

Couples In Bloom – Feel My Feelings

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We *care* about the feelings of those we have close relationships with because we are made in God's image ⇒ Genesis 1:27 and God is *good* ⇒ James 1:17. **God has feelings** that we should be aware of, care about, and act upon... since He is very important to us:

- **Satisfaction** ⇒ Genesis 1:31, Ezekiel 5:13
- **Sadness** ⇒ John 11:35, Mark 3:5
- **Anger** ⇒ Psalm 2:5, Exodus 4:14
- **Love** ⇒ 2 Corinthians 9:7, John 3:16
- **Mockery** ⇒ Psalm 2:4, Psalm 37:13
- **Hate** ⇒ Proverbs 6:16+, Malachi 2:16

God's heart experiences both positive ⇒ 1 Samuel 2:35 and negative ⇒ Genesis 6:6.

Our free will allows us opportunities to give Him either one. Those *who love* God should *focus on doing God's heart some good* ⇒ 1 Thessalonians 4:1. Those who *hate God* run away from Him ⇒ Psalm 68:1 and bring curses upon themselves ⇒ Deuteronomy 5:9.

How do we please God? Deuteronomy 6:5 says ⇒ God wants us to love him with all we've got: heart (first), soul, and might. *All our might* literally means *vehemently* and the word picture is *firebrand*. The Bride of Christ is *hot* – with passion. This verse also says to love Him with *our* heart, soul and might; God wants *our* expression of passionate love. Those who love God do what He says ⇒ John 14:15.

We please our spouse the same way we please God: *firebrand hot love*: “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you ⇒ John 15:12. We are to love our spouse with all our heart, soul, and might. As Jesus did not *want* to die for our sins but *did* out of love, so our love is to remain hot even when we do not *want* to love.

I am not a passionate person, you say? Then it is time to become a ***doer of the Word***: use Scriptures (even the list above) and minister to God with that knowledge. Examples:

- Genesis 1:31 “God, your creation is very good! I am so blessed to be part of it.”
- Mark 3:5 “God, I believe you are the healer! I trust you and love you for that.”
- Proverbs 6:19 “God, I receive your heart to bless people and not divide them.”
- 2 Corinthians 9:7 “God, I just love giving to your work. I get to work with ***GOD!!!***”

The same goes for your spouse: what makes or breaks them? Use *those* facts to customize your ministry to them. You can also get some ideas from Scripture. Examples:

- Genesis 1:31 “____, you put so much into our meals! I am so blessed by your efforts.”
- Mark 3:5 “____, you bring such life to our family! I admire you and like that in you.”
- Proverbs 6:19 “____, I am committing to encourage you more and not criticize you.”
- 2 Corinthians 9:7 “____, let me help you do the dishes. I would rather work *with you* than relax by myself. You are very important to me.”

Practicing brings progress, which brings results. **Passion is the fruit of authority**, which happens as we become ***doers of the Word***. It is *not for religiosity* that God gave us commandments. Rather, God's words are words of *life* that minister *life* into our *life*!

God ministers according to our need. A quote from the *Intimate Anatomy* workbook: “**Needs need nurturing, not negativity.**” Study and learn about God's heart, and your spouse's heart, and then passionately minister to *those* needs. ♥ Loren & Kathy Falzone