

## Romance is Essential to a Great Marriage

*People may not remember what you said, and people may not remember what you did,  
but they will never forget how you made them feel!  
How you make someone feel is the most impactful thing  
you can do for them. Kristianne Wargo*



Early in our marriage, I was like most men and had no clue what romance was or how important it is to most women. Like Jimmy Evans says, “everything naked is romantic to a man!” We kept ourselves pure until we got married, but unknowingly, during our 3+ years of courtship, I was being very romantic in my effort to “win the prize” of getting Sue to marry me! The way I treated Sue and made her feel was what drew her to me and opened her heart and desire to marry me. We just had fun being together and somewhere along the way, we fell in love and couldn’t wait to get married and spend the rest of our lives together! After we were married, I remembered something my mother’s said to me, “Love is friendship caught on fire!”



However, **romance is not supposed to end after we get married!** Romance builds a strong foundation for a marriage that will last a lifetime. After we get married, our lives can become very busy and complicated with jobs, children, a house, and other responsibilities. It was easy for me to shift my focus on my career, finances, and other responsibilities outside of the home. Sue was stuck with raising our children and keeping everything together at home. We didn’t spend much time together just having fun and keeping our relationship fresh and alive. She became like a plant that had been neglected and kept in a dimly lit room. The “fire” in our relationship started getting dimmer and in danger of going out altogether.



Sue did many things to try and keep the love alive, but there was little effort on my part to keep the romance going like I seemed to do effortlessly while we were dating. Romance was an add-on at the end of the day and sometimes didn’t happen at all. What you put into a marriage is what you will get out of it. Through some help from other people, books, resources, and Father’s guidance, we finally started to turn our relationship around, and things began getting better again. The biggest thing we did was build romance back into our marriage.



Romance is an atmosphere that you can manage and it’s a cornerstone to every healthy marriage. It is not just a seasonal relationship you occasionally do on birthdays, Christmas, or Valentine’s Day. Romance needs to be done on a **daily basis**. It includes all the little things that we do that communicate to our spouse that I am pleased to be with you and I want to spend some quality time with you. It’s the little things we do that say “I love you.” The love notes, cards, gifts, a call or email in the middle of day, flowers for no special reason, washing the dishes (men!), fixing their favorite food, taking their hand, a one-minute hug, passionate kisses, turning towards your spouse (not away!) with open arms. Your spouse needs to know that you are the most important and valued person in the world next to Father and Jesus. I choose you every day. Your words and actions need to communicate to your spouse your commitment to the relationship. You create an atmosphere of transparency, peace, acceptance, safety, and desire for them through your appearance, eye contact, facial expressions, and gentle voice. Your spouse should want to come into your presence, and you feel welcome and excited when you come into their presence.



Romance is always self-initiated, meeting an unspoken need. You anticipate and meet a need or desire before they say or ask for it! If your spouse must ask you or drop hints, then what you did was not romantic. You need to study and listen to your spouse – what they like, dislike, want, need, dream about, or desire. A wife wants the man to initiate what he is going to do for her. A wife can do the same for her husband too! It communicates that you have been on my heart and I want to serve you!



Love is the language of desire. ***The core issue is desire***. One of our core or basic needs is to “be desirable.” We want someone to desire us. Love has two pieces to it.  
1) How I feel about you. I feel in love with you because of the way I feel about you.  
2) The way you make me feel about myself. You make me feel desired. You fell in love with each other because of the way they made you feel about yourself. Our greatest need is to be loved and be desired. The greatest wound is the wound of rejection. When I anticipate a desire or need in you and self-initiate taking care of that need, I am saying you are desirable to me, and that’s what keeps love going.

A marriage starts to go bad when one or both of you don’t feel valued by each other any more. It feels like other things or people in your life are more important than I am to you. You must communicate to your spouse their unique value to you! One of the best ways is to speak praises about your spouse.

*“You will never be intimate with your spouse until your marriage is filled with praise.”*

*“Every good marriage is full of positive words.”*

*“You will never open your heart to each other until your mouth is filled with praise and thanksgiving.”* **Jimmy Evens**

**Build romance into your marriage every day and live a life-long love affair with your spouse!**

## **Dialogue Questions**

1. What are 5 things that you do that I think are romantic? For each one, explain why this is romantic and how it makes me feel when you do them.
2. What are several things you do that make me feel good about myself? How do each one impact my heart and my feelings towards you?
3. Observe and listen to your spouse over the next several days or week and write down what you observe or hear them express about their needs, wants, or desires. Share your lists with each other and talk about them.

## ***Fun Night Ideas***

1. Sit in each other’s arms and listen to some of your favorite songs when you were dating. Dance to some of the songs like you would have done when you were dating.
2. Make a list of everything that you like about your spouse and give it to them. From the list you received, talk about how that makes you feel about yourself with your spouse.