

“The Best Marriage I Know”

Does true love really exist? Does faith make a marriage stronger? The answer is yes! Ron and Patty Burns are a prime example of this. They are the youth ministers at Prattmont Baptist Church. Being around them, their love is almost “illuminating” at times. I believe their faith in God is the number one reason for the bond they share. “A family that prays together, stays together” is proven by these two love birds. They seem to be best friends and have lots of fun together. This too is a factor in their strong marriage. They spend quality time together and surround themselves with people that have the same outlook and values in life. They still smile, hold hands, and become almost “giddy” at times. They definitely have found the formula to make it last. I have learned by their example that true love really can be found. If we follow what we are all directed to do and not what we “want”, then a beautiful plan will unfold. Their love is not perfect, but forgiveness and understanding are waiting when perfection is not. They seem to always care for each other and have respect for each other in all circumstances.

To me, the words that describe their marriage are *love* (a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person), *trust* (reliance on the integrity, strength, and ability of a person or thing), *faith* (belief that is not based on proof), *respect* (a personal quality or ability, or something that is considered as a manifestation of a personal quality or ability), *friendship* (the state of being a friend), *communication* (the imparting of interchange of thoughts, opinions, or information by speech, writing, or signs), *honesty* (the quality or fact of being honest), and *loyalty* ( the state or quality of being loyal to commitments or obligations).

One of the most important things I have learned from Mr. Ron and Mrs. Patty is that you must have three things: honesty, trust, and loyalty. You normally do not have a great, stable marriage unless you can be honest with each other, trust each other and be loyal to each other, fully. This wonderful couple shows you what true love, honesty, trust,

and loyalty really are. They never fuss and fight, and they are always laughing, smiling, and/or happy when they are together. There is never a dull moment between them. To me their love and affection for each other is always so strong and passionate, which is another reason their marriage is so wonderful. They might not always agree on everything, but when they disagree they work things out, and their feelings never change for each other. When one of them is having a bad day at work, or just a bad day period, the other one offers to take them out to lunch or dinner, or maybe to just even sit down and have a conversation and spend time together.

Mrs. Patty says that she still gets the butterflies and a warm tingly feeling every time she sees Mr. Ron. She says that when Mr. Ron tells her that he loves her or when he tries to hold her hand that she gets the same feeling she had when they first met. I think their marriage is wonderful too, because they make their decisions together as a couple rather than as two separate, individual people. They really are what love is all about.