What Does Mature Love Look Like? Five Signs of a Lasting Marriage

Love that lasts decades looks very different from love that is just beginning. Over time, a relationship either deepens into something rich and rooted, or it slowly drifts apart. Song of Solomon chapter six through eight gives us a beautiful picture of what mature love actually looks like, and what it takes to build it.

Whether you are married or single, these truths apply. Song of Solomon is not only a picture of a husband and wife. It is also a picture of your relationship with Jesus Christ, your heavenly groom.

What Is Mature Love?

Mature love is growing strong with time, remaining flexible through changes, and staying firmly rooted in the Lord. Like an apple tree with deep roots, the fruit it produces gets better with every season.

Here are five aspects of mature love found in Song of Solomon that you can examine in your own marriage, and in your walk with Christ.

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1. Mature Love Is Confident and Trusting

In Song of Solomon 6:1-3, the daughters of Jerusalem ask the Shulamite woman where her husband has gone. Her response is calm and assured. She knows exactly where he is, what he is doing, and she is not worried about it.

She is not jealous. She is not panicking. She is not tracking his every move. She simply says, "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine."

Mature love produces confidence. You trust your spouse when they are away. You are not driven by fear or insecurity. You genuinely enjoy each other's company and look forward to being together again.

This kind of confidence is built through time, trials, and trust. It does not happen overnight. And when things fall apart, those moments become opportunities to strengthen the relationship rather than reasons to abandon it.

The same is true with Jesus. He never casts you off when you fail Him. He says, in effect, let's keep going. Let's build this stronger. A confident love is one that has been tested and has held.

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2. Mature Love Is Still Enraptured

In Song of Solomon 6:4-10, Solomon looks at his wife and is completely overwhelmed by her. He calls her beautiful as Tirzah, lovely as Jerusalem. He says she is his perfect one, his only one, his favorite. He tells her to look away because her eyes are melting his heart.

Even with all the years behind them, she is still his world. Mature love does not grow cold toward the other person. It actually deepens the value you place on them, even with all the flaws and struggles and hard seasons that life brings.

It is okay, even as you get older, to still tell your spouse they are beautiful to you. Complimenting your spouse, whether it is their appearance, their character, or their acts of service, is healthy and important.

God does the same for you. He does not merely put up with you. He loves you. He is excited about the work He is doing in your life. As Jude 1:24 tells us, "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy." That is how He sees you right now.

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3. Mature Love Creates a Safe Space

In Song of Solomon 6:11-13, the Shulamite woman has gone out to check on the vineyard. Time flies by and her husband calls her home. Her response is telling. She hesitates, saying in effect, what is so special about seeing me right now? I have been working all day. I am not at my best.

And he says, come home anyway. I want to see you.

Mature love creates a safe place for the other person to be real. For a wife to say, I do not look like a magazine cover, but here I am. For a husband to say, I am struggling and I have fears and I do not have it all together. In a healthy marriage, both people can say, you are safe here. There is nothing to prove.

Romans 8 echoes this beautifully: "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." - Romans 8:38-39

You are safe in His love. May your marriage reflect that same safety.

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4. Mature Love Is Mutually Expressive

In Song of Solomon chapter seven, both the husband and the wife are expressing love toward each other. It is not one-sided. Both are initiating. Both are speaking words of affirmation and desire.

A maturing love seeks to bless the other person with words, with actions, and with heart. It notices the little things. It says thank you. It says, that meal was amazing, or I know you hate doing that but thank you for doing it anyway.

God modeled this for us. From Genesis to Revelation, the entire Bible carries one central theme: God loves you. He said it over and over. And then He proved it. "We love Him because He first loved us." - 1 John 4:19

May we be just as expressive with the people we love.

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5. Mature Love Grows Stronger Over Time

Song of Solomon 8:6-7 contains one of the most powerful descriptions of love in all of Scripture:

"Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for all his wealth for love, it would be utterly despised." - Song of Solomon 8:6-7

This is not a love that fades. It is a love that has been tested by floods and fires and has not been put out. It is a love that grows more devoted, more committed, and more at peace with every passing year.

When you stood at the altar, you made vows for joy and sorrow, health and sickness, abundance and lack. Those hard seasons are not the end of the story. They are where the story gets stronger. Mature love has deep feelings, but it also has a long-standing, faithful commitment. It has a high level of grace and patience. And it has a wide and wonderful confidence that brings peace and rest.

What Happens When a Marriage Is Struggling?

Too often, couples consider giving up because the problem in front of them feels bigger than what they have built together. The issue feels too large to overcome. But in those moments, what has often happened is that they have lost sight of the bigness of their God.

God has a tight grip on your marriage. And sometimes you have to say, Lord, this is going to hurt and this is going to be really hard, but I am going to fight for this. That kind of surrender is not weakness. It is the place where God's grace comes in and breathes new life into something that felt beyond repair.

If your marriage is struggling, this is not a message of condemnation. It is a message of perspective and a prayer of hope. "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." - James 4:6

Life Application

This week, choose one specific and intentional way to express mature love to your spouse. It might be speaking words of affirmation you have been holding back. It might be choosing to trust instead of control. It might be creating a safe space for an honest conversation you have been avoiding. Or it might simply be saying, I am fighting for us, and I am not giving up.

If you are not married, apply this same challenge to your relationship with Christ. Ask yourself where you have been holding back trust, vulnerability, or gratitude toward Him.

Ask yourself these questions as you reflect this week:

- Am I building confidence and trust in my most important relationships, or am I letting fear drive my actions?
- When did I last genuinely express love and appreciation to my spouse or to God in a meaningful way?
- Is my marriage, or my walk with Christ, a safe place for honesty and vulnerability?
- Am I treating the challenges in my marriage as bigger than my God, or am I inviting Him into the middle of them?

Mature love is not a feeling you fall into. It is something you build, protect, and choose every single day. And with God at the center, it only gets stronger with time.