



30 Days of Carrying My Wife

Has your marriage lost the spark it once had? Are you caught up in the day in and day out routine between raising the children, maintaining your home and your career. Whether you are a husband or wife this article is for you. Let me encourage you to consider what I am saying. I don't claim to be an expert on marriage but my wife and I have been married as of April 13th 2021 for 36 years and we have learned a few things over time.

Certainly I am not suggesting that we have done everything right because we haven't. We have created some wonderful memories over the years but we have many regrets over things that have done some harm emotionally. That is why forgiveness towards each other is so vitally important. ***Remember that forgiveness is not something earned but it is a gift given!*** The Bible teaches us that we ought to be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving others as God has forgiven us...in ***Ephesians 4:32***.



Because of the apparent disappointments that are sure to come and that have occurred in marriage, couples have grown apart. They no longer look at each other with love and adoration in their eyes. Don't forget that you cannot drive down the road of life by looking in the rear view mirror. Neither can we enjoy the heaven on earth experience that God intended marriage to be.

One of my mentors shared a story of a couple who had experienced the terrible pain of infidelity by the husband. He sat there as the wife kept asking her husband why he did what he did to which he said, "***I do not know!***". This went on for some time when my mentor stopped them and said something that you and I probably have not considered.

He told this couple who was deeply wounded over the husband's infidelity that they needed to **circumcise** their relationship in order for their marriage to survive. He said to the wife, You are wanting answers that your husband cannot give you! He could come up with things that would never satisfy you. WHY? **Because ALL SIN IS A FORM OF INSANITY!** Sin is illogical, irrational and insane.

When the Apostle Paul wrote in **Ephesians 4:30**, "*And GRIEVE not the Holy Spirit of God whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption.*" The term 'grieve' comes from the Greek Word, '**Lupete**' which describes the grief a married spouse would feel when they found out their spouse had been unfaithful and committed adultery! This is more than sorrow, but rather a deep sorrowing or sadness that cannot be alleviated. We can not only do it to the Holy Spirit but we can do it to our husbands and wives!



Circumcision is an Old Testament ceremony that was performed on a male within the first 8 days of their birth. Basically it represented the cutting away of the filth of the flesh. My mentor was telling this couple if they were to have a chance at surviving this betrayal of adultery there had to be a cutting away of the filth of this adulterous event. In this case the couple who had been married for many years took this counsel and put the husbands sin of betrayal behind them and through strategic steps their marriage began to thrive again!



I have heard seemingly every excuse as to why one spouse cannot forgive the actions of the other spouse. If you are a Christian then you have in you what is necessary to forgive and move forward in your marriage. There are things you, as a couple, can do to prevent such occurrences in your marriage.

One thing you should never stop doing after your wedding ceremony are the things you did to win the love of your partner. Some couples fail to recognize the strength of their wedding vows. Some have watered them down to have little meaning or they just forget the commitment they made on that day. A vow is a verbal commitment to the covenant of marriage and God takes them very seriously and so should we.



Before I give you some idea's on keeping the spark in your marriage alive I want to share a story I read some time ago. It's called, **"30 Days of Carrying My Wife"**.



I got home one night and, as my wife served dinner, I held her hand and said, "I want a divorce." She didn't seem to be annoyed by my words. Instead, she softly asked me why. I avoided the question, and this made her angry. She threw down the chopsticks and shouted, "You are not a man!" We didn't talk to each other that night. She was weeping. I

knew she wanted to find out what had happened to our marriage, but I could hardly give her a satisfactory answer; she had lost my heart to Jane. I didn't love her anymore. I just pitied her!

With a deep sense of guilt, I drafted a divorce agreement stating that she could keep the house, the car, and a 30% share of my company. She glanced at it and tore it to pieces. The woman who had spent ten years of her life with me had become a stranger. I felt sorry for her wasted time, resources, and energy, but I could not take back what I had said. She finally cried loudly in front of me, which was what I had expected to see in the first place, and the idea of divorce felt more real now.

I got home very late from work the next day and found her writing something at the table. I didn't have dinner, I just went straight to bed and fell asleep. In the morning she presented her divorce conditions: she didn't want anything from me but requested that for the next month we both struggle to live as normal a life as possible. Her reasons were simple: our

son had his exams in a month, and she didn't want to disrupt him with a broken marriage.

She also asked me to recall how I had carried her into our bridal room on our wedding day and requested that I now carry her out of our bedroom to the front door every morning for the month's duration. I thought she was going crazy, but to make our last days together bearable, I accepted her odd request.

We were both pretty clumsy about it when I carried her out on the first day, but our son was joyfully clapping his hands behind us, singing, "**Daddy is holding mommy in his arms!**" His words triggered a sense of pain in me. I carried her from the bedroom to the living room, and then to the door. She closed her eyes and softly said, "Don't tell our son about the divorce." I nodded and put her down outside the door.

We weren't as clumsy on the second day. She leaned on my chest, and I could smell the fragrance of her blouse. I realized that I hadn't really looked at this woman for a long time. She was not young anymore. There were fine wrinkles on her face, and her hair was graying! Our marriage had taken its toll on her. For a minute I wondered what I had done to her.

On the fourth day, when I lifted her up, I felt a sense of intimacy returning. This was the woman who had given 10 years of her life to me. On the fifth and sixth day, I realized that our sense of intimacy was growing again. It became easier to carry her as the month slipped by, and I suddenly realized that she was getting very thin.

One morning it hit me how she was burying so much pain and bitterness in her heart, and without really thinking about it, I reached out and touched her head. Our son came in at that moment and said, "Dad, it's time to carry mom out!"



To him, seeing his father carry his mother out had become an essential part of every morning. My wife gestured to our son to come closer, and hugged him tightly. I turned my face away because I was afraid I might start changing my mind. I carried her in my arms, and her hand naturally wrapped around my neck. I held her body tightly, just like on our wedding day.

On the last day, when I held her in my arms, I could hardly move a step. I knew what I had to do. I drove to Jane's place, walked upstairs and said, "I'm sorry, Jane, but I do not want to divorce my wife anymore."

It all became very clear to me. I had carried my wife into our home on our wedding day, and I am to hold her "until death do us part." I bought a bouquet of flowers for my wife on my way home, and when the salesgirl asked me what to write on the card, I smiled and said, "I'll carry you out every morning until death do us part."

I got home, flowers in my hands, and a big smile on my face. But my wife had died in her sleep while I was away. It turns out that she'd been fighting cancer for a few months now, but I was too busy with Jane to even notice. She knew that she would die soon, but wanted to save me from a negative reaction from our son (in case we push through with the divorce). In the eyes of our son, at least, I would still appear to have been a loving husband. I carried her out for the last time...



The small details of our lives, that I initially thought were boring and unimportant, are what really matter in a relationship; not the mansion, the car, personal property, or the money in the bank. These things may create an environment conducive to happiness, but they cannot provide happiness in and of themselves.

So find time to be your lover's friend, and to do those little things for each other that build intimacy.



Many people do not realize how close they are to success when they give up!

My main tip to keeping the spark alive in your marriage is to keep doing the things that you did to win the love and respect of your mate. Have a date night at least once a month. Better yet it would be good to have it one once a week.

Ideas for a date night could range from taking a walk on the beach or in a park or just through the neighborhood. Going bowling, planning a picnic lunch, having a romantic dinner at home by candlelight. Do something outside of your comfort zone but something your spouse enjoys doing. Men hate shopping but what a surprise it would be if you planned to go shopping with your wife OR surprise your husband by going to the golf course or driving range with him.

If you really think about it there are a multitude of ideas for a date night that are available on the internet. If finances are an issue there are plenty of ideas on NO-Cost ideas for a date night online. Take some steps on your part husbands and wives and work on keeping the spark in your marriage alive!

- Michael J. Burns

PS. Visit our website at www.mjbministries.org to find other articles that can help you grow spiritually.