

Couples In Bloom – **Double Minded: Triple Trouble**

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“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and with no reproach, and it shall be given to him. But let him ask in faith, **doubting nothing**. For he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. For do not let that man think that he shall **receive anything** from the Lord; he is a **double-minded** man, **not dependable in all his ways**.” ⇒ James 1:5-8. **Why such strong language for doubting?**

Duplicity / being double minded tries to unify opposites, creates conflict, and always fails. Philosophers call these opposites “thesis and antithesis”, and the attempted merger “**synthesis**”. Some governments and religions are built on “thesis-antithesis”, while others on “thesis-antithesis-synthesis”. God’s government and relationship are built on “thesis-antithesis”: **absolutes exist**. Evil hates this fact because it exposes (the “synthesis” of) sin.

Duplicity creates problems from: **1)** inconsistency with thesis, **2)** inconsistency with antithesis, and **3)** the lies that are necessitated by synthesis. Synthesis nauseates God ⇒ Revelation 3:16. Knowing this helps us understand how God thinks, His Word, and how to live our life wisely and victoriously. How we think determines what we do every day.

The order God created provides clarity, reliability and peace ⇒ 1 Corinthians 14:40. He is a good shepherd and knows we need consistency ⇒ Matthew 5:37; James 5:12. **Tolerance** is evil when applied to absolutes, providing false comfort and destroying goodness as it compromises truth. The righteous are **bold** as a lion ⇒ Proverbs 28:1 because they own **truth**. The ungodly are guilty and therefore timid ⇒ Revelation 21:8; John 14:27. The Godly are **decisive** based on His directions that come by relationship.

Great marriages are single minded: they love living in the bold security of truth. This is how God relates with us and is how He teaches spouses to relate to each other. **Diversity** displays the beauty of God’s creativity and prospers in the security of single mindedness. This means we bloom into who God made us to be when we live according to His ways. Our hell-bound enemy, satan the liar, says being single minded is narrow minded. That ‘narrow mindedness’ ⇒ Matthew 7:13-15 keeps us blessed and out of hell!

Marriage applications: some ways that **single mindedness** make a marriage great:

- ✓ **Fidelity**: conquers pornography, fornication, polygamy, etc. ⇒ Proverbs 5; Proverbs 7.
- ✓ **Faith**: beats unbelief so belief can rule our heart and mind ⇒ Mark 9:24; Romans 3:3.
- ✓ **Finances**: choosing to make God the Lord of our money allows Him to financially bless us and keep us from loss and being led astray ⇒ Luke 16:13; Malachi 3:8-18.

Single mindedness is having a sound mind ⇒ Luke 8:35; 1 Peter 4:7; 2 Timothy 1:7. God created wisdom ⇒ Proverbs & James; and needs us to **think** ⇒ Isaiah 1:18; Matthew 15:16. Here are two ways to **think** from math class... don’t worry; God gives us **answers**:

- ✓ **Interpolate**: **see how** it got there. Math example: 2, 4, __, __, 10, 12. **Answer**: 6, 8.
Bible example: James 4:1-3 ⇒ **see how** prayer was not answered. **Answer**: lust.
- ✓ **Extrapolate**: **see where** it is going. Math example: 2, 4, 6, 8, __, __. **Answer**: 10, 12.
Bible example: James 1:13-15 ⇒ **see where** temptation leads. **Answer**: death.

Live victoriously: **think single mindedly** in God ⇒ Joshua 1:9; 24:15. ♥ Loren Falzone