1. True Love

True love is a sacred flame
That burns eternally,
And none can dim its special glow
Or change its destiny.
True love speaks in tender tones
And hears with gentle ear,
True love gives with open heart
And true love conquers fear.
True love makes no harsh demands
It neither rules nor binds,
And true love holds with gentle hands
The hearts that it entwines.

[unknown]

2. I will be here

If in the morning when you wake,
If the sun does not appear,
I will be here.
If in the dark we lose sight of love,
Hold my hand and have no fear,
I will be here.
I will be here,
When you feel like being quiet,
When you need to speak your mind I will listen.
Through the winning, losing, and trying we'll be together,
And I will be here.
If in the morning when you wake,
If the future is unclear,
I will be here.
As sure as seasons were made for change,
Our lifetimes were made for years,
I will be here.
I will be here,
And you can cry on my shoulder,
When the mirror tells us we're older.
I will hold you, to watch you grow in beauty,
And tell you all the things you are to me.
We'll be together and I will be here.
I will be true to the promises I've made,
To you and to the one who gave you to me.
I will be here.
3. Sonnet (from The Portugese XLIII)

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of being and ideal Grace.
I love thee to the level of everyday’s
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
I love thee freely, as men strive for right;
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood’s faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints, - I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life! - and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

(Elizabeth Barrett Browning, 1806-1861)

4. Destiny

Somewhere there waiteth in this world of ours
For one lone soul another lonely soul,
Each choosing each through all the weary hours
And meeting strangely at one sudden goal.
Then blend they, like green leaves with golden flowers,
Into one beautiful and perfect whole;
And life’s long night is ended, and the way
Lies open onward to eternal day.

(Sir Edwin Arnold, 1832-1904)

5. Today I Married My Best Friend

Today I married my best friend,
Our bond complete, it hath no end,
We share one soul, we share one heart,
A perfect time - a perfect start.
With these rings we share together,
Love so close to last forever,
This special day - two special hearts,
Let nothing keep this love apart.

(Rachel Elizabeth Cooper, b.1977)

6. Love’s Philosophy
The fountains mingle with the rivers
And the rivers with the oceans,
The winds of heaven mix forever
With a sweet emotion;
Nothing in the world is single;
All things by a law divine
In one spirit meet and mingle.
Why not I with thine?
See the mountains kiss high heaven
And the waves clasp one another;
No sister-flower would be forgiven
If it disdained its brother,
And the sunlight clasps the earth
And the moonbeams kiss the sea:
What is all this sweet work worth
If thou kiss not me?

(Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1792-1822)

7. I Promise

I promise to give you the best of myself
and to ask of you no more than you can give.
I promise to respect you as your own person
and to realise that your interests, desires and needs
are no less important than my own.
I promise to share with you my time and my attention
and to bring joy, strength and imagination to our relationship.
I promise to keep myself open to you,
to let you see through the window of my world into my innermost fears
and feelings, secrets and dreams.
I promise to grow along with you,
to be willing to face changes in order to keep our relationship alive and exciting.
I promise to love you in good times and in bad,
with all I have to give and all I feel inside in the only way I know how.
Completely and forever.

(Dorothy R. Colgan)

8. Marriage Advice

Let your love be stronger than your hate or anger.
Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend a little than to break.
Believe the best rather than the worst.
People have a way of living up or down to your opinion of them.
Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship.
The person you choose to marry is deserving of the courtesies
and kindnesses you bestow on your friends.
Please hand this down to your children and your children's children.

(Jane Wells, 1886)

9. The Art of a Good Marriage

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens.
A good marriage must be created.
In marriage the little things are the big things.
It is never being too old to hold hands.
It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day.
It is never going to sleep angry.
It is at no time taking the other for granted; the courtship should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through all the years.
It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.
It is standing together facing the world.
It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.
It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.
It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.
It is not looking for perfection in each other.
It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humour.
It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.
It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.
It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.
It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

(Wilfred Arlan Petersen)

10. Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.
Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for there will always be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.
Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery.
But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.
Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.
Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue & loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be
gentle with yourself.
You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.

(Max Ehrmann, 1872-1945)

11. On Marriage, from The Prophet

Then Almitra spoke again and said, "And what of Marriage, master?"
And he answered saying:
You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore.
You shall be together when white wings of death scatter your days.
Aye, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.
But let there be spaces in your togetherness,
And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.
Love one another but make not a bond of love:
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.
Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup.
Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf.
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone,
Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music.
Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.
For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.
And stand together, yet not too near together:
For the pillars of the temple stand apart,
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

(Kahlil Gibran, 1883-1931)

12. Blessing for a Marriage

May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring, and may life grant you also patience, tolerance, and understanding.
May you always need one another - not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you to know your fullness. A mountain needs a valley to be complete; the valley does not make the mountain less, but more; and the valley is more a valley because it has a mountain towering over it. So let it be with you and you.
May you need one another, but not out of weakness.
May you want one another, but not out of lack.
May you entice one another, but not compel one another.
May you embrace one another, but not out encircle one another.
May you succeed in all important ways with one another, and not fail in the little graces.
May you look for things to praise, often say, "I love you!" and take no notice of small faults.
If you have quarrels that push you apart, may both of you hope to have good sense enough to
take the first step back.
May you enter into the mystery which is the awareness of one another’s presence - no more physical than spiritual, warm and near when you are side by side, and warm and near when you are in separate rooms or even distant cities.
May you have happiness, and may you find it making one another happy.
May you have love, and may you find it loving one another!

(James Dillet Freeman)

13. From Captain Corelli’s Mandolin

Love is a temporary madness, it erupts like volcanoes and then subsides. And when it subsides you have to make a decision. You have to work out whether your roots have so entwined together that it is inconceivable that you should ever part. Because this is what love is. Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is not the promulgation of eternal passion. That is just being "in love" which any fool can do. Love itself is what is left over when being in love has burned away, and this is both an art and a fortunate accident. Those that truly love, have roots that grow towards each other underground, and when all the pretty blossom have fallen from their branches, they find that they are one tree and not two.

(Louis de Bernieres)

14. Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.
May God be with you and bless you,
May you see your children’s children.
May you be poor in misfortune,
Rich in blessings,
May you know nothing but happiness
From this day forward.
May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home
And may the hand of a friend be always near.
May green be the grass you walk on,
May blue be the skies above you,
May pure be the joys that surround you,
May true be the hearts that love you.

[traditional]

15. From The Divine Comedy
The love of God, unutterable and perfect, flows into a pure soul the way light rushes into a transparent object. The more love we receive, the more love we shine forth; so that, as we grow clear and open, the more complete the joy of loving is. And the more souls who resonate together, the greater the intensity of their love for, mirror-like, each soul reflects the other.

(Dante Aligherti, 1265-1321)

16. Sonnet 18

Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer’s lease hath all too short a date;
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm’d;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance, or nature’s changing course, untrimm’d.
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Not lose possession of that fair thou owest;
Nor shall death brag thou wanderest in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou growest;
So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
So long as lives this, and this gives life to thee.

(William Shakespeare, 1564-1616)

17. From 'The Imitation of Christ'

Love is a mighty power, a great and complete good. Love alon lightens every burden, and makes rough places smooth. It bears every hardship as though it were nothing, and renders all bitterness sweet and acceptable.
Nothing is sweeter than love, Nothing stronger, Nothing higher, Nothing wider, Nothing more pleasant, Nothing fuller or better in heaven or earth; for love is born of God.
Love flies, runs and leaps for joy, It is free and unrestrained. Love knows no limits, but ardently transcends all bounds. Love feels no burden, takes no account of toil, Attempts things beyond its strength.
Love sees nothing as impossible, for it feels able to achieve all things. It is strange and effective, while those who lack love faint and fail.
Love is not fickle and sentimental. nor is it intent on vanities. Like a living flame and a burning torch, it surges upward and surely surmounts every obstacle.

(Thomas a Kempis, 1379-1471)

18. Hawaiian Song

Here all seeking is over. the lost has been found, a mate has been found to share the chills of
winter – now Love asks that you be united. Here is a place to rest, a place to sleep, a place in heaven. Now two are becoming one, the black might is shattered, the eastern sky grows bright. At last the great day has come!

[unknown]

19. I knew I had been touched by love

I knew that I had been touched by love the first time I saw you, and I felt your warmth, and I heard your laughter.
I knew that I had been touched by love when I was hurting from something that happened, and you came along and made the hurt go away.
I knew that I had been touched by love when I quit making plans with my friends, and started dreaming dreams with you.
I knew that I had been touched by love when suddenly I stopped thinking in terms of 'me', and started thinking in terms of 'we'.
I knew that I had been touched by love when suddenly I couldn't make any decisions by myself anymore, and I had the strong desire to share everything with you.
I knew that I had been touched by love the first time we spent alone together, and I knew that I wanted to stay with you forever because I had never felt this touched by love.

[unknown]

20. Apache Blessing

Now you will feel no rain, For each of you will be shelter for the other.
Now you will feel no cold, For each of you will be warmth to the other.
Now there will be no loneliness, For each of you will be companion to the other.
Now you are two persons, But there is only one life before you.
May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years.
May happiness be your companion and your days together be good and long upon the earth.
Treat yourselves and each other with respect,
And remind yourselves often of what brought you together.
Give the highest priority to tenderness, gentleness
And kindness that your connection deserves.
When frustration, difficulties and fear assail your relationship,
As they threaten all relationships at one time or another,
Remember to focus of what is right between you,
Not only the part which seems wrong.
In this way, you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives –
Remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there.
And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together,
it will be marked by abundance and delight.

[traditional]

21. From 'The Prophet'

Love has no other desire but to fulfil itself.
But if you love and must needs have desires, let here be your desires:
To melt and be like a running brook that sings its melody to the night.
To know the pain of too much tenderness.
To be wounded by your own understanding of love;
And to bleed willingly and joyfully.
To wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving;
To rest at the noon hour and meditate love’s ecstasy;
To return home at eventide with gratitude;
And then to sleep with a prayer for the beloved in your heart
And a song of praise upon your lips.

(Khalil Gibran, 1883-1931)

22. A Navajo blessing

Now you have lit a fire and that fire should not go out.
The two of you now have a fire that represents love,
understanding and a philosophy of life.
It will give you heat, food, warmth and happiness.
The new fire represents a new beginning - a new life and a new family.
The fire should keep burning; you should stay together.
You have lit the fire for life, until old age separates you.

(traditional)

23. Touched by an Angel

We, unaccustomed to courage
exiles from delight
live coiled in shells of loneliness
until love leaves its high holy temple
and comes into our sight
to liberate us into life.
Love arrives
and in its train come ecstasies
old memories of pleasure
ancient histories of pain.
Yet if we are bold,
love strikes away the chains of fear
from our souls.
We are weaned from our timidity
In the flush of love's light
we dare be brave
And suddenly we see
that love costs all we are
and will ever be.
Yet it is only love
which sets us free.

(Maya Angelou)

24. Sonnet 116

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments. Love is not love,
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove.
Oh, no! it is an ever-fixed mark
That looks on tempests.. and is never shaken.
It is the star to every wandering bark
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.
Love is not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickle's compass come.
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out.. even to the edge of doom.
If this be error and upon me proved,
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

(William Shakespeare, 1564-1616)

25. She walks in beauty

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes:
Thus mellow'd to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.
One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impair'd the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o'er her face;
Where thoughts serenely sweet express
How pure, how dear their dwelling-place.
And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent!

(Long Byron)

26. From 'The Symposium'

Anciently is mutual love ingrained in mankind. When one happens on his own particular perfect half, the two of them are wondrously thrilled with affection and intimacy and love, and are hardly to be induced to leave each other's side for a single moment. These are they who continue together throughout life. No one could imagine this to be the mere amorous connection: obviously the soul of each is wishing for something else that it cannot express. The craving and pursuit of that entirety is called Love. If we make friends with God and are reconciled, we shall have the fortune that falls to few in our day of discovering our proper favorites. Love is the god who brings this about; he fully deserves our hymns. If we will supply the gods with reverent duty, he will restore us to our ancient life and heal and help us into the happiness of the blest.

(Plato, 429-347 BC)

27. The Gift of Love

The gift of love,
The devotion a man and a woman may feel
Each for the other,
It is the great and eternal mystery of this world of ours.
We see it always, know joy beyond measure in its finding.
Find fulfilment and happiness in its sharing.
We need not understand
Only acknowledge and cherish its existence.
Life has the capacity to bring great sorrow as well as great happiness
But no matter what the adversity
Its pain will yield to the acknowledgement of love and the acceptance of life.
So keep open your hearts, be true to your souls.
You will remember always that the greatest gift of all is love.
Given and received without reservation, with humility and gratitude,
It forms of itself a bulwark,
A buttress, a haven, a strength that never wanes or weakens,
But grows more wonderful, more unconquerable day by day
And enables life to become
An exciting and satisfying experience,
An existence filled with happiness.

(Anon)

28. I Held out my Hand
I held out my hand
And you were there.
You took my foolishness
And gently showed me the path.
You took my pride
And made me laugh at myself
You took my wounds
And covered them with the balm of love.
In your light
I have the faith
I need to succeed.
In your presence
I can explore myself.
In your arms
I find peace.
I give myself to you
Because I want to
Because I trust that I can.

(Lisa Integali)

29. Marriage Lines

In a marriage where love lives
There’s realism and truth,
There’s pleasure in giving of time.
Closeness and security
freedom for individuality
no need to possess or confine.
In a marriage where love lives
True friendship is present
With respect for each point of view
Through disappointment sharing
comes deeper caring
happiness deeper for two.
In a marriage where love lives
There’s no need for rules
There’s understanding if harsh words are spoken
Apologies are accepted
Trust is effected
The true bonds of love never broken.

(Gloria Matthews)

30. Marriage is Love

If two are caring, as they’re sharing life's hopes and fears,
If the music of laughter outweighs the sadness of tears,
Marriage is togetherness.
If both derive pleasure from mere presence of each other,
Yet no jealousies restrict, worry or smother,
Marriage is freedom.
If achievements mean more when they benefit two
And consideration is shown with each point of view,
Marriage is respect.
And if togetherness, freedom and respect are combined
With a joy that words can never fully define,
Then marriage is love.

(Gloria Matthews)

31. Oodgeroo's Song

Life is ours in vain
Lacking love, which never
Counts the loss or gain.
But remember, ever
Love is linked with pain.
Light and sister shade
Shape each mortal morrow
Seek not to evade
Love's companion Sorrow,
And be not dismayed.
Grief is not ours in vain,
It's for our completeness.
If the fates ordain
Love to bring life sweetness,
Welcome too its pain.

(Oodgeroo Noonuccal)

32. Sonnet 47

Betwixt mine eye and heart a league is took,
And each doth good turns now unto the other:
When that mine eye is farnish'd for a look,
Or heart in love with sighs himself doth smother,
With my loves picture then my eye doth feast,
And to the painted banquet bids my heart.,
Another time mine eye is my heart's guest,
And in his thoughts of love doth share a part:
So, either by thy picture or my love,
Thyself away art present still with me;
For thou not further than my thoughts canst move,
And I am still with them and they with thee.,
Or, if they sleep, thy picture in my sight
Awakes my heart to heart's and eye's delight.
33. Thoughts of Nanushka

If I love
I will love beyond today
beyond the sensuous tingling of the body
beyond the imprisoned slavery of the mind.
I will love freely
as love was meant to be
like the white wings of a gull
on a journey to the sun
like the wonder of tomorrow
and the wonder of a thousand tomorrows
with the faith of a thousand yesterdays
which have freed me to love this way

(Nan Witcomb)

34. This Day

This day we shall remember well
As in our married love we dwell
And cast our minds back to this time
You made me yours and I you mine.
In wedded love we choose to be
Each binding each and yet each free
As days and months and years go on
Our love will hold us firm and strong
The marriage vow this day we say
Is a vow we'll build on day by day
And as we walk the path of life
The world will know we're man and wife
We two who now are but one soul
Have each to play a different role
And yet we know that all shall see
That bond of love twixt you and me
For in this life we each shall care
That all we do is all times fair
We pledge this day to be as one
In all those wondrous years to come.

(Brian Zouch)

35. 'Somebody' (adapted)

I want somebody to share the rest of my life -
Share my innermost thoughts and know my intimate detail,
Someone who’ll stand by my side and give me support
And in return they’ll get my support.
They will listen to me when I want to speak about the world we live in and life in general,
And though my views may be wrong, they’ll hear me out
And they won’t easily be converted to my way of thinking.
In fact they’ll often disagree, but at the end of it all they will understand me.
I want somebody who cares for me passionately,
With every thought and with every breath.
Someone who’ll help me see things in a different light -
All the things I detest I will almost like.
I don’t want to be tied, to anyone’s strings,
But when I’m asleep, I want somebody who’ll put their arms around me and kiss me tenderly.

(Depeche Mode)

36. These are the Hands

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever. These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future. These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other. These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow, and tears of joy. These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it. And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

[unknown]

37. A Blessing for Marriage

May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring, and may life grant you also patience, tolerance, and understanding.
May you always need one another - not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you know your fullness.
A mountain needs a valley to be complete; the valley does not make the mountain less but more; and the valley is more a valley because it has a mountain towering over it.
So let it be with you.
May you need one another, but not out of weakness.
May you want one another, but not out of lack.
May you entice one another, but not compel one another.
May you succeed in all important ways with one another,
and not fail in the little graces.
May you look for things to praise, often say,
"I love you!" and take no notice of small faults.
If you have quarrels that push you apart,
may both of you hope to have good sense
enough to take the first step back.
May you enter into the mystery which is the awareness
of one another’s presence - no more physical than spiritual,
warm and near when you are side by side, and warm and near
when you are in separate rooms or even distant cities.
May you have happiness, and may you find it making one
another happy.
May you have love, and may you find it loving one another

(Anon)

38. You Were Born Together, from The Prophet

You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore.
You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days.
Aye, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.
But let there be spaces in your togetherness,
And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.
Love one another but make not a bond of love:
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.
Fill each other’s cup but drink not from one cup.
Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf.
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each of you be alone,
Even as the strings of the lute are alone though they quiver
with the same music.
Give your hearts, but not into each other’s keeping.
For only the hands of Life can contain your hearts.
And stand together, yet not too near together:
For the pillars of the temple stand apart,
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other’s shadow.

(Kahlil Gibran, 1883-1931)

39. Married Love

You and I
Have so much love
That it
Burns like a fire,
In which we bake a lump of clay
Molded into a figure of you
And a figure of me.
Then we take both of them,
And break them into pieces,
And mix the pieces with water,
And mold again a figure of you,
And a figure of me.
I am in your clay.
You are in my clay.
In life we share a single quilt.
In death we will share one bed.

(Kuan Tao-Sheng 1262-1319)

40. i carry your heart with me

i carry your heart with me (i carry it in
my heart) i am never without it (anywhere
i go you go, my dear; and whatever is done
by only me is your doing, my darling)
i fear
no fate (for you are my fate, my sweet) i want
no world (for beautiful you are my world, my true)
and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant
and whatever a sun will always sing is you
here is the deepest secret nobody knows
(here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud
and the sky of the sky of a tree called life; which grows
higher than soul can hope or mind can hide)
and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart
i carry your heart (i carry it in my heart)

(e e cummings)

41. Love

I love you,
Not only for what you are,
But for what I am
When I am with you.
I love you,
Not only for what
You have made of yourself,
But for what
You are making of me.
I love you
For the part of me
That you bring out;
I love you
For putting your hand
Into my heaped-up heart
And passing over
All the foolish, weak things
That you can't help
Dimly seeing there,
And for drawing out
Into the light
All the beautiful belongings
That no one else had looked
Quite far enough to find.
I love you because you
Are helping me to make
Of the lumber of my life
Not a tavern
But a temple;
Out of the works
Of my every day
Not a reproach
But a song.
I love you
Because you have done
More than any creed
Could have done
To make me good,
And more than any fate
Could have done
To make me happy.
You have done it
Without a touch,
Without a word,
Without a sign.
You have done it
By being yourself.
Perhaps that is what
Being a friend means,
After all.

(Roy Croft, 1907-1973)

42. Give yourselves to one another completely

Give yourselves to one another completely. Be generous in your giving and make no conditions for these gifts. Love one another constantly and fully.
Be humble in your acceptance of your partners love. Be honest with one another. Be thankful for each other, and lovingly strive to develop this richness day by day.
Respect one another in every way. Be patient with one another’s weaknesses and accept each other for what you are, not for what you wish the other to be.
Communicate constantly with one another, be calm, be patient, tolerant and reasonable in your communication. Be capable of good listening. Share with one another fortune and misfortune alike. Be compassionate and express your love constantly. Fuse your souls into one, and be always happy for the love you have been so fortunate to find in each other.

(inspired by the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians)