

Marriage for Heaven's Sakes

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IF YOU'RE EVER GOING TO LOVE ME

If you're ever going to love me, love me now, while I can know
All the sweet and tender feelings which from real affection flow.

Love me now, while I am living; do not wait till I am gone
And then chisel it in marble—warm love words on ice-cold stone.

If you've dear, sweet thoughts about me, why not whisper them to me?
Don't you know 'twould make me happy and as glad as glad can be?

If you wait till I am sleeping, ne'er to waken here again,
There'll be walls of earth between us and I couldn't hear you then.

If you knew someone was thirsting for a drop of water sweet,
Would you be so slow to bring it? Would you step with laggard feet?

There are tender hearts all 'round us who are thirsting for our love;
Why withhold from them what nature makes them crave all else above?

I won't need your kind words when the grass grows o'er my face.
I won't crave your love or kisses in my last low resting place.

So then, if you love me any, if it's but a little bit,

Let me know it now while we are living so I can own and treasure it.

Author unknown.

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“The Lord says in definite terms: ‘Thou shalt love thy wife with all thy heart, and shalt cleave unto her and none else’ (D&C 42:22). The words ***none else*** eliminate everyone and everything. The spouse then becomes preeminent in the life of the husband or wife—and neither social life nor occupational life nor political life nor any other interest nor person nor thing shall ever take precedence over the companion spouse. **We sometimes find women who absorb and hover over the children at the expense of the husband, sometimes even estranging them from him. This is in direct violation of the command: ‘none else’** (President Spencer W. Kimball, *Miracle of Forgiveness* p. 251).”

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“There are many marriages where the spouses have permitted their marriage to grow stale and weak and cheap. There are many spouses who have fallen from the throne of adoration and worship and are in the low state of mere joint occupancy in the home, joint sitters at the table, joint possessors of certain things which cannot be easily divided. These people are on the path that leads to trouble. **These people will do well to reevaluate, to renew their courting, to express their affection, to acknowledge kindness, and to increase their consideration, so their marriage again can become beautiful, sweet and growing**” (*Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, p. 308).

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“One of the most provocative and profound statements in holy writ is that of Paul wherein he directs husbands and wives in their duty to each other and to family.

First, he commands the women: “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing” (Ephesians 5:22–24).

“I sometimes think our own Latter-day Saint women are ‘needy’; just because some of us are not as thoughtful and considerate of them as we should be. Our pantries can be filled with food and yet our sisters can be starved for affection and recognition” (Ibid., p. 316).

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President David O. McKay said when we marry we should enter into a contest for the rest of our lives together, to see who can **out-serve, out-compliment, out-surprise, out-love the other.**

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President Hinckley says that the health and happiness, the safety and **well-being of our spouse, should be the most important thing in our lives.**

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I really recommend that couples study the teachings of President Kimball, President Benson, and other latter-day prophets to see exactly what they have to say about courting, marriage, child-bearing and -raising, divorce, etc. They are truly the mouthpieces of the Lord on the earth during

their time, and it is very enlightening to see just how the Lord looks at these subjects. We will all do well to heed their counsel, always—and certainly in the area of marriage relationships, which area either prepares us for exaltation or will doom us to not enjoying the eternal life which we all claim that we do want to inherit.

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