

# *The Marriage Creed*

**Comfort each other...**Provide a refuge and sanctuary for one another from the chill winds of the world. Your marriage is a hearth, from whence comes the peace, harmony, and warmth of soul and spirit.

**Listen to each other...**Hear not only words, but also the non-language of tone, mood, and expression. Learn to listen to understand rather than listening to argue.

**Caress as you would be caressed...**Warm your loved one's body with your soothing touch. Remember that as babies can die with lack of touching, so can marriages wither from lack of closeness.

**Respect each other's rights...**Each is a person of flesh and blood, entitled to his or her own choices and mistakes. Each owns himself, and has the right to equality.

**Be a friend and partner...**Friendship can be a peaceful island, separate and apart, in a world of turmoil and strife. Reflect upon the tranquility of the many, many future years you can share with a true friend, and beware of becoming battling enemies under the same roof.

**Allow the other to be an individual...**Seek not to create for each other a new mold that can only fit with much pain and discomfort. Accept the other as they are, as you would have yourself accepted.

**Be open with each other...**Embrace not yourselves in the secretness that causes suspicion and doubt. Trust and reveal yourselves to each other, even as the budding rose opens to reveal its beauty and fragrance.

**Cherish your union...**Let no one separate your togetherness, not child, not friend, nor worldly goods. Yet maintain enough separateness to allow each other his or her own unique oneness.

**Give each other approval...**Compliments encourage confidence in the other, while criticism divides. Hasten not to point out the other's mistakes, for each will soon discover his own.

**Love one another...**Love is your river of life-an eternal source of recreating yourselves. Above all else-love one another.