



Marriage minute

A marriage ministry of St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Unconditional Love

**“Christ died for the ungodly.....But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us.”
Romans 5:6-8**

Love. We use this word in so many ways in society. We love our job, we love a particular movie, food, or song. But has that downgraded the meaning of the word when it comes to our spouse? We potentially fall in and out of love with movies, actors, foods, or bands but loving your spouse is a daily active choice. Unconditional love (also known as agape love) is not determined by the one being loved but rather by a daily commitment of choosing to love. Christ died for us, the ungodly. Christ died for you, a sinner. Christ died for your spouse, a sinner. You daily have the opportunity to love your spouse no matter how they respond to you. God doesn't love us because we are loveable, rather He loves us because HE is so loving!

God does not expect us to prove ourselves worthy of His love. He knows we would fail miserably. Therefore, don't expect your spouse to prove themselves worthy of your love. Because God chooses to love us unconditionally (despite our sin), we receive his love and follow his Word. We love because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19).

The love for your spouse must be built on more than just affection, friendship, and physical

attraction. It must be built on a solid foundation of daily commitment to the unconditional love Christ has for us. This is the love Christ has perfected in his relationship with us based on Romans 8:38-39, “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Great marriages happen when both individuals make the daily choice to actively love one another like Christ loved us.

Thoughts to reflect upon:

1. Has the love I have shown my spouse been based on feelings or circumstance?
2. Identify, with your spouse, times you have loved your spouse unconditionally?
3. Create a private list of ways you can love your spouse unconditionally and commit to doing those things regularly without expectation of anything in return. Do them out of the joy of having your spouse as a partner in the unity of marriage.

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