

Loving the Applause

After a violin concert by young Suzuki students, an instructor spoke briefly on how children as young as 2 to 4 years in age are taught to play the instrument.

First, the pupils learn the proper stance. Second, the youngsters are trained – even before they pick up the violin – on how to take a bow.



“If children just play the violin and stop, people may forget to show their appreciation,” the teacher said. “But when the children bow, the audience invariably applauds. And applause is the best motivator we’ve found to make children feel good about performing and want to do well.”

That conclusion isn’t surprising. Adults love applause, too. Being affirmed makes us feel special and noticed.

Mark Twain once confessed he could “live for two months on one good compliment.” He was just admitting what most of us feel privately – that we all need a lift from time to time.

Proverbs 25:11 states: “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.”

It’s a wonderful reminder for the relationships we build and share. Yet we are sometimes reluctant to give the warm sunshine of praise and appreciation to the one most dear to us – the spouse.

If you want to rekindle or keep the flames of love glowing in your marriage, express appreciation to your wife or husband. Be specific with your praise, be truthful, and be generous.

Put some applause in your marriage, and watch love grow.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit (Proverbs 18:21 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter