



## Everlasting Love

MBC Feb. 21, 2010 – Pastor Barry R. Mulligan

### YOU CAN'T GIVE WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE

*We love because he first loved us.* 1 John 4:9  
*Forgive as the Lord forgave you.* Colossians 3:13

### THREE MARRIAGE SKILLS

#### 1. Remembering that we are different & treat each other accordingly.

*God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.* Genesis 1:27

<sup>33</sup>*each one of you must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.* Ephesians 5:33

#### 2. Asking and granting forgiveness.

<sup>32</sup>*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.* Ephesians 4:32

<sup>8</sup>*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.* <sup>10</sup>*If we claim we have not sinned, we make him (Christ) out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.* 1 John 1:8, 10

#### 3. Obeying God's command to love & keep on loving.

*Love one another deeply, from the heart.* 1 Peter 1:22

### LOVE DARE CHALLENGE

• **All:** If you've never received everlasting love from Christ, accept it today.

• **Husbands/Wives:** Ask the Lord each day this week to show you one way to love your wife/husband; then do it.

• **Singles:** Make a list of six family members, co-workers, or friends. Then for each person, assign him/her a day when you can show your love, appreciation, or honor; then do it.

• **Couples:** take a little time together, sometime this week, and watch your wedding video, look through your wedding album, or read your vows to each other again.

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**You & me until death.** – our promise

**What God has joined together, let no one separate.**  
– God's will

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### WEDDING VOWS

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wife/husband.  
To have and to hold from this day forward.  
For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health.  
To love and cherish as long as we both shall live,  
until death do us part.*

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### SEASONS/PASSAGES OF MARRIAGE

- **The First Passage—Young Love**, the first 2 years
- **The Second Passage—Realistic Love**, 3rd – the 10th year
- **The Third Passage—Comfortable Love**, 11th – the 25th year
- **The Fourth Passage—Renewing Love**, 26th – the 35th year
- **The Fifth Passage—Transcendent Love**, 26 years+  
from Passages of Marriage by Dr. Newman, Minirth, & Hemfelt

- **Season of Great Expectations**
- **Season of Exploration**
- **Season of Re-evaluation**
- **Season of Renegotiation**
- **Season of Reversal**

from Dr. Bob Hicks, author, chaplain, professor