

From the Family Room

Creekwood Church of Christ
Mobile, AL

22 January 2017

One Week Romance Challenge

When a man takes a new wife, he shall not go out with the army nor be charged with any duty; he shall be free at home one year and shall give happiness to his wife whom he has taken. Deuteronomy 24:5

There are many scriptures that indicate the importance of marriage to God. Deuteronomy 24:5 is one of those. Can you imagine how great our marriages would be if husbands found 365 different ways to tell their wife they love them and did that each day for a year? We can learn from this command that -

1. *It is the duty of the husband to love and cherish his wife. The same command is made in the New Testament in Ephesians 5:25 – “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”*
2. *The command is given in a spirit of kindness and with consideration for the happiness of the husband and wife.*
3. *The command is given to allow time for the husband’s affections to become clearly expressed to and understood by his wife. She will be secure in the fact that she is #1 in her husband’s life.*
4. *God wants homes to be stable and secure. Loving and dedicated homes are the breeding grounds for God’s kingdom.*

What if we put forth extra effort this coming week and each husband and each wife at Creekwood created seven different ways to tell their spouse they loved them? How much difference would that make in our marriages? Listed below are some tips on finding romantic ways to say “I love you.”

1. Make the ordinary into the extraordinary.
 - Listen to your spouse genuinely and intently
 - Leave a special note on the refrigerator door
 - One couple reported that when they went to a wedding, the husband would propose to his wife again. She would say “Yes” and on the way home in the car, they would repeat their vows.
2. Express appreciation for your spouse
 - Look for your spouse’s strengths and then tell them how much pleasure you get from those strengths and how thankful you are for them.
 - This will require us to focus deeply on our spouse. Paying a lot of attention to each other brings romance to your marriage.
3. Be spontaneous
 - Spontaneous means “coming from within.”
 - A spontaneous action is seen as a more genuine activity.
 - It is an activity that is free of calculation, routine, and formality.
4. Plan for good times
 - While some activities are better when done spontaneously, some situations require planning.
 - Happy couples spend time together doing fun things. Date nights are important in marriage. But in the real world it is hard to have dates without some planning.

Studies have indicated that one of the most common characteristics of couples with happy and lasting marriages is that they keep the flame of romance burning in their marriage through the years. We have several couples at Creekwood who are great examples of this. To them I say “Thank you for your example.” Notice them and follow their example.

This week let’s all put forth a concerted effort to find a special way to tell our spouse we love and appreciate them each day. Keep the flame of romance burning strong and bright!

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