

## THE EXPRESSION OF LOVE

The story is told of a woman who complained to her husband that he never told her that he loved her anymore. He replied, "Well, old lady, I told you when we got married that I loved you, and that if I ever changed my mind I'd let you know."

Now, I don't think such an arrangement as that would work very well in the marriages that I know anything about. There is never a day that my wife and I don't verbally express our love for each other, and we try to show our love throughout the day in various ways. We both feel that it would be awful to go for days, to say nothing of years, without expressing our love to and for each other. Even after 40 years of married life, we still enjoy hearing the words, "I love you," and other expressions of tenderness and affection.

There is another story of a woman whose husband never kissed her. One day she complained to a neighbor lady about this matter. As a result the neighbor advised her to take a good bath, put on some clean clothes, fix her hair and put on some perfume and make-up and be sitting on the front porch the next afternoon when her husband came home from work. She complied with the neighbor's advice and was waiting on the porch the next afternoon. When her husband got home he leaned over and kissed her. With pleasant surprise the woman exclaimed, "Why, old man, that's the first time you've kissed me in years." "Well," old woman, he gently replied, "That's the first time you've been fit to kiss in years."

I wonder how much more frequently we would enjoy the manifestations of God's love to us if our behavior and conduct toward Him were better. James said, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:8). May He help us to live closer to Him and to one another.

---Elder Ralph Harris