

Solid Love Never Fails

There is a type of love that contrasts with the “liquid love” that is prevalent in today’s world. It is a love that puts out the fire of conflict, a love which acts as an antidote against cooling, “a love that never fails” (1 Cor. 13:8). It is the solid love which goes beyond the ups and downs of all human relationships and becomes an anchor in stormy times. Solid love includes falling in love, but it goes far beyond the initial “magic feeling”. To examine the nature of such love is the goal of this talk.

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Introduction

In contrast to “liquid love”, which depends almost exclusively on feelings, solid love can be compared to a building. Its construction requires three main elements which constitute the essence of marriage:

I. A solid foundation

Love is a covenant and is expressed by **faithfulness**

There is a steady rock upon which the edifice of solid love is built: the commitment stemming from a covenant. Loving is much more than just feeling. To love means staying faithful to the promises made.

In God's eyes the covenant of marriage is a fundamental covenant, not just a simple agreement between two people that can be terminated lightly.

II. A healthy growth

Love is closeness and is expressed by **intimacy**

Intimacy is to a couple what oxygen is to the lungs. Intimacy is closeness at all levels, it is global: it tries to get close to and inside the other one at the emotional and physical levels.

“To become one flesh” is not just about sexuality, but also about empathy. It is the desire to penetrate the soul of the loved one and to achieve a real encounter between two people

Intimacy excludes parallel lives -living together, but apart. Intimacy tries to get to know, to understand the other, it doesn't aspire to change the other one, but to accept

III. **A good maintenance**

Love is reconciliation and is expressed by **forgiveness**

Every building must have an adequate upkeep. Restoration can fix cracks and crevices when they come up. The same thing happens with the building of love: the process of dealing with conflict must be done in the right way, so reconciliation -restoration- happens.

To get angry is not the problem, but to remain angry. In fact, the health of marriage is not measured by how much or how little spouses fight, but by how long it takes them to get back to normal. The quickness of reconciliation is an indicator of the maturity of the relationship. "Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry" (Eph. 4:26).

Conclusion: "I was looking for healing, but I discovered that I needed holiness as well".

A love that never fails is supernatural: it is a divine gift.

- The God who drew close to us through Christ is the one who prepares us for intimacy
- The God who did not spare any efforts to reconcile us is the one who prepares us for forgiveness.