

Let Love Overflow to One Another

Pastors Ed & Melissa

Scripture

“And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows.” 1 Thessalonians 3:12

Thought

Your marriage has an overflow, and it affects the world around you. One of the fruits (and rewards) of a healthy marriage is that God does good things through the overflow of your relationship! The love within your marriage originates with God. God’s love flows to you, overflows into your marriage, and then overflows into your world. The condition of your marriage affects the way you raise your kids, the way you treat others, the way you minister, the way you view the world - everything. This is why it is so important to keep growing in your love with one another - because of the overflow. We have often said that if our marriage is not good, we lose some of the best treasure we could give others. The greatest gift we can give each other, our children, our church, and our world is a strong marriage!

When you first start dating, your love is tentative and perhaps uncertain. As you grow in your relationship, your love should become more confident because of the decisions you make. Challenges will come, love will get tested, and there will be seasons where you don’t “feel” the love – but decisions will carry you through. We can not gauge our relationship by feelings, because feelings are not always truthful.

When I don’t “feel” the love, here’s what I do: I get grateful. I decide to think about the things I’m thankful for in my husband. I thank God for the responsibilities Ed carries so that my world is more stable and secure. This is called “directing and leading your heart.” I don’t want to just passively follow my feelings wherever they lead, I want to direct my love to grow! When our kids were younger and we wanted some couple time, we often took trips together. Sometimes we went to places far away in the USA. We would tell our kids it was so we could “grow our love.” Before one trip, our daughter Amelia asked, “Can’t you grow your love in Calgary?”

Every now and then, we see glimpses of how our marriage has touched lives. We see how it has lifted our children and their view of the world. We see how our love has inspired others, whether close-up or from afar. We have influenced people in ways we don’t know and couldn’t have planned.

Who could have guessed all that would come from the overflow of simply being married and living life for Jesus? And I am more in love with my husband of 25 years today than ever!

Action Step

Ask God to make your love for one another grow and overflow. This is the kind of prayer God is so ready to answer - even before you pray it! Secondly, thank God for your spouse. I find it helps to give thanks out loud, so that your ears can hear what your heart is saying. Tell God what you are grateful for in your partner – and watch what happens as your prayers of thanks overflow into your marriage!

Prayer

Lord I’m sorry if I have grumbled or complained about my spouse. I am so thankful for the gift of love you have given me through them. I am grateful for _____ (name all the things you are grateful for). May your love flow, grow, and overflow into every part of our lives. In Jesus name, amen.

P.S.

Children from a loving marriage are more likely to complete college or university and be paid better. That means later in life your children will be taking you out for dinner and not the other way around!

Day 6

