

Life Together: Marriage Part 2

Reflect

1. What is love? How would you define it?
2. Describe a couple you know that has a good marriage.
3. What does love look like in a marriage?

Read Your Bible

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-12
- Matthew 19:4-6

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. How does 1 Corinthians 13 define love?
2. Is love something you feel or something you do? Why or why not?
How would you support your answer from scripture?

3. What does 1 Corinthians teach us about God's love for us?

4. What does it mean that "they are no longer two, but one flesh"?

5. What does love look like in a marriage? In what tangible actions does love take form?

6. What does love require of us?

7. What practices of faith strengthen our marriages?

Conclusion

God is love (1 John 4:7-21). God's love is fully expressed to us in and by the death and resurrection of Jesus. In Jesus we see the love defined in 1 Corinthians 13 lived out for us. In turn, when we seek to love each other as God loves us, we reflect the sacrifice of the cross. The enemy of any healthy and good relationship, especially marriage, is our own self-centeredness. Will most of us be called to die on a cross for our spouse? No. But sacrificial love takes many forms...humility,

forgiveness, acts of service, kindness, gentleness, understanding, listening, respect, compassion, worship together, prayer, laughter, and many more virtues of faith are acts of the cross. Marriage works when together we are surrendered to Christ's love for each other.

Pray

Lord, thank You for marriage. Give us the love, humility, strength, and guidance we need to love each other as You have loved us. Help us to express the love You have for us in tangible acts of love for one another. Protect our marriages and guide us by Your Holy Spirit. Teach us to pray together, to serve together, worship together and to love as You love! In Jesus' name. Amen.