

B”H

FAMILY PURITY AND LOVE

A few brief words:

Husband and wife are meant to respect one another. Harmony and cooperation are the nitty gritty of married life.

Couples are also meant to love one another.

What is that? *How* is that?

How does that fit into the family purity framework?

I wrote about this in my book, [Family Purity](#), but it’s always worth reiterating:

“Love can be likened to a good wine. It ripens over time.”

What did I mean by that?

Well, it’s very simple. It’s *opposite* the common world view. Society is fast paced. Everything is right now. We want fast food. We want immediate results. Love at first sight.

Time is money. We expect instant gratification. Nike: “Just do it.!”

Are these sayings beneficial? Do they apply to marriage?

No. They do **not** apply.

Couples who marry are separate and distinct individuals. They come from different backgrounds. Different families and communities. Each has grown separately. They are separate individuals.

These are the facts.

Bonding in marriage isn’t a fast food restaurant. People aren’t like that. Things take time. Relationships take time.

And, directions take time. Before marriage, everyone focuses on their individual growth. Education, experiences, travel. Our *own* surroundings: *my* siblings, *my* friends, *my* world.

Now, Boom! The couple is married. The celebration is over. They start building a new thing. It's called a family.

But, *first* they must learn to adopt one to the other. It's a brand new thing.

Now, it's not about *me*. It's about *us*.

Talk about new realities!

But, that is what every marriage is. It's the binding of two separate individuals, who then -- together -- build a family.

How is it done?

From all of my years in family purity, I'd summarize the key: *patience*.

All good things take time.

I want to be clear: respect, cooperation, harmony are incumbent upon us *immediately*.

I want no misunderstandings. In relation to behavior -- from the get go -- it's all about, quoting Hillel, 'Act as you'd like others to act toward you.'

What I'm referring to is the deeper dimension to our relationship. The connection, let's call it love, for succinctness -- though it's far more encompassing.

This takes time.

It grows from shared experiences, common trials, achieving mutual goals.

Sport teams are built over seasons. Workplace atmospheres are nurtured.

Everything good takes time.

Think about this as you observe all the laws and customs of family purity. There are, obviously, lots of details to remember. Life itself has many demands on our attention. Our worlds are dynamic.

So, within the whirlwind of it all, remember to take a deep breath sometimes. Enjoy being with your spouse.

Enjoy a cup of coffee together. Take time.

Family Purity, thankfully, is our framework.

Keep it and grow: With Hashem's blessings.