



<b>DATE</b>	February 19, 2017
<b>SPEAKER</b>	David Smith
<b>TITLE</b>	How to Find and Keep the Love of Your Life
<b>SERIES</b>	There's a lot of relationship advice out there. So what's God's prescription for healthy relationships? Let's take a closer look at the book of Ephesians to learn more about God's plan to help our relationships thrive.

For those of us who are looking for a lifelong marriage partner, or who already have one, the Bible provides guidelines for finding the right person and maintaining a healthy relationship for years to come.

1. Did (or do) you maintain a list of “must-haves” when you were dating of certain characteristics or interests you wanted your future spouse to have (e.g. enjoys movies, plays sports, has blue eyes, can cook, has a sense of humor)? Did this list change as you dated more people? Did the person you marry fit your qualifications?
2. What dating advice were you given by parents, friends, pastors, or mentors when you first began dating? Looking back, what was the best advice you received? What did you come to disagree with?
3. Pastor David listed three commonly-believed myths about love. Have you ever believed any of these three notions? Why are these three myths so prevalent, particularly in the Church? Can you think of practical examples that show the danger of basing our relationships on these myths?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. These verses identify the behavioral and attitudinal traits that we display when we act in love. Which quality is difficult for you to have, and why? How can you improve the quality of love you show to other people?
5. Pastor David listed seven kinds of love: Ludus, Pragma, Philautia, Philia, Agape, Eros, and Storge. Consider the dangers of focusing on just one type of love in a marriage. What problems could arise from focusing solely on one type? Omitting a certain type? Are there any types that can/should be omitted from marriage completely, or does each have its benefit?
6. Are there qualities on the “Whoever I Marry Must...” checklist that you could work on improving in yourself for your future or current partner? For instance, do you struggle with anger, bitterness, selfishness, truth-telling, or generosity?
7. Based on Pastor David’s lesson and the principles he taught from the Bible, how would you now define the term “soulmate”? Does the idea of a soulmate fit with what we’re learning about making and keeping lifelong relationships?

Whether you’re already married, would like to be one day, or just want to strengthen the relationships in your life, spend time in prayer and in God’s Word asking for ways to improve your attitude and behavior to help you become a better partner and better friend.