

CouplesInBloom.com – Oh, To Be There

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One of my favorite pictures is from the second day of our honeymoon. Kathy is sitting on an old style stone well and I am standing next to her. We are leaning on each other but the big reason I like it so much is our expressions. We knew each other for nearly three years before we got married, so when the day finally came, we were ready! The picture, however, captures the moment of finally **being there**, which still thrills me 28 years later.

Realize God designed the ecstasy of marriage. Thank him profusely for it, and rejoice in the wife of your youth ⇒ Proverbs 5:18... but do not stop there. Marriage is an earthly copy-paste of the original, much more intense and eternal event... worthy of immediate celebration and no-holes-barred excitement. We're talking about intimate relationship with the only true God, the intensity of which is greater than excellent marriage on earth.

TIME OUT: if your marriage stinks, this article can help you as well. **SAYS WHO?** Says the One who invented marriage and knows how to make it awesome (i.e. God). **HOW SO?** By doing what *He* does with *His* bride. The Bride of Christ is those who accept intimate relationship with God. God is not polygamous: He personally relates to each of us as different individuals, whom together form one body of believers. We have a special relationship with each other as believers, but are individually enthralled with God.

If you want an excellent marriage, you need to learn it from the intimacy God wants with you, as explained in the Bible. Excellent friendships are also explained there. We have friendships around the world that are like the best of brothers and sisters, but our own marriage relationship has unbridled passion in every regard, just as God has with us. To learn more about this, we suggest reading *Intimate Anatomy* (IntimateAnatomy.com).

Marriage can maximize when it is defined correctly. **What makes marriage ecstatic?** The one word answer is **servanthood**. Oversimplified yet true. Follow this paragraph: God alone is forever eternal. He created us to be eternal from conception forward. He is a servant, as Jesus Christ proved while on earth, and the Holy Spirit proves every day to those who accept God's offer of intimacy and Lordship. Our heartfelt response commences this eternal relationship. Marriage works the same way: mutual servanthood.

The best scenario is when both spouses are intimate with God. You can now see how this forms an ever tightening intimate triangle: God with husband, God with wife, husband with wife. Ecstasy grows when servanthood is their motivation. Servanthood (not oversimplified) includes love, forgiveness, and everything relationships need, which the Bible explains. **Humans cannot maximize marriage without God** because they lack **the power that God alone owns, especially the vital, eternal characteristic of "more"**.

More is what Kathy and I longed for during our courtship for marriage. **More** is what I see in our picture mentioned, and **more** is what we are **still** receiving 28 years after that picture. This is all true exclusively because **more** is what God gives. He alone has the power to change people from the inside out and give them **more** than they ever could have imagined. **Do you want To Be There? Oh**, you can, and so can your spouse! Intimacy is meant to be **eternal**. God alone makes this dream come true. ♥ Loren Falzone