

Intoxicating Love

Romance

Sunday, June 29th 2014

Song of Songs 2:16

I. Introduction

“Romantic love is a pleasurable, learned response to the way your partner (spouse) looks and feels, to the thing your spouse says and does, and to the emotional experiences you share. It is a keen desire to work for the beloved’s happiness, no matter how much effort is required.” Ed Wheat

II. Why Romance?

The word romance doesn’t appear in the Bible, but Scripture give us wonderful examples of passionate love between a man and a woman.

Boaz with Ruth (Ruth 2:8-16; 3:8-13), Jacob with Rachel (Genesis 29:20),
Song of Solomon – Entire book, NT examples in husbands and wives

Romance is exclusive! It is only for your spouse (or pursuit of spouse). There is no place for feelings of romance outside of your marriage.

The goal of romance is intimacy. There is no greater relationship on this earth than a marriage.

“The goal in marriage is to train your attractions, affections, and desire to fit only one person. It is imperative that your spouse know that no other person or image enters your mind when romantic feelings flood your heart. Romance calls for passionate loyalty – a marriage union defended at all costs.” Gary Ricucci

*“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine...”
Song of Solomon 1:2*

“I will seek him whom my soul loves...” Song of Solomon 3:2b

III. Hindrances to Romance

- 1) Ignorance – lack of training or example
- 2) Ingratitude – failure to appreciate one another
- 3) Spiritual neglect – breaking the first commandment
- 4) Selfishness – indifference, laziness, pursuing romance to get rather than give
- 5) Busyness – failure to make this a priority
- 6) Bitterness – disappointment, resentment, resignation, unforgiveness
- 7) Fear of Man – pride, embarrassment

IV. Practical Ideas on Romance

Romance is essential to promote health in your marriage. But again romance is an art that must be developed and cultivated. It requires humility, unselfishness, and generosity.

Dating your spouse!

Do you know your spouse's likes, desires, candy bars, shoe size, dress size, etc

Emails, texts, phone calls or cards communicating your love for them (put them in lunch, when they travel, on a pillow, in the car, etc)

Affectionate "private names"

Be able to laugh and play – don't be so serious!

V. Conclusion