



Marriage minute

A marriage ministry of St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Appreciation

Do you like it when your spouse appreciates you? Do you think your spouse likes it when you appreciate him or her? Of course. What are you doing to show that appreciation to each other?

**The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you and be
gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you and give
you peace. NUMBERS 6:24-25**

Have you heard of survivor's guilt? An infantryman dies from an IED and his sergeant feels guilty for having led his men down that street. Many soldiers feel guilt for returning home when some of their fellow soldiers didn't. Ours should be a story of survivor's guilt. But it isn't. A quick review of the times we've taken each other for granted shows we don't deserve God's favor. Yet ever since the first sin this has been God's plan: to be gracious to you, turn his face toward you and give you peace. He shows his fondness for you especially in Jesus.

What are you doing to express your fondness for each other? It's easy to say, "Oh, she knows." What if the LORD had said that about his fondness for you? You wouldn't know. Your spouse needs to know of your appreciation.

Scan the horizon of your marriage looking for fault and you'll find it. Scan the horizon looking for reasons and ways to express your fondness for your spouse and you'll find them, too.

- Each of you commit to doing this in the next 24 hours: ask one other married person, "Tell me how your spouse expresses appreciation for what you do." Tomorrow discuss what you've learned.

Pray that you enjoy the LORD's favor without guilt and pray that you find new ways to express your appreciation to each other.

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