

The Message Notes

Message: *How to Know Your Love Means 4-Ever-Unfailing*

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Text: Jeremiah 31:3. “I have **loved** you, my people, with an **everlasting** love. With **unfailing** love, I have drawn you to myself.” (NLT)

Talk: Marriage Takes a **4-Ever Love-Unfailing!**

“**Being in love should not** be the **sole reason** for getting married since **being in love** does not always mean its **4-Ever-unfailing.**”

Saying, “I love you is **sacred!**” Two questions to ask about being in love:

- 1) How long does your love last?
- 2) Do you know what it costs to love me?”

Prescription: I recommend the **first time** a **man** should **confess** his **love** to a woman is with a **proposal** for marriage. The first time a woman should **confess** her **love** for a man is when she **accepts** his proposal for marriage.

Institution of Marriage: (Genesis 2:18-25)

Marriage is an **institution** established by God that is governed by these **three laws:** vocation, consecration, and illustration.

1. **Vocation** – Marriage is a ministry **call**; God **joins** a man and woman together, so they can fulfill the ministry of marriage (roles, reflect, replenish, reign). (Matthew 19:6)

2. **Consecration** – Marriage **consecrates, makes holy**, a man and a woman by a **covenant** ceremony and **transforms** them into a **husband** and a **wife**.

3. **Illustration** – Marriage is a **copy** of the relationship between Christ and the church, **love**, and **respect**. (Ephesians 5:33)

“Marriage illustrates your **faith** in Christ by you **modeling** your marriage after Christ and the church relationship.”

“Your **love** and **respect** in marriage becomes a **witness** to the world of your relationship with Christ and the church, the **Gospel.**”

“Marriage is a **display** of God’s **holiness**, not your **happiness**.”

Duties and Behavior for Marriage: God’s primary reason for marriage is for a man and a woman to fulfill the duties of the marriage ministry (roles, reflect, replenish, and reign) with the right behavior (love and fidelity).

We will cover **two types** of love: 1) **Human** love and 2) **Heavenly** love that leads to **marital** love.

A. **Human** love - derived within us **naturally** and **chemically**

- **Natural** love – 1) **Storge**’ – Family love (inborn), 2) **Philia** – Friendship love (bond), and 3) **Eros** – Fleshly love (sensual)
- **Chemical** love – derived from the following **nine neurochemicals** released from our brain into our autonomic system to cause **attraction, feelings, and bonding**: 1) testosterone (men), 2) estrogen (women), 3) norepinephrine, 4) dopamine, 5) serotonin, 6) endorphins, 7) oxytocin, 8) vasopressin, and 9) cortisol.

B. **Heavenly** love – derived from God’s Spirit known as **spiritual** love or agape love. Agape love complements our human love. Agape love traits are:

- 1) Agape love is **endless** – unlimited
- 2) Agape love is **selfless** – other-person centered
- 3) Agape love is **relentless** – pursues the beloved

C. **Marital** love – derives from a man and a woman who possess **heavenly** love and **human** love for one another that leads them to **make a covenant** to do the marriage ministry together.

Prescription: I recommend a couple should have **heavenly** love for one another that **complements** their **human** love, so they will possess **4-Ever-unfailing** love for one another in marriage.

Takeaway/Application: When your **human** love (philia and eros) is **complemented** by your **heavenly** love (agape), you have the **“type”** of love that will be **4-Ever-unfailing** in marriage.”
