

Outline – February 14, 2021
The Choice To Love
John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13:1-7, 11-13

**Falling In Love Is Easy. Staying In Love Is The Challenge.
Why Is Staying In Love And Married So Difficult?**

I. The myths we believe

- A. That finding the right person is the key
 - 1. The problem is we rarely think about becoming the right person
 - 2. Who you become determines...
 - a) Who you meet
 - b) Who you embrace
 - c) The success of your relationship
 - 3. Are you the person that the person you married was hoping for?
- B. The promise myth
 - 1. That a promise is all that is needed in a marriage...
 - 2. A promise, piece of jewelry and a party
 - 3. What is needed is preparation (knowing how to be married)
 - 4. A promise makes you accountable, but not capable
 - 5. If you are accountable, but not capable, you will be miserable

II. The attributes that erode 94% of all marriages

- A. Being critical
 - B. Showing contempt
 - C. Being defensive
 - D. Stonewalling (disconnecting)
 - E. Parenting
 - F. Punishing
 - G. Rejecting
- (Beware of your excuses in these areas)

III. The remedy Jesus offers

- A. Follow me
- B. Here is my command
 - 1. This is where we go when we follow Him
 - 2. This is what we do when we follow Him
- C. Love one another as I have loved you
- D. This is a new level of love
- E. The sooner you apply this, the easier it will be
- F. Following Jesus doesn't just make life better, it makes us better at life

IV. What love looks like when you follow Jesus

- A. Love is patient
 - 1. It's not pushy
 - 2. God accommodates to your pace

- B. Love is kind
 - 1. Loaning someone your strength instead of reminding them of their weakness
 - C. Love is not envious or proud
 - 1. Lets the other person shine
 - 2. Jesus came to serve not to be served, gave His life a ransom for many
 - D. Love doesn't dishonor others
 - 1. Treats others as if they are more important
 - 2. Jesus did that for you
 - E. Love is not selfish
 - 1. Puts others interest first
 - 2. That would solve 90% of most marital problems
 - 3. I am not getting what I want
 - F. Not easily angered
 - 1. Easily is the "keyword"
 - 2. Love listens
 - 3. Love absorbs
 - 4. Doesn't reflect back the anger
 - 5. Puts the others "story" above ours
 - 6. Our "story" makes sense to us
 - 7. Anger often means something inside of you has never been processed (worked out)
 - G. Love doesn't keep a record of wrongs
 - 1. Love doesn't have a "file cabinet" of all the wrongs done
 - 2. "Record keepers" rarely keep track of their own records
 - 3. Do you enjoy "catching" your spouse messing up? That's not what your Savior does for you
 - 4. God has a file cabinet on all believers, but He keeps it closed
 - 5. He wants us to do that for others
 - 6. Some people are alone because they hold "past" over others
 - H. Love does not delight in evil
 - 1. Keeps "bad things" out of the relationship
 - 2. Love chooses to believe the best before it assumes the worst
- V. **Maturing in love**
- A. When I was a child...
 - 1. Talked
 - 2. Thought
 - 3. Reasoned
 - B. As an adult, put away childish things
 - C. Choose to abandon myths
 - D. Choose to be the person you married is hoping for

**Are You Willing To Do What It Takes To Love As You Make Your Marriage
For Better Or For Best?**