

Friendship & Marriage

Read Titus 2:5

There are 2 words for love used in the New Testament. "Phileo" means brotherly love. "Agape" means sacrificial love. The husband is to agape his wife according to Ephesians 5:25 and the wife is to phileo her husband.
Read Ephesians 4:32. How are people in a loving relationship supposed to respond to each other?

Read Genesis 26:6-9

What does sporting mean in this passage?

The relational foundation of your marriage is your personal relationship with Christ. The relational structure of marriage is your friendship with your spouse. Most people think romance is what makes a strong marriage but research and what the Bible teaches is that a deep friendship is the structure of a strong marriage.

Read Genesis 2:18

The Priority of Friendship in Marriage

Marriage is not a contract. It is a covenant you enter into with God for your spouse. However, it is more than just a covenant, it is a companionship. Marriage was designed to meet the need for relationship, not just responsibility.
What does help meet mean?

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7

The Pursuit of Knowing Your Spouse

Friendship grows through intentional knowledge and understanding. This is not just a surface-level knowledge, but an ongoing discovery. You each change and grow in marriage so you need to grow in your knowledge of each other. A strong marriage is built by spouses who refuse to stop learning each other. This week seek to learn one new thing about your spouse and write it down here:

Biblical Friendship

Read Proverbs 31:28 & Song of Solomon 4:1

The Practice of Affirming Your Spouse

Friendship is strengthened through expressed appreciation. God designed marriage to include verbal affirmation, because affirmation must be expressed, not assumed. A critical spirit will erode friendship but fondness and admiration will help protect against feeling contempt towards each other. If you stop saying what you love, you'll start seeing what you don't love.

Read Philippians 2:4 & Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

The Pattern of Responding to One Another

Friendship is built in small daily moments. A healthy marriage is marked by attentiveness. Love is demonstrated in small responses, not just big gestures. Happy spouses will look for small ways to get the attention of their spouse and for easy ways to love each other. Ignoring each other creates emotional, physical, and spiritual distance.

What is one easy way you can show love to your spouse?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:12 & Colossians 3:14

The Power of Friendship to Sustain the Marriage

Friendship strengthens love through every season of marriage. When friendship is strong, love endures the pressures you face as a couple. Christ-centered friendship binds everything together and buffers against conflict. It will keep disagreements from damaging your relationship. Couples who have a strong friendship with each other not only last longer, but enjoy the journey together.

