

MY LATEST LEGACY NUGGET

What I Want to Share with You on your Wedding Day

Dear Wendy and Mark:

We are so happy for the both of you on this special day.

48 years ago, your uncle and I wrote our own wedding vows (which was the rage back then) and promised to always tell each other “the truth in love,” recognizing there would be rocky times when we would need to forgive the other.

I now wish we had said something about forgiveness in marriage vows. Here’s why.

“Love doesn’t keep a score of wrongs. Love doesn’t bring up past failures. None of us is perfect. In marriage, we do not always do the right thing. We have sometimes done and said hurtful things to our spouses. We cannot erase the past. We can only confess it and agree that it was wrong. We can ask for forgiveness and try to act differently in the future.

“Having confessed my failure and asked forgiveness, I can do nothing more to mitigate the hurt it may have caused my spouse. When I have been wronged by my spouse and she has painfully confessed it and requested forgiveness, I have the option of justice or forgiveness.

“If I choose justice and seek to pay her back or make her pay for her wrongdoing, I am making myself the judge and her the felon. Intimacy becomes impossible. If, however, I choose to forgive, intimacy can be restored. Forgiveness is the way of love.” — Gary Chapman, [The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate](#)

May you both continue to live in love, truth and forgiveness.

Bless you.
Aunt Maggie
