

MARRIED WELL
I DON'T LOVE MY MATE ANYMORE
EPHESIANS 5:21-33

INTRODUCTION:

1. Problems lead to the statement, "I don't love my mate anymore!"
 - A. 7 stages of a cold.
 - B. "I don't love my mate anymore."
2. What that doesn't mean:
 - A. It's over.
 - B. You necessarily have a bad marriage. There are many good things about your marriage.
 - C. You have to compromise.
 - D. You really believe what you are saying.
3. What it does mean:
 - A. Something is wrong. Underlying issues.
 - B. You are under attack. Satan is trying to destroy your marriage.
 - C. Your feelings are real and normal.
 - D. You are vulnerable to do the wrong thing:
 1. Withdraw
 2. Become bitter
 3. Spend more time away from home

- 4. Affair
- 5. Divorce
- E. There IS hope.

4. Ephesians 5:21-33

I. REDEFINE WHAT LOVE MEANS

A. More than likely you have changed the definition.

B. The new definition is based on what you feel.

- 1. Like when we “fell in love.”
- 2. Young man – “I can’t eat, drink or sleep!” Why? “I’m broke!”

C. Four definitions:

1. Unconditional

- a. “Love” – used 6 times, agape
- b. That means I don’t place conditions, unreal expectations on my love.

2. Mutual submission

- a. V.21, “Submitting to one another in the fear of Christ.”
- b. Submitting to the needs of my mate.

3. Relationship between Christ and the Church

a. V.31-32

- b. The love between Christ and the Church is reflected in the relationship between a husband and wife.

- c. The strength of the bond between Christ and the Church provides power for the husband and wife to build a godly, healthy marriage which glorifies God.
- d. That is the mystery!

4. Example of Christ

- a. Sacrifice – v.25, “Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her.”
- b. Provide – v.29, “to nourish” “nourish to maturity”
- c. Care – v.29, “cherish” “to show affection and tender love”
- d. Commitment – v.25, “Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her.”
 - i. “gave” – Cross
 - ii. Christ’s definition of love is commitment. He is committed to me when I may not be or feel as committed.
 - iii. He didn’t feel like going to the cross, but He was committed.
 - iv. Every day I must go to the Cross whether I feel like it or not.
 - v. Actions precede feelings.
 - vi. If I’m waiting for a feeling to then act, it will never happen.

D. When you say to yourself, “I don’t love my mate anymore,” redefine what love means.

II. REESTABLISH YOUR ROLES

A. You may think you’re doing a pretty good job, when you’re not.

- B. Allow your mate to reestablish their role.
- C. These roles are clearly defined in God's Word.
- D. It is the secret to successful marriages.
- E. V.21, Both of us are submitting to each other through our roles, "in the fear (reverence) of Christ." Act of worship
- F. My job, while serving in my role, is to those things that communicate, "I love you."
- G. The reason why your mate may be saying, "I don't love my mate anymore" is because you are not fulfilling your role.
- H. When that happens, you are communicating, "I don't care about this relationship."
- I. Fulfilling our role communicates, "I love you, I need you."

III. REMEMBER YOUR VOWS

- A. V.31, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to this wife, and the two will become one flesh."
- B. Several years ago you made a vow and you need to remember your vows.
- C. Read vows.
- D. You also need to remember everything that led up to that vow.
- E. Mr. Holland's Opus – Roweena
- F. V.31, "joined" – literally "glued together"
- G. Paper doll

CONCLUSION: