

Marry Your Best Friend

This is advice written by Dr. John Gottman in his book *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*. In Dr. Gottman's words, "The simple truth is that happy marriages are based on a deep friendship. By this, I mean a mutual respect for and enjoyment of each others' company." Today, we celebrate a friendship that began 12 years ago and has grown into the love Sarah and Jeremy feel today...a love that takes pleasure in just being together.

Blessing For A Marriage - James Dillet Freeman

"May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring, and may life grant you also patience, tolerance, and understanding.

May you always need one another -- not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you to know your fullness. A mountain needs a valley to be complete. The valley does not make the mountain less, but more. And the valley is more a valley because it has a mountain towering over it.

So let it be, with you, and you.

May you need one another, but not out of weakness.

May you want one another, but not out of lack.

May you entice one another, but not compel one another. May you embrace one another, but not out encircle one another.

May you succeed in all-important ways with one another, and not fail in the little graces.

May you look for things to praise, often say, "I love you!" and take no notice of small faults.

If you have quarrels that push you apart, may both of you hope to have good sense enough to take the first step back. May you enter into the mystery that is the awareness of one another's presence -- no more physical than spiritual, warm and near when you are side by side, and warm and near when you are in separate rooms or even distant cities. May you have happiness, and may you find it making one another happy.

May you have love, and may you find it loving one another."

I Carry Your Heart with Me

I carry your heart with me(i carry it in my heart). I am never without it (anywhere I go you go,my dear; and whatever is done by only me is your doing, my darling) I fear no fate(for you are my fate, my sweet). I want no world (for beautiful you are my world, my true) and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant and whatever a sun will always sing is you here is the deepest secret nobody knows (here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud and the sky of the sky of a tree called life; which grows higher than soul can hope or mind can hide) and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart I carry your heart(I carry it in my heart)

Chinese philosopher - Lao Tzu

"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."

Pooja and Ankur, may the love that you share for each other forever be a source of strength and courage in your lives. And may your journey of a thousand miles together be one of boundless hope and happiness.

“Be content with what you have;
rejoice in the way things are.
When you realize there is nothing lacking,
the whole world belongs to you.”

Short-n-Sweet

Life is short
Make it sweet
There are moments
You can't repeat
As you travel
Thru life's span
Make it count
Best you can

The Most Wonderful of All Things in Life

The most wonderful of all things in life is the discovery of another human being with whom one's relationship has a growing depth, beauty and joy as the years increase. This inner progressiveness of love between two human beings is a most marvelous thing; it cannot be found by looking for it or by passionately wishing for it. It is a sort of divine accident, and the most wonderful of all things in life.

True Love

True love is a sacred flame
That burns eternally
And none can dim its special glow
Or change its destiny
True love speaks in tender tones
And hears with gentle ear
True love gives with open heart
And true love conquers fear
True love makes no harsh demands
It neither rules nor binds
And true love holds with gentle hands
The heart that it entwines

He is not Perfect – Bob Marley

He's not perfect. You aren't either, and the two of you will never be perfect. But if he can make you laugh at least once, causes you to think twice, and if he admits to being human and making mistakes, hold onto him and give him the most you can. He isn't going to quote poetry, he's not thinking about you every moment, but he will give you a part of him that he knows you could break. Don't hurt him, don't change him, and don't expect for more than he can give. Don't analyze. Smile when he makes you happy, yell when he makes you mad, and miss him when he's not there. Love hard when there is love to be had. Because perfect guys don't exist, but there's always one guy that is perfect for you.

Why Marriage? - Mari Nichols-Haining

Because to the depths of me, I long to love one person,

With all my heart, my soul, my mind, my body...
Because I need a forever friend to trust with the intimacies of me,
Who won't hold them against me.
Who loves me when I'm unlikable
Who sees the small child in me and
Who looks for the divine potential of me.
Because I need to cuddle in the warmth of the night
With someone who thanks God for me
With someone I feel blessed to hold.
Because marriage is a discipline
To be added to a list of achievements...
Because marriages do not fail, people fail
When they enter into marriage
Expecting another to make them whole
Because, knowing this,
I promise myself to take full responsibility
For my spiritual, mental, and physical wholeness
I create me.
I take half of the responsibility for my marriage
Because together we create this marriage
And because with this understanding
The possibilities are limitless

Jane Eyre - Charlotte Bronte

I have for the first time found what I can truly love
I have found you.
You are my sympathy, my better self, my good angel.
I am bound to you with a strong attachment.
I think you good, gifted, lovely, a fervent.
A solemn passion is conceived in my heart.
It leans to you, draws you to my center and spring of life,
wraps my existence about you..
and kindling in pure, powerful flame,
fuses you and me in one.

Touched by An Angel - Maya Angelou

*We, unaccustomed to courage
exiles from delight
live coiled in shells of loneliness
until love leaves its high holy temple
and comes into our sight
to liberate us into life.
Love arrives
and in its train come ecstasies
old memories of pleasure
ancient histories of pain.
Yet if we are bold,
love strikes away the chains of fear
from our souls.
We are weaned from our timidity
In the flush of love's light
we dare be brave
And suddenly we see
that love costs all we are*

On Your Wedding Day

Today is the day you will always remember
the greatest in anyone's life.
You'll start off the day just two people in love
and end it as Husband and Wife
It's a brand-new beginning, the start of a journey,
with moments to cherish and treasure
and although there will be times when you both disagree
these will surely be outweighed by pleasure
You'll have heard many words of advice in the past
when the secrets of marriage were spoken,
but you know that the answers lie hidden inside
where the bond of true love lives unbroken.
So live happy forever as lovers and friends
it's the dawn of a new life for you,
as you stand there together with love in your eyes
from the moment you say " I Do"
And, with luck, all your hopes and your dreams can be real
may success find its way to your hearts,
tomorrow can bring you the greatest of joys
but today is the day it all starts.

Love is patient, Love is Kind

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Bob Dylan's Wedding Song

I love you more than ever, more than time and more than love
I love you more than money and more than the stars above
Love you more than madness, more than waves upon the sea
Love you more than life itself, you mean that much to me
Ever since you walked right in, the circle's been complete
I've said goodbye to haunted rooms and faces in the street
To the courtyard of the jester which is hidden from the sun
I love you more than ever and I haven't yet begun

Words by Frederick Buechner

"They say they will love, comfort, honor each other to the end of their days. They say they will cherish each other and be faithful to each other always. They say they will do these things not just when they feel like it, but even -- for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health -- when they don't feel like it at all. In other words, the vows they make could hardly be more extravagant. They give away their freedom. They take on themselves each other's burdens. They bind their lives together... The question is, what do they get in return?"

"They get each other in return... There will always be the other to talk to, to listen to... There is still someone to get through the night with, to wake into the new day beside. If they have children, they can give them, as well as each other, roots and wings. If they don't have children, they each become the other's child.

"They both still have their lives apart as well as a life together. They both still have their separate ways to find. But a marriage made in heaven is one where a man and a woman become more richly themselves together than the chances are either of them could ever have managed to become alone."

"Marriage"

Marriage is a commitment to life, the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other relationship can equal. It is a physical and an emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime. Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener and critic. Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life. Happiness is fuller, memories are fresher, commitment is stronger, even anger is felt more strongly and passes away more quickly. Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences and new ways of expressing a love that is deeper than life. When two people pledge their love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique unto themselves which binds them closer than any spoken or written words. Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people who love each other and takes a lifetime to fulfill.

"The One" by Sultan Thomas

At this time, Murray and Beth Ann would like to invite Sultan Thomas to read a poem called "The One"

When the one whose hand you're holding
Is the one who holds your heart
When the one whose eyes you gaze into
Gives your hopes and dreams their start,
When the one you think of first and last
Is the one who holds you tight,
And the things you plan together
Make the whole world seem just right,
When the one whom you believe in
puts their faith and trust in you,
You've found the one and only love
You'll share your whole life through.

The Key to Love

The key to love is understanding ... The ability to comprehend not only the spoken word, but those unspoken gestures, the little things that say so much by themselves.

The key to love is forgiveness to accept each other's faults and pardon mistakes, without forgetting, but with remembering what you learn from them.

The key to love is sharing ... Facing your good fortunes as well as the bad, together; both conquering problems, forever searching for ways to intensify your happiness.

The key to love is giving ... without thought of return, but with the hope of just a simple smile, and by giving in but never giving up.

The key to love is respect ... realizing that you are two separate people, with different ideas; that you don't belong to each other, that you belong with each other, and share a mutual bond.

The key to love is inside us all ... It takes time and patience to unlock all the ingredients that will take you to its threshold; it is the continual learning process that demands a lot of work ... but the rewards are more than worth the effort ... and that is the key to love.