

## When A Husband Loves His Wife

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A husband and wife were in counseling trying to piece their marriage back together. Finally the wife cried, "If only he would tell me once in a while that he loves me."

To which the husband replied, "I told her I loved her when we married 20 years ago. If I ever change my mind I'll tell her I don't."

Love just doesn't work that way. Persons who want to stay in love must constantly demonstrate their love through words and actions. Love must be nourished if it is to grow.

A study by a German insurance company found that husbands who kiss their wives every morning live an average of five years longer than those who do not. Furthermore, the husbands who kissed their wives each morning were involved in fewer traffic accidents, were ill 50 percent less often, and earned 20 to 30 percent more money.

The study did not trace the effect that the morning kiss had on the wives, but it probably improved their lives as well.

During their golden wedding anniversary celebration, the husband of 50 years was asked his secret for their successful marriage. He said that on their wedding day, his future father-in-law handed him a little box and said, "Within this package is everything you need to know to have a happy marriage."

Inside the box was a large gold watch. At first he didn't understand the meaning of the gift, but when he examined the watch closely he saw some words etched across the face of the watch. Whenever he checked the time of day, he would see these words, "Say something nice to Sarah."

The Bible says that husbands are to be "*considerate*" with their wives and to "*treat them with respect*" (I Peter 3:7). Respect and consideration must occur daily, all the time, or trust is broken and romance dies.

According to a best selling book, "Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus," women are motivated and empowered when they feel cherished. Something or someone that is cherished is highly esteemed, highly spoken of, and carefully treated.

When a man cherishes his wife, he sends her love notes, takes her to dinner, sends occasional flowers, and remembers her on special days such as Valentines Day. However, even more importantly, he treats her with respect and consideration all the time – in front of the kids, when talking privately with his friends, and even when she doesn't completely measure up to his expectations.

The story goes that a husband and wife awoke just as a Kansas tornado lifted their house from its foundation. As the storm gently set them down in the barnyard, the wife began to weep softly.

"Don't be afraid," her husband comforted.

"I'm not afraid," she replied. "I'm just so happy. This is the first time we've been out together in 25 years."

Seemingly, it will take a tornado to open the eyes of some men to what should be so obvious: the way to keep love alive is to treat her like a queen – all the time, not just on Valentine's Day.