



Marriage Weekend Session 2: Passion

Passion in marriage is affectionate love.
 The Greek word for this love is *eros*.
 The goal of affectionate love is satisfaction.

A healthy marriage is fueled by the power of passion.

Dating in popular American culture typically builds on a foundation of passion and not friendship. Infatuation is often the only needed ingredient. When the feelings are gone, the relationship dissolves.

Marriages built on an infatuation foundation quickly crumble.

Intimacy produces passion.
Example: The geeky guy and the beautiful woman

Passion energizes and fuels a marriage with vitality.

A marriage can survive without affectionate love, but a passionless marriage is not God's ideal marriage. Affectionate love—including sex and romance — is just as important as friendship love.

Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and always be enraptured with her love.

Proverbs 5:18-19 NKJV

Passion will ebb and flow in a healthy marriage and over time it will mature, grow, and deepen.

A passionate marriage is a healthy marriage.

1) Emotional Bank Accounts

Both you and your spouse have an emotional bank account where you make withdrawals and deposits.

Maintaining passion in your marriage requires regular deposits in your spouse's emotional bank account. To continually make withdrawals without corresponding deposits can lead to emotional bankruptcy.

Making emotional deposits makes your spouse feel loved by you. You may tell them you love them (friendship love) and they may be confident you love them (covenant love), but emotional deposits allow them to experience your love (affectionate love).

2) Love languages

We make emotional deposits using the languages of love.
 The love languages are the currency in our relationship.

1. Words of Affirmation
2. Quality Time
3. Receiving Gifts
4. Acts of Service
5. Physical Touch

Your love language is how you feel loved by your spouse. Most people have a combination of two love languages with one of the two being more dominant.

Your goal is to discover your spouse's love language and make emotional deposits using that language.

3) Romance

Affectionate love can be measured in terms of the emotional adventure of romance, that is, feeling special, wanted, and desired.

Romance makes your marriage relationship distinct from a relationship with friends. You may have many friends, but you only have one romantic partner. Romance is exclusive.

Romance says to your spouse, "*You are the only one for me. I want to be with you and no one else.*"

All husbands want to be desired by their wives and all wives want to be desired by their husbands.

Excessive flirting, emotional affairs, and pornography can each destroy romance, even if these activities are done on the Internet.

What drains romance?

1. Familiarity (pursue the person, not the novelty)
2. A false view of security (there are 3 kinds of love not just 1)
3. Children (Babies change everything / mom & dad time)
4. Physical/emotional exhaustion (busy: the new "b" word)
5. Financial burdens (romance ≠ money / be creative)

4) Sex

Sex is good and created by God.

(Proverbs 5:18-19; Song of Songs 1:1-2, 7:1-13; I Corinthians 7:1-9; & Hebrews 13:4)

Sex is good, but it is exceedingly complicated primarily because husbands and wives do not view sex the same way.

A number of things are required for a wife to be ready for sex. There are a number of buttons to be pushed, a number of dials to be tuned in before she is ready. A husband has just one need. He just needs his wife to show up.

Sex is the glue that holds your marriage together. Do not let the glue harden and become a wedge.

- a. Husbands, sex is not your right, but the reward of your pursuit of your wife. *Pursue her and not sex.*
- b. Wives, sex is not your weapon, but the reward of your pursuit of your husband. *Avoid using sex as manipulation or punishing your husband by withholding it.*

The number one way you can improve your sex life is to talk about it honestly with your spouse.

