

Please be seated. (rehearsal)

Bob and Marcia, we congratulate you, we thank you for giving us this witness of married love. We need good examples of loving so we know how to do it. We, your family and friends, we depend on you to instruct us by your married life on the fine points of loving.

You chose among the Scripture readings today a very beautiful passage from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians about love. Paul writes this whole letter to a community that has been divided. They all believe in Christ, but in different ways. He begs them to try to get their act together. One of the things he tries to straighten out for them is who is more important than whom in the community. The Corinthians had different gifts: Some could preach, some could prophesy, some could pray well. Paul says that's all beautiful, but one gift surpasses all the rest in community, the gift of love.

I say this to Bob & Marcia as to any married couple here. You bring gifts to this relationship. You bring financial management, communication skills, knowledge of how to run a home. These gifts, wonderful in themselves, run the risk of competing against each other, unless they are undergirded with the greatest gift of all, the gift of love. It's a gift you have, and a gift you must give.

God has called you together, he longs to make you one. I urge you to respond to that call by giving to each other today and every day, that gift which surpasses all others, the gift of love.

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Houchens/McGraw

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