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## KEEP PLAYING THE GAME

On Wednesday, April 27, 2022, I had the pleasure and privilege of performing the vow renewal service for Lloyd and Betty Frank from Barberton, Ohio who were celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Lloyd is 96 and Betty is 97. They were married on Thursday, April 17, 1947, at the Little Brown Church. The officiating minister was the Rev F.L. Hanscom. It was such an honor and a blessing to see two folks who were obviously still in love with each other after all these years.

We did a few special things for their special day. My wife Jesse and I sang their favorite hymn, "The Old Rugged Cross", and at the end of the ceremony she sang the Irving Berlin classic, "I'll Be Loving You Always". We presented them with a special certificate that included a picture of Rev. Hanscom and a copy of their original signatures in the marriage register as well as a winter scene model of the Little Brown Church.

As I walked them through the ceremony reminded it reminded me of the time, I talked with an old couple back in Scotland who were celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. I asked them this question, *"To what do you attribute your success in being married so long?"* The old gentleman replied, *"You see, when we first got married, we had a plan...the plan was that we would have a competition throughout the rest of our marriage to see which one of us could out-love or out-give each other!"* I said to him, *"Good plan...how's it working out so far...who's the winner?"* He said, ***"Can't tell you son, we're still playing the game!!"***

During Lloyd and Betty's vow renewal ceremony I quoted from I Corinthians 13 – the love chapter! Paul writes;

***"<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices***

***with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails. <sup>3</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.***

The couple in Scotland (and Lloyd and Betty) certainly embraced the truths that Paul wrote, especially the part where he writes “love is self-seeking.” In a world where people seemingly are becoming more and more selfish, where it’s “every man for himself” it was a breath of fresh air to discover people who still believed that it is “better to give than to receive.” Let’s strive, in all our relationships, to be the one who tries to out-love and out-give the other.