

# I Love Being Married

## Five Great Reasons Why I Do And You Can

With over 50 years of marriage to my wife Sylvia under my belt, I have learned marriage is a wondrous mix of joy and sorrow.

Sylvia and I have struggled through challenges of raising teenagers, losing our first handicapped grandchild who died young, and times of financial hardship.

We have sometimes been childish and selfish and at times saying things we both regret.

Those are the times when we grit our teeth and hold on tight to the commitment we made before God, friends and family so long ago.

The truth is, Sylvia and I do **not** have a perfect marriage because we are imperfect people.

We each entered into our union with unique “*baggage*” and unrealistic expectations that still crop up after all these years.

But if given the opportunity, I would marry Sylvia again without second thoughts.

There are so many reasons why I treasure this wonderful, God-given gift of marriage, from the silly to the sublime to the deeply spiritual.

**Here are five reasons that might help you celebrate being married to your mate.**

### 1 Exclusive Membership

One of the great things about marriage is that you enjoy the privileges of a club in which you and your spouse are the only members. Each of us know the other better than anyone else ever can. What each of us worry about, cry over and laugh at. We have private jokes that make us laugh and only us.

We have coined funny nicknames for ourselves, and phrases that add pleasure and fun to our lives together.

When we have differences we know how to enjoy “*making up*” and re-bonding our union.

After all, part of what binds us together in marriage are the unique looks, gestures, phrases and memories we have built together.

When I meet Sylvia’s eyes across a crowded room I still experience that wonderful warm feeling I had when I first saw her over 53 years ago. No other person does that for me.

### 2 Double Your Pleasure

The interests and passions we bring to our marriage can double when shared with our mate. Sylvia and I first met at a Youth Convention in the same church denomination, both of us serving in different capacities in our own church.

Although we now serve in different Christian denominations, we find great pleasure in sharing the joys of that service with each other.

We also encourage each other when what we do for others in our church does not receive recognition or thanks.

### **3 The Power of Two**

I have always been grateful for the personality of my wife.

One thing that attracted me to her was her ability to make friends so easily. This came difficult for me when young because I was mostly an only child as my only sister was nine years older than I.

Also, my mother frowned on some of the friendships I would like to have developed. My mother was always very protective of me right to the age of 103 years.

Sylvia typically of most women reacts to circumstances based on feelings, while I depend more on logic.

Put the two together and it produces a balanced approach to any situation.

The reality is, our differing traits have up-sides and down-sides to them but most of the time balance each other.

Sylvia can get hyper in the kitchen before company come to visit, while I calmly go about certain tasks to add to the enjoyment of our guests.

Individually we are imperfect human beings, but together we comprise a pretty good team.

This attests to the wonder of God's design for marriage.

To take two struggling people, bring them into intimate community and transform them into a unit with the potential to accomplish so much more than they could ever do alone.

### **4 A Shoulder To Lean On**

Often we feel a little bruised by life.

Sylvia is now constantly in pain from sciatica in her left leg, I find walking difficult because of arthritis in both knees. Although our children are grown up we still are affected by their financial and emotional problems.

The family firm is going through difficult times so there is little money for holidays or outings in our supposed retirement days.

That's why it is so healing to start and end each day in each others arms, with a few hugs and kisses during the day.

When circumstances drag us down, strip us of self-confidence, or pile on the stress, it is wonderful to know we have each other to lean on.

There is wonderful comfort in knowing that in marriage we don't have to face hardships alone.

Sylvia and I are not the perfect comforters for each other, only the Holy Spirit can be. But I love the intimacy of finding and giving comfort to the one who loves me, warts and all.

## **5 Higher Goals of Marriage**

To experience a happy marriage is a wonderful goal to aim for.

For Christians marriage has a higher purpose, a larger mission and goal.

Marriage reflects Christ's relationship with His church to a watching world.

I'm convinced that God intends marriage to stretch us in ways it is difficult to experience otherwise.

After all, you are daily living with another flawed human being in need of God's grace, forgiveness, patience and love, just as we are.

Over the years my marriage has brought to the surface my appallingly selfish and controlling nature, and my lack of compassion. Also I'm glad to say exhilarating moments of utter selflessness.

My marriage with Sylvia and the events we have faced together has helped transform me into someone who is more Christ-like.

The great thing about marriage is that even during those tough moments of life together, it teaches us constancy, commitment and faithfulness.

I love being married, and watching God at work in me, making me a more Christ-like person.