

Church of Christ

...Heart to Heart...

It happened at a gospel meeting I was holding. A fellow asked to meet with me personally to discuss some difficulties he was having. He was around 45 yrs. Of age and opened our conversation with this statement, "I am having a mid-life crisis!" He and his wife had been married for 23 yrs. And he began relating how their relationship had changed and was unfulfilling. In his final statement he said, "I just don't love her anymore! Am I free to move on with my life and be happy?" I knew what he was asking by his last question. I asked, "is she in Christ?" He responded, "Yes." I stated and asked, "That means she is your sister in Christ too. Would you love her as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her?" (Eph. 5:25) He winced and said, "That's so hard!" I asked, "Would you love her as a sister in Christ?" (I John 3:14-16) He looked down and said, "Why are you making things so difficult for me?" I spoke once more asking, "If you don't love her anymore, and you see her as your enemy, would you love your enemy and pray for her?" (Matt. 5:44-45) Silence now ruled the conversation. His unhappiness is the result of his relationship to the Lord, not his wife!

So often we hear married couples say they have "fallen out of love." A Christian is one who concerns themselves with the will of God. God's will is to love on every level. The world says, "Leave your mate, find another so you can be happy and get on with your life!" God says for the Christian husband to love their wife. He says for the Christian wife to love their husband. (Titus 2:4) **These aren't suggestions by God, they are commands.** Love is a choice we make. It's a sacrificial love that seeks the highest good of another more than itself. It's the same identical love that Jesus loved us with (Eph. 5:2).

Why do people fall "out of" love with one another? Because they fail to practice love for one another. The one that does not love does not know God and lives their life in death, not in His life (I John 3:14). When a husband or a wife, who finds themselves struggling with the other, if they will put on Christ Jesus and start walking in His love, they will find the love they were missing and desiring for all those years. Happiness will be the result. If one refuses to practice the love of God for their mate, their lives will head down the road to more and more defeats and struggles that will eventually consume them and destroy them. God's ways are always the best and if we believe in God, we will follow His will, which leads to life and happiness! Think about it!!!

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