

Love Is A Verb

Illustration: Juno Clip (2007)

“I guess I wonder sometimes if people ever stay together for good ... like people in love.”
(Ellen Page, Juno)

“Dad, I just need to know that it’s possible for two people to stay happy together forever.”
(Ellen Page, Juno)

We all crave that one romantic relationship that will endure – and though we believe it’s possible for us, we often have doubts about actually attaining it.

What does it take to be fully emotionally equipped to be engaged in long-term relationships? We need massive doses of ...

Respect	Encouragement
Comfort	Security
Support	Acceptance
Approval	Appreciation
Attention	Affection

In giving us the right foundation for an enduring relationship, Jesus teaches us to **MAKE LOVE A VERB**, based on His own example.

“A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”
John 13:34 (NIV)

Let these words motivate you to be proactive in loving your spouse, as you take your cues in this from Jesus himself.

The biblical concept of lasting love, as modeled by Jesus, is one of *mutual submission* where each of us gives priority to the other in our daily decisions and actions.

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”
Ephesians 5:21

In order to make love a verb, what are two or three action steps you can take immediately to demonstrate your decision to give first priority to your spouse?

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Discussion Questions:

1. If a young teenager asked you that question – “*How possible is it for two people to stay happy together forever?*” – how would you answer, and what reasons would you give for your answer? And how different is that from the way you might have answered, say, five years ago?
2. How realistic is it to hold out hope for that one romantic relationship that will stay full of passion and intimacy? How *right* is it?
3. Think of the relational habits promoted by our culture. Which ones have you noticed work against enduring love relationships?
4. When you recall that Jesus tells us to love one another *as He loved us*, what standard and guidelines for relationships does that bring to mind?
5. What typically keeps couples from practicing mutual submission in marriage, from always giving priority to the other person?
6. In Ephesians 5:21, we’re told, “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” What do you think it means in a marriage to practice mutual submission *out of reverence for Christ*?