

# Quotes from the Word: Marriage to Eternity

## OLD TESTAMENT

Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh (Genesis 2:24).

Now Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her (Genesis 29: 18, 20).

Trust in the Lord, and do good. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass... (Psalm 37:3, 5).

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me (Psalm 51:10).

## NEW TESTAMENT

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27).

He who made them in the beginning "made them male and female" and said "For this reason a man shall leave his mother and father and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So then they are no longer two but one flesh (Matthew 19:4-6).

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6: 19-21).

## HEAVENLY DOCTRINE

### TRUE MARRIAGE LOVE IS FROM THE LORD

For people who desire truly conjugal love, the Lord provides similar partners, and if they are not found on earth, He provides them in heaven (*Conjugal Love* 229).

Truly conjugal love with its delights comes only from the Lord and is given to those who live according to His commandments (*Conjugal Love* 534).

If a man from his soul or from his inmost being steadfastly persists in a love for the same woman, he will attain those eternal blessings which he promised himself before her consent and continues to promise himself upon receiving it. He does attain them, too, if he goes to the Lord and lives from Him a life of true religion. Who else enters from above into a person's life,

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to bestow on him the inner joys of heaven and impart these in turn to all that follows? (see *Conjugal Love* 333:2).

The Lord's Divine providence is most specific and most universal in connection with marriages and in its operation in marriages, because all delights of heaven flow from the delights of conjugal love, like sweet waters from a gushing spring (CL 229).

## THE NATURE OF CONJUGIAL LOVE

Heavenly conjugal love consists in one living, content in the Lord, together with one's partner whom one loves very tenderly, and with one's children. In the world this brings a person a deeper pleasure, and in the next life heavenly joy (*Arcana Coelestia* 5051:2).

It is the nature of love to will to share with another, indeed, to confer joys upon another whom it loves from the heart, and to seek its own joys in return from doing so (CL 180).

Friendship introduces the love and causes it to be truly conjugal; and then the love in turn causes this, its friendship, to become also conjugal—a friendship which differs greatly from that of any other love, because it is a full one (CL 214:2).

Love with its inmost friendship constantly increases in the wife, and wisdom with its happiness in the husband, and this to eternity (CL 355:6).

The states produced by this love are innocence, peace, tranquility, inmost friendship, complete trust, a mutual desire of the mind and heart to do the other every good; also, as a result of all these, bliss, felicity, delight, pleasure, and, owing to an eternal enjoyment of states like this, the happiness of heaven (CL 180).

## LOOKING TO ETERNITY IN MARRIAGE

When married partners there love each other tenderly, they think of eternity in regard to the marriage covenant, and not at all of its being terminated by death. Or if they do think about this, they grieve, until strengthened again with hope by the thought of its continuing in the life to come (*Conjugal Love* 216: 4).

People who are in a state of truly conjugal love look to eternity in their marriage because eternity is inherent in this love. Its eternity is owing to the fact that this love in the wife and wisdom in the husband grow to eternity, and as these grow or progress, the partners enter more and more deeply into the blessings of heaven—blessings which their wisdom and love of wisdom at the same time carry concealed within them (*Conjugal Love* 216).

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People who before had lived with their partners in a state of truly conjugal love have been united in respect to their souls and so in respect to their minds. This union, being a spiritual one, is an actual coupling of the soul and mind of one to the soul and mind of the other, which cannot in any way be dissolved. Because married partners so united yearn for eternity in their marriage, and eternal happiness for them is founded on that idea, they are not actually separated by the death of one. For the spirit of the deceased continues to dwell with the spirit of the one not yet deceased, and this until the death of the other, at which time they come together again and are reunited, loving each other even more tenderly than before, because they are in the spiritual world (*Conjugal Love* 321).

## **MARRIAGE PARTNERS ARE REUNITED AFTER DEATH**

Those who during their lifetime have found happiness in marriage because of genuine conjugal love find happiness again in the next life, so that the happiness experienced by them in one life is continued into that of the other, where it becomes a union of minds, in which is heaven (*Arcana Coelestia* 2734).

Most married couples meet after death, recognize each other, associate, and live together for a time, which occurs in their first state, thus while they are still maintaining the outward aspects of their lives as they did in the world. There are two states that a person goes through after death, an external state and an internal state. A person comes first into the external state, and afterwards into the internal one. It is during the external state—if both partners have died—that they meet, recognize each other, and, if they lived together in the world, associate and live together for a time. And when they are in this state, one partner does not know the other's feelings toward him, because these feelings keep themselves hidden inside. Later, however, when they come into their internal state, the feelings manifest themselves. And if these feelings are concordant and congenial, the partners continue their married life. But if these feelings are discordant and uncongenial, they end it.

If a man has had several wives, he associates with them in turn, so long as he is in the external state. But when he comes into the internal state, and perceives what their feelings of love are like, he then either chooses one or leaves them all. Let it be known that husbands rarely recognize their wives, but that wives readily recognize their husbands. The reason is that women have an interior perception of love, while men have only a more superficial perception (*Conjugal Love* 47:3 repeated).

Those who are in love truly conjugal, after death, when they become angels, return into their youth and adolescence. The males, however worn out with age, become young men; and the wives, however worn out with age, become young women. Each conjugal partner returns into the prime of life (*Apocalypse Explained* 1000:4).

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## TRUE MARRIAGE LOVE PERFECTED TO ETERNITY

In people who are in a state of truly conjugal love, this union becomes deeper and deeper to eternity. When friendship and mutual trust join together with the first love in marriage, conjugal love results, which opens the partners' hearts and inspires in them the sweet enjoyments of love, and this more and more deeply as friendship and trust are added to the original love, and as that original love enters into this friendship and trust and they into it (*Conjugal Love* 162).

The delight of true marriage love not only endures to old age in the world, but after death becomes the delight of heaven and is there filled with an interior delight that grows more and more perfect to eternity. The varieties of blessedness of true marriage love could be enumerated even to many thousands, not even one of which is known to people, or could enter into the comprehension of any one who is not in the marriage of good and truth from the Lord (*Heaven and Hell* 379).

Truly conjugal love lasts to eternity—the wife becoming more and more a wife, and a husband becoming more and more a husband. The fundamental reason for this is that in a marriage of truly conjugal love, each partner becomes more and more deeply human, for that love opens the deeper aspects of their minds, and as these are opened, a person becomes more and more human (*Conjugal Love* 200).

The delights of conjugal love advance toward heaven into more and more blessedness and happiness even to what is beyond number and description (*Heaven and Hell* 386).