

Keep love alive!

Our marriage may begin with romantic bliss, great expectations and love.

So why our nation's depressing divorce rate? One factor may be the unfortunate inability to cope with conflicting feelings towards our marriage partner. Did we, at first, see our beloved as perfect and fail to notice things we might not like in our spouse?

When the truth is eventually recognised, many newlyweds perversely do an about-face, reversing the good feelings about each other and concentrating on the bad. So negative!

How to remedy this?

First, why not abandon the unreasonable expectation that our loved one must be perfect? After all, don't we have a few flaws of our own?

Second, we ought to be aware that, despite his or her liabilities, our spouse will have assets we don't have – assets that deserve to be recognised and honoured.

Third, let's ask ourselves whether the trauma and guilt and bitterness and fruitlessness of a family breakup is really worth it.

In a marriage we can so easily defend selfishness, harsh thoughts, unkind words. Will we instead let strength of character win?

God, of course, has the best answer – “Love one another”! It's the commonsense response to marital discord.

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Look up 1 John 3.11.

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