

# HAPPY TOGETHER FOREVER?

## STAYING IN LOVE, PART 1

Pastor Ken Ritz \* Feb 26, 2012 \* New Life Vineyard Church

- The question we all ask: *Is it possible for two people to stay happy together forever?*
- The only requirement for falling in love is a pulse. Staying in love takes a lot more.
  - Everybody can fall in love. Few people stay in love.

### Why is it difficult to stay in love?

- Few people have been around a healthy romantic marriage.
- We all have unmet needs that we want a partner to meet.
  - *"I'm not getting my expectations met, and it's your fault."*
- Our culture has a very low threshold of relational pain.
  - *"I chose poorly, so I must need to re-choose."*
  - The truth: choosing the right partner is important, but learning to become the right partner is more important.

*"A new command I give you: Love one another."*

John 13:34

### The requirement for staying in love is:

**Make love \_\_\_\_\_ !**

You fall in love with a NOUN.

You stay in love with a VERB.

*"A new command I give you: Love one another.*

*As I have loved you, so you must love one another."*

John 13:34

### Paul re-states Jesus' command by saying:

\_\_\_\_\_ **to one another.**

*"Submit to one another, out of reverence for Christ."*

Ephesians 5:21.

## NEXT WEEKS HOMEWORK (Read Daily)

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

*In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had:*

*Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

*And being found in appearance as a human being, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

Philippians 2:3-8

## QUESTIONS

**What is one thing you could do to show someone close to you that you value him or her above yourself?**

**What is one specific way you could show interest in the things that are most important to someone you love?**

**What act of service could you do for someone you love that would come as a shock to him or her?**

**What emotions surface when you think about acting on these ideas?**

**What keeps you from making these ideas habits in your relationships?**

**What would you do differently this week if your goal were to actively love the person you are closest to, the way he or she desires?**

*\* All scriptures from TNIV unless otherwise noted*