

Preparation for Marriage Manual

Part 3 – Love as the Basis for Marriage

Most people say that they are marrying because they love their future partner.

Let's assume that in order to be married you have to convince a judge and jury in a court of law that you really do love this person you wish to marry.

Write in detail the facts you would present to the court. Include in your presentation your own definition of love.

What is love?

What does the world think love is?

Here are several common definitions.

Do you agree with any of them?

- 1 Love is a feeling you feel when you get a feeling that you've never felt before.
- 2 Love is a perpetual state of anaesthesia.
- 3 Love is a fire, a heaven, a hell – where pleasure, pain and sad repentance dwell!
- 4 Love is a grave mental disease.
- 5 To love someone is not just a strong feeling, it is a decision, it is a judgement, it is a promise.
- 6 Love is longing for another's happiness to the point of destroying our own.
- 7 Love is walking with truth and sincerity.
- 8 Love is an unconditional commitment to an imperfect person.

Why do I love my future partner?

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What is my definition of love?

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What does the the Christian Bible, say about love? Love from God’s perspective.

Look up the following scriptures in a modern translation and note down the central thought or example.

Reference *Example*

Proverbs 17:17
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Matthew 6:24
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Matthew 22:37-39
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Luke 6:27-35
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Luke 10:25-37

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John 3:16

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John 13:34

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Romans 13:8-10

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Romans 14:15

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1 Corinthians 8:1

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Galatians 2:20

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Galatians 5:13

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Galatians 6:2

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Ephesians 4:2

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Ephesians 5:2

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Ephesians 5:25

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Titus 2:3-5

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1 Peter 4:8

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1 John 3:16-18

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1 Corinthians 13:4-7

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The Bible definition of love indicates that love consists of many elements negative and positive.

As you consider them below give three creative examples of how each could be applied in your marriage. **Be specific.**

Love is patient

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Love is kind

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Love does not envy

1
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Love does not boast

1
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2
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3
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Love is not proud

- 1
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- 2
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- 3
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Love is not rude

- 1
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- 2
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- 3
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Love is not self-seeking

- 1
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- 2
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- 3
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Love is not easily angered

- 1
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- 2
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3

Love keeps no record of wrongs

1

2

3

Love does not delight in evil

1

2

3

Love rejoices in the truth

1

2

3

Love always protects

- 1
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- 2
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- 3
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Love always trusts

- 1
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- 2
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- 3
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Love always hopes

- 1
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- 2
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- 3
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Love always perseveres

- 1
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- 2
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3

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Love never fails

1

2

3

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Marriage needs three types of love.

These are illustrated in God’s Handbook For Life, the Christian Bible, by three different Greek words for love.

Eros – is the love that seeks sensual expression. It is romantic love, sexual love, the husband and wife, in a good marriage, will love each other romantically and erotically.

Philia – this is the love of friendship. In a good marriage the husband and wife are always friends. Friendship means companionship, communication and co-operation.

Agapé – is a self-giving love, gift love, the love that goes on loving even when our partner is acting unlovably.

Agapé love is not just something that happens to you, it is something you make happen.

Agapé love is a personal act of commitment.

The love that Jesus Christ has for all humanity is gift love, a sacrificial love that does not wane but is unconditional.

Jesus Christ’s love is eternal, and is the perfect love pattern for our marriage.

Galatians 5:22 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,”*

Agapé love is one of the fruits that a relationship with the Holy Spirit can bring into our married life.

Under each word for love overleaf, write five specific examples of what you will do to enhance your marriage love relationship.

Eros

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- 2
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- 3
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- 4
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- 5
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Philia

- 1
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- 2
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- 3
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- 4
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- 5
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Agapé

- 1
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- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

What do you feel are the three main hindrances in a couple's marriage to stop their love growing?

- 1
- 2
- 3

Your marriage love will either live or die.

What kills love?

Love dies when you spend little or no time together or when you stop sharing activities that you both enjoy.

Love dies when you fail to compliment, caress and smile at your partner. Love dies when you stop showing compassion.

What are you doing now to reinforce your future marriage love?

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What will you do when you are married?

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How will the presence of Jesus Christ in your life help you to love your spouse through eros, philia and agapé love?

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