

10 Lessons from 30 Years of Marriage

1. **1 John 5:14** *“This is the confidence we have toward Him: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”*

There is no more lovely, friendly or charming relationship, communion or company, than a good marriage.

Martin Luther

2. **Psalm 100:2** *“Serve the Lord with gladness. Come into His presence with singing.”*

3. **Proverbs 23:12** *“Apply your heart to instruction and your ear to words of knowledge.”*

4. **John 16:8** *“And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.”*

The most foundational thing to see from the Bible about marriage is that it is God’s doing. And the ultimate thing to see from the Bible about marriage is that it is for God’s glory.

John and Noel Piper

5. **1 Peter 3:1-6** *“Let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.”*

6. **Proverbs 17:22** “*A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.*”

7. **Philippians 4:8-9** “*Finally brothers, whatever is true, ...honorable, ...just, ... pure, ... lovely, ... commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*”

In any relationship, there will be frightening spells of which your feelings of love dry up. And when that happens you must remember that the essence of marriage is that it is a covenant, a commitment, a promise of future love. So, what do you do? You do the acts of love, despite your lack of feeling. You may not feel tender, sympathetic, and eager to please, but in your actions you must BE tender, understanding, forgiving, and helpful. And, if you do that, as time goes on you will not only get through the dry spells, but they will become less frequent and deep, and you will become more constant in your feelings. This is what can happen if you decide to love.

Timothy Keller

8. **Matthew 12:34** “*For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks*” and **Colossians 4:6** “*Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*”

9. **1 John 3:18** “*Little children, let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and truth*” and **James 4:17** “*So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.*”

10. **Luke 10:27** “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself*” and **Matthew 6:33** “*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*”