

Marriage Perspective Skip Elmore

We don't need instructions nearly as much sometimes as we need reminders.

Falling in love is a good thing perhaps, but it is not the best thing!

Falling in love must never be the only reason for being married.

Falling in love will never sustain a marriage.

There will be times when you need to love the one you don't like at the moment.

Falling in love is an emotional experience based on feelings.

Genuine love, real love, is a verb, not an emotion, and not based on feelings.

Falling in love will be temporal at best, usually from circumstances or situations.

Emotions are a wonderful servant, but they can become very destructive as a master.

Money is a wonderful servant, but also a very destructive master.

The thrill of any new adventure will fade if it is based only on instant gratification.

The thrill of any adventure will only be sustained with a continual incentive to improve it.

Without this incentive to improve, the excitement will always fade.

Without this incentive, a search for a new adventure will soon take over and destroy the present.

This is true with all adventures, including love and marriage!

Christian marriage is not at all the same as civil marriage.

A firm decision should be made as to whether a Christian marriage is who you both are.

A Christian marriage is a covenant of total trust for life; don't fool around with God!

If a Christian marriage is the choice, make sure you understand all the implications.

The primary motive in a Christian marriage is to give and serve, not to get and be served.

A Christian marriage provides protection, but requires absolute Biblical obedience.

This obedience needs to be demonstrated willingly with passion way before the marriage.

Absolute Biblical obedience is essential to establishing absolute trust.

No marriage will survive without absolute trust.

It is better to decline a covenant marriage than to role play an image of obedience.

The absence of a divorce does not necessarily mean a marriage is surviving.

Taking on the role of a hypocrite is extremely destructive behavior.

Why should one be the head, the spiritual leader? Voting would never provide a majority!

Why should it be the man? Why not the woman? It was God's choice.

Neither is necessarily more capable or more intelligent, and neither should be boss.

If the Spirit, wisdom and counsel of Christ is not the inspiration, don't pretend, go civil!

“LOVE,” a verb, calls for action, for doing something that benefits another person.

“MATRIMONIAL LOVE” requires cultivating a quality relationship.

Relationships in general are the only genuine values we possess in life!

Other possessions only support our lifestyle, not our lasting values.

Three balanced MOTIVES inspire quality relationships:

All relationships, vertical with God, or horizontal with others, married or single, should include these motives, each having the right perspective with the other two.

1. The Love (Agape) MOTIVE – Based on contributing to the well being of another

Not dependant on others for “self worth”

Not dependant on conditions or circumstances

Not dependant on feelings; love is a choice, not an emotion

Servanthood is essential for quality living, married or single

Love may be imitated by a martyr complex to help us feel worthy. This would not be a love motive. This would make it a utilitarian motive. Be honest with yourself

2. The Utilitarian MOTIVE – Based on getting others to help your agenda

May be very noble and mutual, or very selfish, be cautious

Leadership & manipulation may both look the same

(If it is totally self serving, it is manipulation!)

3. The Pleasure MOTIVE – Based on feel good experiences

May be for entertainment, enjoyment

May be to serve God and/or others if it brings good feelings, joy

Therapeutic help or encouragement (Builds self worth)

(Not necessarily wrong)

You can know much more about a person by understanding why they are doing an activity (motive) than by just observing what they are accomplishing!

Philippians 2:3 Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble; think of others as better than yourself. NLT

THE LOADED TEST QUESTION:

Would you sacrifice your romantic relationship if you knew absolutely that your potential marriage partner could have a significantly higher quality of life if you were not the one involved in it???

If the answer is YES, your love is genuinely the agape type love, and if that answer is mutual you will have a good marriage.