

Couples In Bloom – Dying For A Spouse?

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While unmarried, did you ever feel like you were '*dying for a spouse*', so to speak? A spouse is a good thing to want, yet it is possible and popular to make it a bad thing by having unhealthy reasons. Dying for (to have) a spouse might be a bad sign, because it may indicate we are receiving-oriented. Lasting relationships are always giving-oriented.

Our desire for intimate companionship originated in the heart of God, and we are made in His image ⇒ Genesis 1:27. **Need** is part of who we are. God is the only self-existent one ⇒ Exodus 3:14. Our need points us to God, and also teaches us how central servanthood is to life itself. Being giving-oriented is how anything continues to exist!

Divorce is an end result of being receiving-oriented. Indicators along the way include prenuptial agreements, soul-mate ideology, calling God-given differences irreconcilable differences, and other things with the same selfishness message: be like me or you're out. It all fits into the enemy of our souls' goal: to kill, steal and destroy all God's blessings.

Jesus Christ **correctly** modeled '*dying for a spouse*': by '*dying to self for a spouse*', the Bride of Christ that is, in the greatest act of **being giving-oriented** ⇒ John 15:13. The verse before this commands us to love the very same way ⇒ John 15:12 because it **is the only way blessings happen**. '*Dying for a spouse*' is a statement of commitment for the giving-oriented and a statement of sickness for the receiving-oriented i.e. taking-oriented.

We need to understand how nice God's ways end up treating us and how badly "what feels good" ends up treating us. What our flesh thinks is good is actually terrible. This is what God's Word tells us in so many ways. If we keep renewing our mind with this truth, we keep living in the blessings of God. So many people miss the point and become angry at God for His 'harsh rules', when in fact He is all about 'loving leadership', **by example!**

Now bring this home: super-impose the above paragraph on top of your situation:

- 1. Single:** pray for yourself and your future spouse to have '*dying for a spouse*' hearts that understand and practice the wisdom of John 15:12-13. Seek God's Word for examples to learn His ways from; creatively imagine how you might be able to bless your future spouse and begin working on developing them deeply into your character.
- 2. Married:** pray for yourselves to have '*dying for a spouse*' hearts that understand and practice the wisdom of John 15:12-13. Seek God's Word for examples to learn His ways from; creatively imagine how you can bless your spouse in current situations.

Use the challenges of married life to develop them deeply into your own character.

The correct quality of '*dying for a spouse*' transcends your marriage. It becomes part of your very nature in life because you build it in your spirit, which is eternal. These are the powerful changes the ungodly long for, and seek wrong avenues for, and need you to model for them where- and Who- provides them. This includes a non-believing spouse.

Ultimately and eternally, it's just you and God, your spiritual Bridegroom / spouse. Do not dismiss this seemingly distant reality! Although the earth is all we have so far, it will be gone soon enough, and then all that remains forever is '*living for a spouse: our spiritual Bridegroom*'. Start **dying** and therefore really **living** right now. ♥ Loren Falzone