



The Juno Dilemma

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Scripture: John 13:34, Ephesians 5:21

Idea: Make love a verb. It's a verb . . . not a noun. You fall in love with a NOUN. You stay in love with a VERB. We are to love and submit to one another as Christ loved us and submitted himself for our sake.

Introduction

1. How many of you have seen the movie *Juno*? [*Teenager who gets pregnant. Lives in a not-so-glamorous part of town. Stepmom. There's a tender conversation with her dad as she navigates her parents' divorce and the breakup of the couple that she hopes will adopt her baby. She says something everybody has wondered about or will wonder about at some point*]
"I guess I wonder sometimes if people ever stay together for good . . . like people in love. Dad, I just need to know that it's possible for two people to stay happy together forever."
2. I think it's possible. You probably think it's possible. You think it's worth a try anyway. But lasting relationships require something many people are unwilling to give . . . or can't give.
3. No matter what you've seen/experienced you want that. You want there to be a special someone you do life with and finish with. *It is in you to want that.*
4. It's possible, but not probable. The odds are against you.
5. The requirements for falling in love are a heartbeat and/or a pulse. Staying in love . . . a bit more.
6. Everybody can FALL in love. Few people STAY in love.
7. There are over 1,500 matchmaker organizations in the U.S. A bad economy is good for the love business.

While **finding** someone has become easier, **staying** with someone has become increasingly more difficult . . . for many reasons. Here are two:

I. It is hard to stay in love because of what we see and feel growing up.

- A. I've talked to so many people who don't know what healthy feels like . . . who don't know what healthy looks like.
- B. So we move into relationships and re-create what looks and feels normal to us.
- C. If what you **saw** was . . .
 1. Do unto others as they deserve to be done unto.
 2. Do unto others as they do unto you.
 3. Do unto others as your mood would have it.
 4. Do unto others to get them to see things your way.
 5. Do unto others until you wear them down and get your way.
 6. Do unto others until you are ready to leave.. . . those became the unwritten rules.
- D. If what you **felt** was something less than unconditional love, then you came to adulthood with something akin to emotional malnutrition and a hunger to remedy that relationally.
- E. And as families continue to break down, as kids have to compete with mom or dad's second family, as 40 percent of the babies born this year are born to single moms and have no significant contact with their biological fathers, we have a new normal.
 1. But it's a normal that doesn't set us up well for the future