

# TRANSFORMING YOUR FAMILY

HOW TO STAY IN LOVE  
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JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 1, 2015

## INTRODUCTION

We all know what's required to fall in love. A pulse. Falling in love is easy. But staying there? That's something else entirely. With more than 1,500 matchmaker organizations in the United States, finding someone is easier than ever, but staying together seems to get more difficult every day. So. . . is it possible for two people to fall in love and actually stay there? Absolutely.

This message, lesson and series have been full of biblical, practical, relevant tools and tips. Discuss the Scriptures and questions below and then pray for the courage and steadfastness to apply what you've learned!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Ephesians 5:21. The biblical concept of mutual submission is based on humility—our deliberate choice to consider the needs and interests of others ahead of our own. Is submission easy or difficult for you? Explain your answer.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a. This passage describes love as patient, kind, not envious, not boastful, not proud, not dishonoring toward others, unselfish, not easily angered, not keeping score, not delighting in evil, rejoicing with the truth, protective, trusting, hopeful, persevering, and unfailing.

Which of these qualities best describes the way you love your spouse, or other loved ones in your life?

Which of these qualities least describes the way you love your spouse, or other loved ones in your life?

What specific action steps can you take, beginning this week, to grow and/or stay more in love this week?

3. Tyler described six ways we tend to keep score in marriage: tallies, tone, tit-for-tat, facial tics, taunting, and telling others. Which of these behaviors is one you need to work on?

What specific action steps can you take this week to forget the scoreboard in your marriage?

4. In every relationship there are gaps between what we expect of the other person and how that person actually behaves. Why is that universally true? What's the root cause of these gaps?
5. In a typical marriage, how conscious are we of these gaps when we encounter them? And how often would you say these gaps occur in a typical marriage?

6. What do you think are some of the most common gaps that wives see in their husbands' behavior? And what are some gaps that husbands see in their wives' behavior?
7. Why is it so healthy and enriching to believe the best about one another when we encounter one of these gaps? And why is it so harmful to assume the worst?
8. What do you think are some of the most important factors in determining whether we believe the best or assume the worst when we encounter these gaps? And why is it so important to understand, appreciate and apply the gospel of grace in our relationships?

#### **PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER**

As you have likely laughed and listened well to one another, now lift up the prayer requests of the person on your left. Thank God for the transforming power of the gospel (grace, grace, grace, etc.) in our lives, relationships and families.