

Couples In Bloom – Door or Doormat

December 2010

“Christmas is about giving.” This accurately defines a *Christmas-ized Christ*. Generosity is Biblical, as Santa Claus knows. Jesus Christ is God’s gift to mankind, and the Gospel is good news. God’s gifts are **doors**: Jesus’ love met people’s *earthly* needs **so that** they might let Him address their *eternal* need. As Christians, we do this same thing.

Jesus Christ is the **Door** ⇒ John 10:1-10, the only entrance to salvation and goodness. The Christmas-ized Christ is a spiritual-ized Santa Claus: giving earthly gifts without giving eternal ones ⇒ Matthew 16:26. *Hell-bound people* are “the reason for the season”: Jesus Christ came to save *us*. How did He meet both our earthly and our eternal needs?

Two things happen when people go through the **Door**: 1) *blessings come*; 2) *sins go*. *Blessings come* from God, the source of every good gift ⇒ James 1:17. How do *sins go*? *Sins go* on the **doormat**: **Jesus Christ is the Door and the doormat** ⇒ 1 Peter 2:19-24. Are Christians supposed to be **doormats**? Are spouses supposed to be **doormats**?

Matthew 5:38-48 ⇒ talks about two things: being wronged and serving. Being wronged is being a **doormat**, and serving is being a **door**. God says we need to be **both**; being one without the other makes no sense, and accomplishes nothing of lasting value.

Relationship with Jesus Christ allows Him to be our **Door** (source of righteousness) and our **doormat** (cleanser of unrighteousness). Our relationships need both. Each spouse of a good marriage is both a door and a doormat, as Jesus is to His Bride. But know this: **No one will be motivated to be a door and a doormat until they know love requires both.**

Why do some relationships avoid marriage? Why do some marriages avoid intimacy? The answers may be found at the door and the doormat. Jesus later says He knocks at our door to see what we *do* ⇒ Revelation 3:20; relationship is two-way servanthood. Those who avoid servanthood also prevent intimacy. When a marriage struggles, the spouses need to *open* their **door** (become the goodness portal) and *place* their **doormat** (receive the cost of dirt from the other). This is how *our* relationship with God works *every day!*

Being a **door** and a **doormat** can be *difficult*. How can a spouse be these things *then*? God “rewards” those “who love His appearing” ⇒ 2 Timothy 4:8. In other words: loving the *person* is what matters, not loving the *tasks*. Jesus did not love the *task* of dying for our sins, but did it for *us* and *we love Him for it*. Marriage works the same: spouses who dislike *difficult tasks* but still do them get “crowns of righteousness” from God because they **live out** the fact that the *person* is worth the cost of the *tasks*, and are *loved for it*.

Each one of us needs to ask ourselves if we are in relationship with God as wholeheartedly as He is in it for us. We also need to ask ourselves if we are in our marriage relationship just as wholeheartedly... **door** and **doormat**. Repentance will be needed at times, plus heartfelt improvement of our **living out** the same Christianity that saved *us*.

Merely giving gifts can cause holiday depression. Instead, do what Jesus did!: Be the **door of giving and the doormat of forgiving**: let fervent love **cover a multitude of sins** ⇒ 1 Peter 4:8. No other relationship method works; otherwise God would have used it. It is costly, but the results are priceless... because they’re eternal. ♥ Loren & Kathy Falzone