbs 24:3 (GNT)

"I pray that your love will keep on growing because of your knowledge and insight."
Philippians 1:9 (GW)

1. KEEP ON _____
"Marriage involves you in all the nuts and bolts of domestic life and in wanting to please your spouse, leading to so many more demands on your attention."
1 Corinthians 7:33-34 (MSG)

"Answering before listening is both stupid and rude." Proverbs 18:13 (MSG)

"God speaks in different ways, and we don't always recognize his voice."
Job 33:14 (CEV)

"Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."
James 1:19 (NIV)

2. KEEP ON _____
"Our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action." 1 John 3:18 (TEV)

"Look out for one another's interests, not just for your own."
Philippians 2:4 (GNT)

"Honor Christ by submitting to each other." Ephesians 5:21 (TLB)

"May God . . . help you to live in complete harmony with each other—each with the attitude of Christ toward the other." Romans 15:5 (TLB)

3. KEEP ON _____
"Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other." Romans 12:10 (NLT)

Jesus told a church: "The love you had at first is gone. Remember how far you have fallen. Return to me and change the way you think and act, and do what you did at first." Revelation 2:4-5 (GW)

"May you live to enjoy your grandchildren." Psalm 128:6 (NLT)

4. KEEP ON _____
"But encourage each other every day while it is 'today.'" Hebrews 3:13 (NCV)

"A word of encouragement does wonders!" Proverbs 12:25 (TLB)

"I have great confidence in you, and I have a lot of reasons to be proud of you."
2 Corinthians 7:4 (GW)

"I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you." Romans 1:12 (NCV)

5. KEEP ON _____
"You have accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord. Now keep on following him."
Colossians 2:6 (CEV)

"Keep your roots deep in him, build your lives on him, and become stronger in your faith." Colossians 2:7 (TEV)

"Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed."
James 5:16 (MSG)

"Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track." Proverbs 3:6 (MSG)

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GROWING A LOVE THAT LASTS

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GOD: "I have loved you with an everlasting love." Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)

"I've never quit loving you and never will." Jeremiah 31:3 (MSG)

"This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you."
John 15:12 (NLT)

"Love never stops being patient, never stops believing, never stops hoping, never gives up." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (GW)

4 CHOICES THAT MAKE LOVE LAST

1. "Love never stops being patient . . ." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (GW)

"Love . . . puts up with anything." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (MSG)

"Love patiently accepts all things . . ." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (NCV)

"Love . . . is always ready to make allowances . . ." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (NJB)

• "Love prospers when a fault is forgiven." Proverbs 17:9 (NLT)
"Disregarding another person's faults preserves love." Proverbs 17:9
"Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love." Ephesians 4:2 (NLT)

• "Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them parts the best of friends."
Proverbs 17:9 (TLB)
"Love forgives all offenses." Proverbs 10:12 (GNT)
"When someone wrongs you, it is a great virtue to ignore it."
Proverbs 19:11 (GNT)

• "Put up with each other . . ." Colossians 3:13 (GW)

" . . . Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you."
Colossians 3:13 (MSG)

2. "Love . . . never stops believing . . ." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (GW)

"Love . . . always trusts . . ." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (NIV)

"Love . . . never loses faith . . ." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (NLT)

"How can you say, 'I love you,' when you don't even trust me?"
Judges 16:15 (NCV)

"...never loses faith..." 1 Corinthians 13:7b (NLT)

"How can you say, 'I love you,' when you don't even trust me?"
Judges 16:15 (NCV)

"[Jesus] could not do any miracles there. . . . He was amazed at their lack of faith."
Mark 6:5-6 (NIV)

"Let us be always seeking the ways which lead to peace and the ways in which we can support one another." Romans 14:19 (NJB)

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU CAN'T TRUST A SPOUSE?

"Trust God all the time. Tell him all your problems, because God is our protection."
Psalm 62:8 (NCV)

3. "Love . . . never stops hoping . . ." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (GW)

"Love . . . always expects the best . . ." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (TLB)

"Love . . . always looks for the best . . ." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (MSG)

"If you love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (TLB)

"Encourage each other and build each other up." 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)

4. "Love . . . never gives up." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (GW)

"Love . . . endures through every circumstance." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (NLT)

"Love . . . always perseveres." 1 Corinthians 13:7 (NIV)

"...always perseveres..." 1 Corinthians 13:7d (NIV)

"Love . . . never looks back, but keeps going to the end."

1 Corinthians 13:7 (MSG)

"Then the Lord said to [Hosea], 'Go, and get your wife again and bring her back to you and love her, even though she loves adultery.'" Hosea 3:1 (TLB)

"When desperate people give up on God Almighty, their friends, at least, should stick with them." Job 6:14 (MSG)

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