

## Couples In Bloom – Disabled... To Love

February 2011

“I (*Jesus*) am **able to do nothing** of Myself... because I do not seek My will, but the will of the One sending Me (*on a mission*), the Father.” ⇨ John 5:30. The word *seek* used here literally refers to something *hidden*. **The hidden agendas of our humanness get disabled when we seek the hidden agendas of God instead!** Will power will fail ⇨ Zechariah 4:6 but seeking God will not fail! ⇨ Deuteronomy 4:29, Galatians 5:16. **Wow!**

Hidden agendas are ‘wants’. Human ‘wants’ are not always human ‘needs’. Seeking God instead of ourselves meets our needs and our proper wants and disables our improper wants. These are benefits of mature submission. Good marriages, including relationship with God, have spouses *on a mission* to seek out and meet each other’s hidden agendas.

God made us so we *cannot* meet our own needs. Only mutual intimacy with a spouse brings success in marriage. We **need** our spouse to seek us out, and they **need** us to seek them out. It is the same heart-to-heart stuff God seeks in us, and we seek in Him. We seek to find out what will bless them in their *deepest* parts to have a *deepest* relationship.

Chapter 9 in *Intimate Anatomy* asks the question, “What do you think is worthy of praise in a spouse? Attitudes, actions, both?” Men and women are different: many wives focus on *attitudes*, while many husbands focus on *actions*. This is one example of why **we need to disable our own hidden agendas**. See if you can relate to the following story:

Valentine’s Day was coming and the husband wanted to *really* bless his wife this year. Not understanding hidden agendas, he made an action plan of what he would do. His wife also wanted to *really* bless her husband this Valentine’s Day. Not understanding hidden agendas either, she imagined what would make his day. Finally, Valentine’s Day arrived.

The day had nice surprises throughout, including finished projects and special gifts. In the evening, they sat on the couch with happiness that had been building all day. Each felt proud for really going over the top this year and their spouse looked happy, too. Although each knew how they wanted to finish the day, both asked, “**What do you want to do?**” When their answers differed, the all-day build-up suddenly felt like a built-up frustration.

Although she appreciated everything he did today, her heart really longed for *him*, not just things he did for her. He knew she loved him, but he was really hoping for her to *want to do* what he wanted to do. Failing to seek the hidden agenda of their spouse, using their own ideas *caused* their own frustrations because their own ideas *were not mutual*.

“**Who are you?**” is the better approach intimate relationships need to use... *every* day. **Seeking** the *hidden agenda* of the other **is the spark** couples start their relationships with. **Seeking** the person out makes them feel wanted for who they are... initially **AND** always.

Both attitudes and actions are important in marriage, but attitudes come first and always need seeking. Try comparing attitudes and actions to faith and works ⇨ James 2. Follow Jesus and become **Disabled... To Love: Disabled...** to our own personal agendas by seeking our beloved’s hidden agendas instead, advancing our mission **To Love** them.

**Intimacy** is too valuable to be public; it needs *seeking* out. God said it: “You will find Me **when** you *seek* Me with all your heart.” ⇨ Jeremiah 29:13. ♥ Loren & Kathy Falzone