

Lovable Couples

Biologically speaking, men and women unite in order to procreate. In fact, it has been said that the purpose of life is to reproduce. But if you're lucky, you just might actually enjoy the person you select to pair up with. For an issue dedicated to love, *Athena Magazine* wanted to feature some of the most lovable couples that we know: James and Juanita Page, Tommy and Sylvia Wilson, Will and Oonagh Benson, Greg and Cary Perry, Tom and Marta Whigham, and Hal and Betty Cofer. From the light in their eyes and their radiant faces, it's clear that each of these couples consider themselves the luckiest people in the world.

♥ Greg and Cary Perry

Blue flutter-sleeve dress available at Blonde in Athens





♥ Will and Oonagh Benson

*Purple
draped dress
available at
Blonde in
Athens*

Although every relationship is different, there are certain characteristics that nearly every successful relationship share. One such characteristic is a deep appreciation and respect for your partner. Greg and Cary Perry have this part nailed. “No matter what life has dealt her, Cary has taken it on with her unique, strong, but likable and selfless personality,” Greg beams. “The thing I most admire about Greg is that he is a kind, sensitive person who is not afraid to show it – with me, with his children or with his patients. It takes a strong man to be able to do this and it definitely is one of the things I love most about him.”

Falling in love, however, is the easy part. It’s once a commitment has been made in a relationship that the tough part begins. It can be easy to fall into a pattern of doing everything together and often times, neglecting the people in your life that you used to enjoy spending time with, or the activities that you used to enjoy doing before you found the love of your life.

However, it is the couple that finds the perfect equilibrium-the couple that finds a way to make time for both their partner and their separate life-which we should all look to, for this couple has found the key to a healthy relationship: balance. Each of our lovable cou-

ples have found this precious quality. “Will and I do many things together,” Oonagh Benson explains, “but we both have our own interests and activities that keep us independent. It’s nice to come home at night and talk about what we did that day instead of knowing exactly what happened because we were there together.”

So you’ve managed to find somebody that you love, you’ve made the commitment, but what happens next? After being in the same relationship for years, as all of our couples have, many people often find themselves in a rut, which can lead to a myriad of different conflicts. “We have had problems like every couple, but patience and mutual affection has kept us



♥ James and Juanita Page

♥ Tommy and Sylvia Wilson

Beige sweater, black top and necklace available at Rouge in Athens





♥ Tom and Marta Whigham

Gold blouse and black pencil skirt available at Blonde in Athens

♥ Hal and Betty Cofer

Purple jacket, black pants and printed long-sleeved shirt available at Stein Mart in Athens

together,” Marta Whigham explains, saying that she and Tom have been married for 21 years. Tom says that, “We choose our battles more wisely nowadays. Once upon a time it would’ve been like Gettysburg; today, just little skirmishes.” Picking your battles can be a difficult task, but Tom explains that the key is to “listen more than talk.”

While there is no standard formula for “making it work,” and every relationship is different, our six lovable couples are a true inspiration for what a happy, healthy and loving relationship can be.

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