

Marriage by the Book
#2 Build from the Right Illustration
Ephesians 5:1-2, 18-25 (2-8-09 AM)

1. The Pattern for Marital Love is Christ-like Love (25)

This Love Is Uniquely Christian

- **Only a _____ can love with Christ-like love**

Galatians 5:22, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace..."

Ephesians 5:1-2 and John 13:34-35

God Himself Is the _____ of Authentic Love

- **The most important dimension in marriage is the _____ dimension**

Salvation brings a sanctifying influence into the marriage that affects everyone in the home, 1

Corinthians 7:14.

Selfishness Is Our Natural _____

2. The Portrait of Marital Love is Jesus Christ (25)

Jesus Shows Us How to Love

- **This love is _____ in attitude**

(2) "...as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us"

John Ortberg in his book *The Life You've Always Wanted* calls it "self-forgetfulness", Philippians 2:5-8.

This will not happen overnight, it takes perseverance. It requires conscious dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

Does My Spouse See _____?

- **This love is _____ in action**

(28-29) "...he who loves his wife loves himself..."

Matthew 20:28, "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Do I _____ Seek to Serve My Spouse?

- **This love is _____ in application**

(2) "...an offering and a sacrifice to God..."

His love for us cost Him dearly. He expects no less from us.

1 John 3:16-17, "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren..."

Do I Regularly Put My Spouses' Needs Ahead of _____?

3. The Print of Marital Love Is Found In Scripture

(1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

Agape Love Is Practical In Its Definition

- **Love is _____**

"Love suffers long." It is stretched out particularly with people.

- **Love is _____**

This is active good will. It serves others in useful ways.

- **Love is _____**

Love is neither jealous nor covetous.

- **Love is _____**

"Love does not parade itself, is not puffed up."

- **Love is _____**

"Does not behave rudely" meaning it is not uncaring or crude.

- **Love is _____**

Love "does not seek its own". It doesn't have to have it own way.

- **Love is** _____

Love “is not provoked”. It is not irritated to the point of anger.

- **Love is** _____

Love “thinks no evil”. This literally means “doesn’t take into account a wrong suffered”.

- **Love is** _____

Love “does not rejoice in iniquity”. It takes no pleasure in sin and ungodliness.

- **Love is** _____

Love has no relationship with deceitfulness.

- **Love is** _____

Love “bears all things”. It does not collapse under strain.

- **Love is** _____

Love “believes all things”. It is not naive but neither is it cynical and suspicious.

- **Love is** _____

Love “hopes all things”. It is expectant rather than despairing.

- **Love is** _____

“Love endures all things. Love never fails”. God’s love endures time and eternity

Am I Following God’s _____ for Loving?

God Created Marriage to Bless Us As Well As to _____ Us

Romans 5:3-5, “...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts...”