



Today's Message

## "Love that will Last"

With Bishop Ronald K. Powell

"The greatest miracle of love is not 'love at first sight,' it's love after a long, long look! Marriage is that long, long look.

There's no better advice for couples today than to submit to the Lordship of Christ in their home." In this message I will share seven Principle

that will produce a lasting Love.

### 1. REINFORCE FAITH

Build each other up in the faith.

**Ecclesiastes 4:12** says "a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

A three-fold cord is a man, a woman, and God. God must be first in your life and hers. If God is first in your life, your wife will be even more secure in your love. You can love her more by putting her second than you ever could by putting her first.

## 2. REMEMBER ROLES

God made us different that He might make us one (see **1 Peter 3:1- 7**).

3 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

He made the husband with a hard exterior and the wife more gentle - but not inferior.

The husband is the head of the home, as Jesus is the head of the church and gave Himself for it **(Ephesians 5:23-25)**.

It is servant, not dictator, leadership. There is no male superiority and female inferiority when it comes to God. Most women won't mind submitting to a man who loves her enough to die for her and shows it by the way he lives for her.

Learn that you can do without anything except God, one another, and the basic necessities of life. Sheila and I decided to get married before finishing college. We worked our way through school and did a lot of doing without. But we were happy. A wise man once said, "To whom little is not enough, nothing is enough." If you're not careful, your marriage is going to be until "debt" do us part. Learn to be content.

**(Philippians 4:11-12).**

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to [b]abound. Everywhere and in all things, I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

**4. PUT AWAY BITTERNESS**

Every home is going to be attacked. Ours has; yours will, too. There are no problems too big to solve, just people too small to solve them. If we would banish bitterness and attack the problem rather than one another, our families would be a lot better off. Don't go to bed angry with your backs to each other.

**Ephesians 4:26 says**, "Be angry and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath."

Sheila and I have tried to practice that. Sometimes we've stayed up for several nights in a row, but we have worked through our bitterness!

**5. KEEP COMMUNICATING**

Communication is so important because it is truly what builds intimacy in marriage.

**1 Peter 3:8-10** has much to say about the communication a couple needs to have in order to enjoy a lasting love.

Sheila and Ronald are very different. We took a psychological profile - the very areas I was the highest in, she's lowest in. In many ways we are total opposites. Yet this is typical. What attracts two people before marriage is often what drives us crazy afterwards.

**Have a good date life. There are three kinds of dates every spouse should keep:**

1. a daily date with God;
2. a regular date with each child (if there are children);
3. and a regular date-night with each other.

**6. REACTIVATE ROMANCE**

Keep the love light burning. So many couples stop courting one another after they marry. Never let it end. Complement one another. Because I am a man, I have more to say to men about what they can do

to keep romance alive. Men, never cease flirting with your wife and never flirt with any other woman. Keep your wife "first" above all other women. Respect and be courteous to her at all times. Open the door for her - and not just when people are looking.

## **7. PRACTICE PRAYER**

**1 Peter 3:7** tells the husband to "...dwell with them with understanding...that your prayers may not be hindered." (emphasis mine).

Sheila and I started out our marriage praying together and continue it this way, praying for our daughter and grandchildren by name because we know the Bible says, "

Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain." (**Psalm 127:1**).

## **Closing**

To the men who may be hearing or reading this, let me say that most men don't want to pray with women because we have a hard outer shell. But husband, I implore you to humble yourself. Get down on your knees with your wife and practice prayer. Let her know you are praying for her. Let her hear you pouring out your heart before God. It will give her great confidence and comfort.

If you are married or are contemplating marriage, prayerfully ask God to enable you to do these things. In doing so, you will be creating a love that will last.