

ROMANCE AND LOYALTY

LESSON 12

ROMANCE AND LOYALTY GO TOGETHER

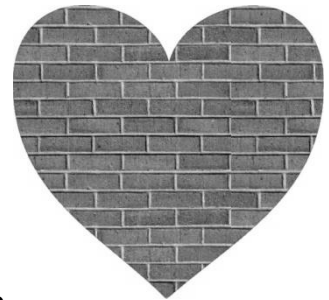
Romance and loyalty both have one key ingredient: **UNDYING COMMITMENT**.

Undying commitment to romance keeps the marriage fire burning.
Undying commitment to loyalty continually rekindles the spark.

THE #1 ROMANCE KILLER – A HARD HEART

Every refusal to forgive your spouse causes your heart to get harder, until unforgiveness becomes bitterness, and bitterness becomes vengeance.

That's why we've quoted **Eph 4:32** so many times
"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."



Unforgiveness and bitterness, if not fully healed, are sins that will bring callousness to your marriage and the loss of romantic love.

Prov 18:19

"A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city"

We must continually commit those hurts to God and allow Him to pour forgiveness into our heart (Rom 5:5), so we can continue to feel that life of romance for our spouse.

THE #2 ROMANCE KILLER – REFUSAL TO LIVE IN OUR GOD-DESIGNED ROLES



God designed us to provide exactly what our spouse needs. When we serve our 'self' instead, our romance suffers.

Wives - Seriously, the most romantic thing you can do for your husband is to sacrificially support him.

The thing that inspires your husband most is you showing him you respect him, admire him, and appreciate him. That is a man who can't wait to get home after work.

The world says romance is about looking like a model. That's a lie. It's not the outside, but it's the hidden person of the heart.

1Pet 3:1-4

¹ *Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,*

² *when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear [Lit – respect].*

³ *Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—*

⁴ *rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”*

The secret to Romance is not the outside, but the inside.



Men - The most romantic thing you can do for your wife is to sacrificially love her, to love her with tenderness and with understanding.

A wife whose husband is constantly showing her kindness, tenderness, genuine affection, and understanding , THAT is a happy wife, and one who feels the life of romance in her marriage.

1Pet 3:7

“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”

Husbands, you must give honor to your wife at all times and in all ways. She is your queen. She is the most important thing in your world. And if you will do whatever is necessary for her to believe that, your marriage will continually grow in the area of romance.



THE ROMANCE SPARK

When you truly begin to give your spouse what they need most, I promise, that romantic spark, or fire, will come back.

A wife needs most to be loved, honored, cherished by her husband.

A husband needs most to be supported and respected by his wife.

3 DIMENSIONAL ONENESS

3-dimensional oneness is based on the foundation of Gen 2:24:

LEAVE – CLEAVE – BECOME ONE FLESH



DIMENSION #1 – PHYSICAL ONENESS

Physical touch and closeness, and sex. There must be physical intimacy, physical oneness.

If there's a problem here, it must be investigated and repaired because physical intimacy is vitally important to a strong Godly marriage.

Strongly suggested reading: “*The Book of Romance*” by Tommy Nelson.

Dimension #1 – Physical Oneness.

DIMENSION #2 – EMOTIONAL ONENESS

This is where most marriages begin to break down. Sharing, growing, crying, experiencing life together, this is the connection of hearts that must be protected and nurtured.

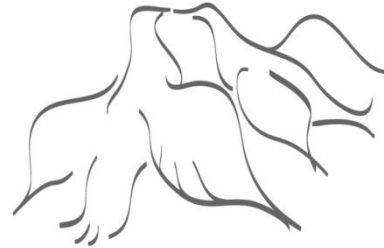


No one else in the world can share that emotional oneness but your spouse. It's two hearts beating as one. It's you feeling what your spouse feels.

Dimension #1 – Physical oneness
Dimension #2 – Emotional oneness

DIMENSION #3 – SPIRITUAL ONENESS

This is the supernatural romance, and it's reserved for those who are one in Christ. The absolute pinnacle of oneness in your marriage is spiritual oneness.



A paraphrase from Tommy Nelson's book, "The Book of Romance"
"A recent survey concluded 80 % of couples who live together not being married end up separating. 60% of couples married outside the church end up divorcing. 40% of couples married inside the church end up divorcing. But couples who read their Bible together daily divorce at the rate of .1% (1/10 of 1%)."



Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual
oneness is your guarantee of romantic love.

AND it's your greatest defense against the enemies of your marriage.

1Pet 5:8

⁸ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

Keep the romance fires burning !



Since the 1960's, the divorce rate in this country has skyrocketed **700%**.

WHY? Because we've set aside God's design, and we've set aside our loyalty.

Many here have been divorced. If you've been divorced and asked forgiveness, God has forgiven you, and God wants to bring good out that bad situation.

However, God's design for marriage DOES NOT include divorce.

Malachi 2:16 says God hates divorce.

In **Matthew 19** Jesus says divorce exists because of the hardness of your hearts, but it was never God's design.

And although the New Testament does allow divorce on the grounds of adultery, it means God permits it because of the intense pain and damage it does.

But even in that grave situation, God can heal and restore because God has made two individuals one flesh.



Consider Exo 20:7 (the 3rd Commandment)

"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."

This commandment is not about cursing. It's about the eternal seriousness of the vows we make before God.

If you stood before God and made a vow before Him to become one flesh, God took that vow very seriously, and He meant for you to also.

Jesus says in Mat 19:6

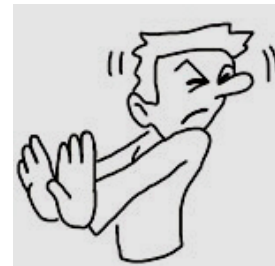
“So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

We know full well we are called to PHYSICAL LOYALTY. But I'd like to close with **2 other critical areas** of loyalty to our spouse



Emotional loyalty means there is **NO ONE** of the opposite sex involved in your emotional life.

If you are married, you should have **NO** private friendships with a person of the opposite sex, except your mother!



WARNING!!



AT THE PRECISE MOMENT YOUR MARRIAGE IS STRUGGLING, THE ENEMY WILL PUT SOMEONE OF THE OPPOSITE SEX IN YOUR PATH. IF YOU BEGIN TO SHARE YOUR EMOTIONS ABOUT YOUR MARRIAGE WITH THEM. YOU WILL BE PLAYING INTO THE DEVIL'S HAND AND GIVING HIM FREE REIGN TO STEAL, KILL, AND DESTROY YOUR MARRIAGE.

Emotional disloyalty is very often the beginning of a marriage downfall. We must protect our heart for our spouse, at all costs.

*M*ENTAL LOYALTY

You must keep your mind loyal to your spouse at all times.

Disloyalty is tearing the one flesh bond in any way, and it always begins with a little cut, a little tear of that bond . . . until it's finally torn in two.

MEN . . .

If you are looking at pornography, you are breaking your marriage bond. Jesus said you are committing adultery in your heart, and you **WILL** destroy your marriage for the sake of some stupid picture. Don't be an idiot. You **MUST** count the cost of that picture you're looking at.



But mental disloyalty is not *JUST* a man thing . . .

WOMEN . . .

In their minds often think some other man would somehow be better for them than their husband . . . because they **don't KNOW** the other man.

And that mental disloyalty begins to subtly tear at the one-flesh bond.

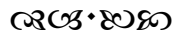
An affair begins with a desire to escape from the current conditions in your marriage and ends with you trying to fulfill, outside your marriage, some need you don't think is being fulfilled inside your marriage.

The devil's primary tactic to destroy your marriage is this:

- 1 **Emotional** disloyalty, followed by . . .
- 2 **Mental** (visual) disloyalty, followed by . . .
- 3 **Physical** disloyalty, followed by the . . .
- 4 **Destruction** of ALL loyalty and, possibly, the marriage.

You may be in a relationship right now where you are being disloyal to your spouse, emotionally, mentally, or physically. If so, you must end it **RIGHT NOW !**

**YOUR EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL LOYALTY TO YOUR SPOUSE IS NOT TESTED
WHEN YOU ARE WITH YOUR SPOUSE AND EVERYTHING'S GREAT.**



**IT'S TESTED WHEN YOU'RE AWAY FROM YOUR SPOUSE, AND
WHEN THERE ARE STRUGGLES IN YOUR MARRIAGE.**

We must be loyal above all else: Emotionally, Mentally, Visually, and Physically loyal. God will make a way if we will submit to Him.

We must honor our marriage. We must protect it, nurture it, and always breathe life into it, at all cost to self.

THIS IS GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE!

Let's Pray *"Heavenly Father, please make us one flesh, make us loyal. Please give us the power of the Holy Spirit to crucify our self, to live in the roles you've designed us for, and to experienced your 3-dimensional oneness. May we experience the great blessing of Your design for our marriage. In Jesus name, amen.*



If you would like additional CD's, MP3's, and Workbooks on **God's Design For Marriage**, please contact;

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Thank you for studying God's Design For Marriage with us.