



## **My Thoughts On 37 Years of Marriage**

by Rev. Cynthia A. Burns

***Marriage is the closest thing to a heaven or hell that one can experience on the earth!*** - Dr. Edwin Louis Cole

This month my husband and I will be celebrating 37 years of marriage. I know that many of you have been together longer than us, but 37 years is still a milestone. ***Did you know that the average marriage lasts approximately 8.2 years(a) in today's society?***

When a man and woman get married they are exchanging vows with each other where they are making a commitment; *in sickness and health, richer or poorer, till death do us part. A commitment that is supposed to last a lifetime.* I speak from experience when I tell you that there will be times when you will experience every one of these scenarios through this thing called ***life***.

The first thing we should understand when deciding to marry someone; is the term ***commitment*** - it is defined as *a pledge or a promise, a dedication and allegiance(b)*. In the marriage ceremony one is making a pledge, a promise to dedicate oneself to another. They are making an allegiance or you could say a ***covenant***; they are deciding to be loyal to that one person for the rest of their natural life.

In a society where promises are broken and loyalty can be bought, it's rare to see two married people's relationship last longer than 8.2 years let alone 37 or 50 years. Everyday you will have the opportunity

to choose to walk in love toward each other. I'm not speaking of the love that the world declare's is love; you know *I'm committed till I get bored, tired, or I don't want to be married any longer*. **I'm talking about the God kind of love.** Agape is the Greek word and is defined in the following scripture.

### 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

*4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant*

*5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;*

*6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.*

*7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*8 **Love never ends.** As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away(c). ESV*

Oh, to love and be loved like the Bible says is the greatest love of all. You can love in marriage by seeing your spouse as God sees them and responding to them as God would respond to them. One can enjoy marriage or one can endure marriage; the choice is ours to make.

I know that in our 37 years of marriage, we have had tears, hardships, and even loss; who hasn't? We've also had lots of laughter (*my husband is the funniest man*)! We have had fun times such as family outings, picnics, the birth of our son, his many graduations, church services, as well as adventures that have taken us from coast to coast.

We have also experienced **growth**. It would be impossible to **grow** if one chooses to stay the same and then expect to remain loyal in their marriage relationship. Couples need to help each other to become the best God ordained person they are supposed to be. I believe that this

can only occur if each spouse chooses to keep walking in the **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** kind of Love every day.

God tells us to put on love,

**Colossians 3:14**

*And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony(c). ESV*

Take a daily dose of love from God's Word and believe that **Romans 5:5** is your reality because *...the love of God has been poured out in to your hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to you.* The result will be that you will enjoy a thriving marriage for 37 years and beyond.

Happy Anniversary Honey, I love You! I'm looking forward to many more exciting adventures in the next 37 years!

Credits:

- a. <https://www.goldbergjones-or.com/divorce/interesting-divorce-statistics/>
- b. [Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com)
- c. English Standard Version

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