

MP XI Rules of the Game  
By Greg Rangel

*“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good” (Romans 12:9).*

As a pastor I have done many funerals, and as a person I have attended many as well, and one thing that I have noticed in most of them is that mostly everyone that has gone up to the pulpit to share some thoughts about the deceased has said how much they miss their friend or loved one and how much they desired to have them there beside them. I have also noticed that they have said that they should have told their loved one how much they truly appreciated them and how much they truly love them much more often.

Unfortunately we cannot change the past though. We cannot go back in time like Michael J. Fox in the “Back To The Future” films and change our words and actions towards our loved ones that have passed away. But we can change how we act today. We can make a difference whenever a difficult situation arises within our marriage.

Instead of answering with harsh words and insults when your spouse says something that gets you mad, why not swallow your pride and let his or her anger subside before you say anything at all? Also, why not answer with kind words instead? The Bible says, *“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger”* (Proverbs 15:1).

No one lives forever. Everybody will one day die. Husbands will one day lose their wife’s, and wife’s their husbands. It happens every day. So what I am trying to say here is that, don’t wait for your husband or wife to die to have you realize how much you loved them and appreciated them, and to have you realize that you could have done a much better job in showing your spouse your love and appreciation. Change your ways today. If you have failed to tell your wife or husband how much you love them, tell them. If you have been acting so unkind and unfair with your spouse stop it and hold your tongue if you have to. Realize today the error of your ways and act the way you know you should have acted if your spouse was to die today. Don’t wait to your spouse dies to have a regretful heart. Change your attitude in your heart today.

Unfortunately not many realize the treasure that they have in their spouse until one of them passes away. Don’t live another day without showing your husband or wife how much you love them and appreciate them. Appreciate each other today. But don’t just tell your spouse you love them, show it through your kind actions and words. I don’t believe anyone would want to hear an “I love you” when in reality there is no love present. But everybody does appreciate love through actions.

Notice what the Bible says on how we should act towards each other which at the end it also speaks to married couples: *“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate*

*hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.” (Colossians 3:12-19, see Ephesians 5:1-2, 25, 28, 33, Phil. 1:9).*

If you as a husband or a wife would apply your own biblical principle and what the Bible says in the above reference, your marriage would be a blessing. The problem though is that sometimes it will become very difficult to apply the principles because of pride. But within a marriage, pride must be put to the side in almost every situation because if not, problems will always occur.