

Marty and Diane, on behalf of your family and friends, we congratulate you, we give you our love, and we thank you for sharing your love with each other.

I hope you get a lot of gifts today, and if you're at all human I'm sure you hope you get a lot of gifts today, too. The most important gift you will get is one which you have already received, and one which you must give away. It's a gift you received from God, a gift you give to each other, the gift of love.

As you look back on your life, you may be unaware at what point God gave you that gift, but one thing is sure, God has called you to love each other. He's given you a vocation, a vocation to be married.

It is sometimes a winding road that brings people to a juncture in life. What seems clear at the beginning doesn't seem so clear as the road goes along. I'm sure when you each look back on your life you'd say that's true. And I'm sure every married couple in this church will tell you that the winding road doesn't end at marriage, it continues through life. God hasn't quit calling you, he will continue to call you to a new and more abundant life. It may be through territory that looks strange and even frightening to you. But never lose heart. What is new need not be fearsome--it may be the very presence of God calling you once again.

The gift of love, the greatest love of all, is a love till death. That comes from Jesus, not from Whitney Houston. The greatest love of all is the love Jesus gave for you, and the one he calls you to give again, to each other and to us. It's a love that casts out fear because it comes from God.