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“The mentally healthy person is the person who lives by love,  
reason and faith, who respects life--his own and that of fellow man.”

Erich Fromm

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## **Chapter Nine**

### **The Power of Majestic Love**

Insight #9: Majestic love is part of a rich tapestry of life building together; it is spiritual, emotional, and physical. Bonded together in mutual respect and friendship, sparked by sexual attraction, a circle of love is created with catalytic power for inspiring ambition, progress and advancement.

A wise man said that the best thing a father could do for his children is to love their mother. It was always obvious in our home: Daddy loved Mother; and Mother loved Daddy. In my mind and heart, there's a chest full of memories. What a legacy of love! Mother is standing at the kitchen counter--preoccupied with a task, Daddy sneaks up behind her. He winks and then enfolds her in his arms, and with the accent of Dracula says, “Ahh. I've got you. You're mine--all mine.”

Mother pretends to resist, and with a smile, says, “Oh, Harry, leave me alone!”

They married during the Great Depression and began their

married life in a cold-water flat complete with cockroaches. They stood in lines together to buy a loaf of bread, or to buy coal for the stove--they could never afford both, but as they have often said, "We were so in love, we didn't know how miserable we were. It seemed as if we were the only two people in the world."

Several years ago, while mother was undergoing surgery, Daddy and I waited together for hours. Of course, I was concerned for Mother, but at the same time I was looking forward to the conversation with my Daddy. He's a wonderful conversationalist, educated in politics, history, religion and philosophy. He was already in the waiting room when I arrived. He stood to greet me, but forced a smile. He's a small man, but has always been robust until the last few years. Now I keep saying, "Daddy, eat more; eat more." He eats, but still grows more and more frail. His black hair is now almost completely white; his moustache, too. He's a private man, quiet to strangers but completely open to family.

I sat down next to him, and as usual began asking questions to get the conversation going. Soon enough I realized that Daddy can't talk while his other half is in surgery. We sat in almost complete silence.

As she was wheeled through the double doors, he jumped up and ran to her, touching her legs and arms to reassure himself that she was all right. When the surgery was over, the conversation began.

Last week Mother and Daddy celebrated their sixty-first wedding anniversary. One of the grandchildren sent an anniversary card and wrote, "Thank you for your example to us--that it can work! That marriages can last."

My Daddy always smiles, then says, "I remember when you were just a gleam in your daddy's eye." That gleam--the wondrous attraction between a man and a woman--is like a crackling warm fire on a cold winter's night. It creates a circle of love and warmth that radiates to thousands within a few generations. If anything is good, it is good. Good for the body, yes, but good for the heart, good for the mind, good for the soul, good for the individual, good for the couple, good for the children, good for society.

### **The Goodness and Glory of Intimate Love**

Napoleon Hill, in his famous book titled, Think and Grow Rich interviewed hundreds of men who had become peak performers in their lives and discovered that "practically every great leader, whom he had the privilege of analyzing was a man whose achievements were largely inspired by a woman." He wrote:

"Love, romance, and sex are all emotions capable of driving men (and women) to heights of super achievement. Love is the emotion which serves as a safety valve, and insures balance, poise and constructive efforts. When combined, these three emotions may lift one to an altitude of a genius. . . Sex alone is a mighty urge to action, but its forces are like a cyclone--they are often uncontrollable. When the emotion of love begins to mix itself with the emotions of sex, the result is calmness of purpose, poise, accuracy of judgment, and balance. . . (However) when driven by his desire to please a woman, based solely upon the emotion of sex, a man may be, and usually is, capable of great achievement, but his actions may be disorganized, distorted, and totally destructive. When driven by his desire to please a woman, based upon the motive of sex alone, a man may steal, cheat, and even commit murder. . . A sex-

mad man is not essentially different from a dope-mad man! Both have lost control over their faculties of reason and will-power. . . But when the emotion of love is mixed with the emotion of sex, that same man will guide his actions with more sanity, balance, and reason.” (p.191)

Recently our son Aaron fell in love and married beautiful Kaia. He wrote this poem for the wedding invitation:

Thoughts of you eclipse my stupor  
You are beautiful  
You are kind  
You are comfort  
A mother, a lover and a friend, a companion  
You inspire me to greatness!

“You inspire me to greatness” is the key to all healthy relationships--they inspire devotion, dedication, sacrifice, consistency, compassion, tender service. “The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved,” said Victor Hugo, “loved for ourselves, or rather in spite of ourselves.”

**“The highest goal to which men can aspire.”**

This highest form of love inspires “to greatness” but sometimes it is the only motivation to live at all. The beautiful but tragic experience of Viktor Frankl is an example. He suffered through the nightmare of living in a Nazi concentration camp. In moments of deep despair he found the strength to persevere in his love for his wife. He records an instance one day that gives us a glimpse of this magnificent love. He, along with other prisoners, was walking to their labor assignment one cold, predawn winter morning:

“We stumbled on in the darkness, over big stones and through large puddles, along the one road leading from the camp. The accompanying guards kept shouting at us and driving us with the butts of their rifles. Hardly a word was spoken; the icy wind did not encourage talk. Hiding his mouth behind upturned collar, the man marching next to me whispered suddenly: ‘If our wives could see us now! I do hope they are better off in their camps and don’t know what is happening to us.’

“That brought thoughts of my own wife to mind. And as we stumbled on for miles, slipping on icy spots, supporting each other time and again, dragging one another up and onward, nothing was said, but we both knew: each of us was thinking of his wife. Occasionally I looked at the sky, where the stars were fading and the pink light of the morning was beginning to spread behind a dark band of clouds. But my mind clung to my wife’s image, imagining it with an uncanny acuteness. I heard her assuring me, saw her smile, her frank and encouraging look. Real or not, her look was then more luminous than the sun which was beginning to rise.

“A thought transfixed me: for the first time in my life I saw the truth as it is set into song by so many poets, proclaimed as the final wisdom by so many thinkers. The truth--that love is the ultimate and the highest goal to which men can aspire.

Then I grasped the meaning of the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart: the salvation of man is through love and in love. I understood how a man who has nothing left in this world still may know bliss, be it only for a moment, in the contemplation of his beloved. In a position of utter desolation, when man cannot express himself in positive action, when his only achievement may consist in enduring his sufferings in the right way--an honorable way--in such a position a man can, through loving contemplation of the image he carries of his beloved, achieve fulfillment. I did not know whether my wife was alive, (she was not) and I had no means of finding out. . .but at that moment it ceased to matter. There was no need for me to know; nothing could touch the strength of my love, my thoughts, and the image of my beloved.”

(Man's Search For Meaning)

### **Love, Honor and Cherish**

Majestic relationships are built upon the three magic words: love, honor and cherish. They begin when each one develops these attributes in his or her character; and they continue to bloom and grow because of these qualities. They have little to do with luck, and everything to do with preparation. It is the creation of two who are dedicated to building it together.

Let's explore these three simple but extremely important words: love, honor and cherish. Together they set the climate for human

happiness and total sexual joy. **Love** is that passion--magnetic connection--that brings a man and woman together. It means genuine caring, warm affection, sexual attraction, goodwill and friendship. **Honor** is the virtuous attribute of a healthy love relationship. It includes loyalty, honesty, integrity, fairness, goodness, morality, decency, faithfulness, constancy and sincere commitment. The third, **cherish** is different from the first two, it means to treat tenderly or affectionately, to treasure or prize a loved one. Those who cherish would be willing to sacrifice for their loved one, to protect, to defend, to cradle, to nurture, to assist in their growth, etc.

Majestic love inspires all three and creates a circle of love that warms and inspires and creates a place of security, safety, and refuge. Visualize this circle with the words love, honor and cherish written on the circumference. While all three are active in a healthy relationship, as life rolls on, one takes prominence over the others and rises to the top. There are times when the love passion is on top of the wheel and the excitement of honeymoon intimacy eclipses everything else. There are times when the stresses of life demand that love passion gives way to honor, and honor nobly holds the marriage together. In difficult times, cherish rises to take over. We see this when a husband and father sacrifices the desire for sexual intimacy to care for his pregnant wife or when life-spent couples nurse and nurture each other. The magnetism continues, even when love passions are quiet. Cherish holds the circle together long after physical passions are quiet.

Love, honor and cherish lead the way to majestic love relationships and enhance the chances that such love will continue to bloom and grow through the years. Let's begin with honor

because honor sets the stage for majestic love.

### **Honor Before and After Marriage**

Honor is the foundation upon which all healthy and wholesome relationships are based. Honor is being true to oneself and God. Visualize a three layer-cake. The first layer is having honor, respect, and goodwill toward oneself and others--everyone. The second is having honor, respect, and goodwill to close friends and family. The third layer is having these same basic qualities with the addition of electricity or sexual magnetism. The top layer--the most sublime of all human relationships--must have the same foundation as the others. Otherwise it will topple over.

Honor provides the love relationship with the best chance to last because it's based upon the virtues of honesty, integrity, friendship, goodwill, morality, responsibility, commitment. Honorable people create the basic motives that lead to majestic love. This is why the idea that "we'll live together to see if it will work" rarely does. Without commitment, there is no foundation of honor to work through problems.

Men and women of integrity, by their very nature, set the foundation for successful marriages. Those who have focused their vision on the short-range picture of sexual intimacy--as a game, a sport, a hunt, a pride boost, etc.--miss out on the greater view. To those who see it from the wide-angled view--love, honesty, honor, partnership for life, children--the short-range picture seems so selfish, immature, and detoured away.

### **"I want to get married and have a family."**

Recently, I was visiting with a neighbor, Kathy, who had come

over with her baby girl to see our chickens and ducks. She had had three children in three years and was loving every minute of it. She said, "I used to play the game like everyone else, but then I came to the point in my life that I saw what a farce it all was. You pretend you're falling in love and live together. Then it all falls apart. Everyone knows from the beginning that it's all just a game, but no one will admit it. Well, I realized that I was too smart for that. When you're a kid you might have the time to mess around with your life and others like that, but I was getting old and my chance for having a family was passing me by. I told Todd (her husband) on the first date, 'I want to get married and have a family; if that's not what you're looking for there's no sense in our dating.' He was shocked by my honesty, but I didn't care--what did I have to lose? Nothing. He said, 'Hey, no one has quite put it to me like that, but that's just what I want, too.' Within three months we were married and expecting our first baby. We love our little family so much. We feel like we missed out on the best years of our lives playing games."

She had her first baby at the age of thirty-nine. She added, "If I hadn't started so late, we would have had more children. Todd is the best father they could have; we totally love each other and our little family."

Kathy was able to bring the real thing into her life when she became honest with herself, and honorable enough to tell her date exactly what she wanted and exactly what she didn't want. Men and women with similar ambitions naturally gravitate to one another.

### **Immortal Love**

In a sense the love between a man and woman is immortal not only when, but especially when, there are children. Its radiance

permeates through the generations, forever and ever. What greater power can be given to human kind than the gift to create life and to guide that life? Little ones patterned after your own image. Little ones that naturally--at least in the early years--think of Mom and Dad as gods and goddesses. Little ones whose hearts will bond with yours forever and ever. Little ones that can ultimately become your closest and dearest friends.

Some have looked at us with a squinted eye when they see the tribe of children trailing behind the Sorensens, but craziness or not, we have enjoyed having a large family. One time our family went to the California state fair together; we had ten children at the time, and in order to keep them together we all wore matching tee-shirts. The children's were numbered on the back, ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, etc. according to their birth order. What seemed like a simple, practical plan to prevent a child from becoming lost ended up creating more interest than most of the fair attractions. We never expected such attention. As we passed, people parted to make way, and then stood gaping at our family--as if we were celebrities. Most of them seemed pleasantly amused, but some seemed critical. Then we entered a exposition building that housed a booth titled, Zero Population Growth. There were three women behind the table, with literature piled high in front of them. Instantly we caught each other's eyes, and then we all--interestingly--laughed. As the children dispersed to see the exhibits, I ventured over to the women at the booth. We talked briefly. One of them said, "I'm for population control, but let's face it, you have a beautiful family."

I answered, "Each one of them was invited into our family; there are no unwanted children. Oh, maybe they came earlier than we planned, but they were all planned." Although we were coming from

two quite opposing views on having children, there was a mutual respect between us. We agreed to disagree.

### **The Willingness to Wait**

Honor also inspires the willingness to sacrifice for the loved one, the willingness to wait for marriage. “Carnal men who can get what they want from any woman are not likely to die for one. But true men in true love will do anything necessary to protect and to prove worthy of their loved one.” (C.S. Lewis)

An honorable person shows an attitude of love and respect towards the opposite sex and the sex act itself. Living by principle rather than undisciplined passion, they are willing to wait for sexual intercourse until a loving, loyal and legal relationship. Those married would respect and honor their spouse and the sexual intimacy they share together--to keep it sacred and above the vulgarity of the world. He or she would be warm and friendly to other members of the opposite sex in a brotherly or sisterly manner. Most of all, an honorable person prepares the way for majestic love by having the crucial basic ingredient: integrity.

### **“True to each other our whole lives.”**

Ed, a struggling music student, husband and father of three sons, delighted our family when he sang for our son Adam and his bride Daniell’s wedding. Our spirits later bonded when we had a chance to converse, and he told me, “Whenever I sing a love song, I think of the love I have for my wife, Lilly. Then the deep passion comes. She’s the only one who would ever be right for me. We both knew it for years before we married. We were both virgins and we feel that has made all the difference in our marriage. We hear

others talk about the sexual relationships that they had before they were married, and they always seem to be wondering. We don't have it to deal with. In fact, it seems that Lilly and I were true to each other our whole lives. There are no ghosts in the closets.”

Virtue before marriage contributes to the appreciation of intimacy after marriage. Those who cherish the life of their Beloved feel honored to even hold hands. Consequently sexual intimacy is a banquet of delight--physically, emotionally and spiritually. On the other hand, coarse, vulgar men or women leave their mates feeling cold and unloved--even in marriage. Marriage contracts don't change attitudes, they merely change marital status. Disrespect for sex before marriage dulls the sensations after marriage.

Unfortunately, men and women who are promiscuous, loose, undisciplined, sexually flirtatious or inviting, do not change their nature with marriage. Actions may be changed, but attitudes stay the same. Sowing wild oats before marriage contributes to the same craving for oats after marriage.

**“I'm too busy becoming myself.”**

“People ask me why I'm not willing to just sleep around,” said Ann, a young college student. “I tell them that I'm being faithful to my husband, and they always laugh about that, but I'm serious. I know that I don't know him yet, but I want to be faithful to him now. I didn't always feel this way. I used to think that if you're really in love that you should have the right to go to bed together, but what fourteen-year-old girl doesn't think she's in love with the guy that's taking her to bed? I was the same way. I have thought I was in love over and over--about twenty or thirty guys so far. Love can't be the issue--the issue is a legal commitment of marriage. That's what I'm

waiting for, but actually, I'm not waiting for marriage to happen, I'm too busy becoming myself. I know that if I just stay on track I'll know when the time is right. Till then I'm staying faithful to my future husband, and I hope that he's doing the same thing."

This young woman was willing to pay the price for romance that is built on honorable love by being honorable to herself.

### **Genuine Love and Sexual Passion**

Passion is the fruit of a healthy relationship, but not the center and core of it. Such passion continues to bloom to greater heights through the years, and creates a love circle that radiates outward warmth, goodwill, family gatherings and sweet memories.

Making love is based upon a wholeness of bonding--physical, spiritual and mental. The husband who gets up at five in the morning to go to work, or repairs the toaster, or builds a playhouse for his daughter, *is* making love. The wife, who diapers the baby, prepares meals, helps with the children's homework, *is* making love. Making love is the very purpose and meaning of their lives.

True lovers have the greatest sexual stimulator of all: they treasure the whole life of their loved one--not simply the body of their loved one, or the face of their loved one, or the muscles of their loved one, but the wholeness of life. Consequently, love making becomes a multi-colored tapestry as rich as life itself. Sometimes the body leads the way. Sometimes the emotions lead the way. Other times the depth of the soul leads to bonding. Sexual intimacy inspires life, ambition, purpose, direction, security, comfort, safety.

C.S. Lewis, Christian philosopher, was a bachelor and professor until he met and married a woman named Joy--a woman who brought him complete joy. After a few brief years together, she

died of cancer. He tells of the banquet of lovemaking that they had together,

“For those few years (we) feasted on love; every mode of it--solemn and merry, romantic and realistic, sometimes as dramatic as a thunderstorm, sometimes as comfortable and unemphatic as putting on your soft slippers. No cranny of heart or body remained unsatisfied.”

Fragmented sex--physical only--will never know such majesty of intimacy. This is why the idea that various partners, techniques, or positions to enhance the thrill of it all doesn't work--at least for long. They are all stimulators for the body only. It's like pouring hot salsa on everything to bring taste. In time the taste buds become so seared they taste nothing at all. The answer is to restore the ability to taste again, or the ability to love again.

Fragmented sex is me-first, selfish, turns inward, and rides high on sexual passion until it becomes burned out, then succumbs to dullness, even numbness. While making love has everything to do with real life, fragmented sex has nothing to do with real life. It's usually to escape loneliness, or for vanity, pride, power, to conquer, to hurt even to destroy. The tail-spin continues downward. Cheap intimacy leads to emotional and spiritual poverty and the poverty creates a craziness for more cheap intimacy. The less they feel, the more they crave to feel again. Some get caught in the swinger's cycle: fall in love, a passionate romp, a cooling-down, a dullness, irritation, separation, loneliness, change of partners, fall in love, passionate romp, etc. From the beginning it's a game of pretense.

This holistic idea of love making and the dangers of exploitive

sex was beautifully expressed by university president, Jeffrey Holland:

“Human intimacy. . .was ordained to be a symbol of total union: union of their hearts, their hopes, their lives, their loves, their families, their futures, their everything. . . In this ultimate physical expression of one man and one woman they are as nearly and as literally ‘one’ as two separate physical bodies can ever be. . .but such a total, virtually unbreakable union. . .can only come with the proximity and permanence afforded in a marriage covenant, with the union of all that they possess--their very hearts and minds, all their days and all their dreams.

They work together, they cry together, they enjoy Brahms and Beethoven and breakfast together, they sacrifice and save and live together for all the abundance that such a totally intimate life provides such a couple. And the external symbol of that union, the physical manifestation of what is a far deeper spiritual and metaphysical bonding, is the physical blending that is part of--indeed, a most beautiful and gratifying expression of that larger, more complete union of eternal purpose and promise. . .(Such) symbolism of ‘one flesh’ (Genesis 2:24) cannot be preserved if we hastily and guiltily and surreptitiously share intimacy in a darkened corner of a darkened hour, then just as hastily and guiltily and surreptitiously retreat to our

separate worlds--not to eat or live or cry or laugh together, not to do the laundry and the dishes and the homework, not to manage a budget and pay the bills and tend the children and plan together for the future. No, we cannot do that until we are truly one--united, bound, linked, tied, welded, . . . married.

“You must wait until you can give everything, and you cannot give everything until you are legally pronounced as one. If you persist in sharing part without the whole, in giving parts and pieces and inflamed fragments only, you run the terrible risk of such spiritual, psychic damage that you may undermine both your physical intimacy and your wholehearted devotion to a truer, later love.”

## **Cherish**

Making love/life together by its very nature continues to bloom and grow because of this attribute of cherishing. To cherish is the deeper part of love that sets one person above everyone else; it inspires appreciation, gentleness, tenderness, protection and affection that come from the depths of one's heart. To cherish is to reverence the totality of another. Those who cherish another might say, “I am in awe over you. I treasure every thing about you, your hair, your hands, your pigeon-toed walk. Being your love and life's partner is the greatest honor to which I aspire.”

Elizabeth Barrett-Browning composed this poem that best describes the cherishing quality:

“How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.

I love thee to the depth and breadth and  
height

My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.

I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.

I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;

I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.

I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.

I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints--I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life!--and, if God  
choose,

I shall but love thee better after death."

### **You Discover the Power of Majestic Love When:**

You want not to possess, but to bless the life of your loved one.  
You find yourself becoming more alive in your loved one's  
presence.

You are motivated to do better and be better when you are  
around him or her.

You find yourself more sensitive to children and the elderly.  
If a child comes from the union, he or she will bask in the wealth  
of your love.

You become a child yourself.  
You find your soul magnifying, your love multiplying, your  
intellect quickening, your compassion enlarging, your integrity

growing, your life beginning.

You begin to notice sunsets and sunrises.

You wonder about mysteries of life that never occurred to you before.

Trivial things--walking in the park together, having an ice cream cone together--become grand events.

Moments alone are precious, but moments with others are great as well.

You're anxious to introduce him or her to your family.

You're more free, not less.

Your personality begins to bloom into areas you never knew.

You feel you're in a creation process of building a mansion of happy moments together.

## **Summary**

The rewards of moral virtue span from self-respect to the prosperity of freely loving others without hidden motives. The most precious of all is the quality of love that's possible only for men and women of virtue who love, honor and cherish one another--majestic love. Bonded together in mutual respect and friendship, sparked by sexual attraction, a circle of love is created with catalytic power for inspiring ambition, progress and advancement.

By its very nature, majestic relationships continue to grow. Relationships that are without honor and cherishing eventually die out because by their very nature, they do not grow. If the motive is to capture another heart, once it is captured the relationship dies. If the motive is to entice into a romantic romp, eventually the fascination leaves. If the motive is to escape oneself in another, there will be a nagging reminder to be born unto oneself. If the

motive is simply to scratch a sexual itch, once the itch is scratched, it's over. Like the popular song, "the feeling's gone, and I just can't get it back."

When a man cherishes a woman, or a woman cherishes a man, they are filled with inspiration, ambition to grow, to do, to become more worthy of their "Beloved." Women of honor and virtue inspire men to greatness. Women without honor lead men to complacency. Men of honor and virtue inspire women to greatness to become all that they can become. Men without honor cause women to feel less, lower, used, abused, unappreciated, unhonored, unloved.

### **Notes on chapter nine:**

1. In her book, Women Who Love Too Much, which I highly recommend for all men and women, Robin Norwood writes of a healthy love relationship,

"(It) is a partnership to which two caring people are deeply committed,. . .(they) share many basic values, interests, and goals, and tolerate good naturedly their individual differences. The depth of love is measured by the mutual trust and respect they feel toward each other. Their relationship allows each to be more fully expressive, creative, and productive in the world. There is much joy in shared experiences both past and present, as well as those that are anticipated. Each views the other as his/her dearest and most cherished friend. (They have a) willingness to look honestly at oneself in order to promote the growth of the relationship and the deepening of intimacy.

Associated with real love are feelings of serenity, security, devotion, understanding, companionship, mutual support, and comfort. . .I once heard a recovering alcoholic put it so simply and so beautifully. He said, 'When I was drinking I went to bed with lots of women, and basically I had the same experience many times. Since I've been sober I've only been to bed with my wife, but each time we're together it's a new experience.' The thrill and excitement that comes not from arousing and being aroused but from knowing and being known is all too rare." (pp.44, 46)