

No Love to a Lot of Love by Chris Garner

One couple came for counseling because the wife was fed up with being treated poorly. Jim wasn't a bad person, he loved his wife and children, but there was a lot of negativity and harshness. Sheila felt put down, discounted, unloved and that she couldn't do anything right. Sheila finally had enough after one difficult argument and she gave Jim an ultimatum; "change or I'm leaving you." Jim realized his wife was serious and agreed to counseling with her. In anguish, he said he did not want to lose his wife and would do anything to keep their marriage together. During counseling, they gained an understanding of their differences, learned Biblical principles for marriage and built relationship skills. Jim and Sheila turned their hearts toward each other and *decided* to demonstrate love for each other on a daily basis. Not only has it greatly improved their relationship, but their children have seen the difference and the changes have made a difference throughout their family. They continue to work on their marriage and grow in their love for each other. Sheila says that she didn't feel love for her husband before, but now can truly say she loves him. Jim says that without their church's marriage ministry and counseling, he doesn't know if they would have made it and he is extremely grateful for the tools available to help get their marriage on the right track. Jim still tears up when he speaks of how close he was to losing the love of his life. Sheila knows she made the right decision to remain and work through their problems.

Do you need to turn your heart toward your wife or husband? The Bible commands husbands to love their wives and not to be harsh with them and also commands wives to respect and support their husbands. It is not always easy, but it is a choice we have to make. Will you make that choice today?

(This is a true story, but the names and some details have been changed to maintain confidentiality of the couple involved.)