

Keeping The Fire Going – Part Two

by Lloyd Biddle

*"He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord."
Proverbs 18:22*

*"Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies."
Proverbs 31:10*

Husbands, how did you find your wife? Did someone say, "Man, I know a wonderful woman you should meet?" Did you meet her at a party, see her at school, or catch a glimpse of her at the store? In our last issue of the Reasonable Service Review, I discussed how my romance with my beautiful wife, Debbie, began when I saw her at the bookstore in college. After college, I looked for her and found her at her apartment in Schaumburg, IL and we began our courtship. Just as Proverbs declares, when I found her, I found a good thing and a priceless jewel!

Like I did, when you find a wonderful lady and are drawn to her, you need to win her heart. And in order to win her heart, you seek her company. You ask her to go to dinner with you. You take her to the movies. You buy tickets to the play she wants to see and escort her there. Because of all the attention you give her and the nice places you take her to, she begins to believe you must really think she is special. And this is exactly what you want her to think because the more time you spend with her, the more you get to know about her character, the more attractive she becomes to you. "Lord", you say to yourself, "this really looks like the one." So you call her nearly every day just to find out how her day is going, and you just can't seem to wait until you see her face-to-face again. By now, you know what she likes to do. Soon she wants you to visit her church and, perhaps, meet her parents.

Now if you are really drawn to her, these next important steps in your relationship are not a problem. In getting close to her relationally, you want to know about her relationship with God, her parents and her friends. You really begin to put the "full court press" on her because you have fully committed to making her your wife.

Gentlemen, do you remember how fun and exciting this pursuit was? Do you remember how much you enjoyed being in her presence and making her feel special by what you said and did and the nice places you took her to? Marriage is not the time for the pursuit and courting to end. Marriage is the place where the romance continues and deepens.

*"He brought me to the banqueting house. And his banner over me was love."
Song of Solomon 2:4*

*"I sat down in his shade with great delight, And his fruit was sweet to my taste."
Song of Solomon 2:3 c-d*

Marriage is the time to take her on special weekends away, just the two of you. Marriage is the time when the king brings his queen into his chambers to build oneness with her. Marriage is the time for the deepest intimacy, the sharing of the innermost thoughts, and feelings, and dreams. If while courting, you can find time to plan the perfect outing, how much more so should you find the time in marriage, since you know her needs and desires so much better. Marriage is the time to continue setting aside time regularly just for the two of you. Yes, you may need to line up baby sitters or lay aside some other activities but your "perfect one" is well worth a little sacrificing just to get closer to her. Yes, closer to her; that is your goal at all times. In marriage, the aim is to get closer, tighter, more intimate, more united, and to do so you need to set aside time to connect, often. Wise couples that love and cherish each other make this regular connection time a high priority in their marriages.

Wifie and I have recently experienced a death in our family. Dealing with the funeral arrangements and needs of the family, required us to be apart for nearly a week. This week, I am going to schedule a lunch for just the two of us or maybe even massages for each of us with lunch at a place she really likes. Debbie likes to get a massage and we need some connection time. Just like your wife, she has needs and wants. She needs me to make sure there is money to purchase food for the household, but she likes dinner at Red Lobster. She needs clothes for herself and her children, but she likes jewelry. She needs me to call her when I am at work from time-to-time, but she likes to receive red roses and white tulips for no special occasion. And my great desire and commitment is to fill all her needs and most of her desires. I think she knows this in her heart and loves me even more because I am seeking to continue developing our love.

This week I am on vacation so I am home with Wifie. One day after a nap, I went into her home office just to check in on her. She came over to me and gave me a hug. She held on a little longer than usual, so, I just held on close too. Wifie is in mourning due to the recent passing of her dad, so while we were hugging she began to cry a little. After a few moments, she was OK and went back to what she was doing. During the whole experience, neither of us said a single word. Neither of us needed to say a word because we know each other so well and love each other so dearly. Making a commitment to romance and intimacy brings this kind of tenderness and sweetness out in marriage and helps us keep the fire going after 18 years.