

The Vow - Part 3: The Do's and Don'ts of a Healthy Marriage

Malachi 2:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. ¹⁴ You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

- 1. Do Know Your Love Language**
- 2. Don't Compare Your Spouse with Someone Else**

Key statement: Whenever we compare, we belittle.

Things to remember:

- Comparison makes us ungrateful for what we have.
- Comparison can make us critical of our spouse for no reason.
- Comparison causes us to focus on a person's negatives and not their positives.

Everyone has strengths and weaknesses, so *celebrate their strengths* and *give grace to their weaknesses*.

Philippians 2:3 (NIV)

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves...

- 3. Do Be Intimate Often**
- 4. Don't Make Large Purchases without Consensus**
 - a. We tithe off every penny we get, because we want the blessing of God on our finances first.
 - b. We don't have *his* money or *her* money. We have *OUR* money.
 - c. We have one person manage the money who communicates everything to the other.
 - d. We don't spend big amounts without agreeing (i.e., over \$100).
- 5. Do Laugh Always**

Proverbs 17:22 (NIV)

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

6. Don't Open the Door to Someone Who Is Not Your Spouse

1 Corinthians 13:3-8 (Message)

³⁻⁷ If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.

⁸ Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit.