

CouplesInBloom.com – Why Fantasies Fail

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“Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and let him bear his cross, and let him follow Me. For whoever may desire to save his life will lose it. But whoever may lose his life for My sake will find it.” ⇒ Matthew 16:24-25. This is a Biblical example of how human relationship with God models marital intimacy:

If we desire our spouse, we must follow our spouse. Whoever seeks his own desire will not receive it, and whoever destroys his own desire for the *others*’ will receive it.

HOW we desire our spouse may halt its fulfillment. Human impulse says to take what we desire. This human way of thinking is merely a transaction: pay me and then I will give you what you want. This kills intimacy because it is about a desire, not a person. Prenuptial agreements, divorce and unhappy marriages abound all from this one problem.

Which do you think better fulfills our desires: **telling our spouse our desires OR seeking to discover our spouse’s desires?** Matthew 16:24-25 teaches us it is the latter. Spouses who mutually seek the other’s desires feel loved by the inquiry; spouses who merely hear and meet the other’s desires are just a business operation. Many marriages operate this way, are outside of God’s will, lack love and therefore have limited intimacy.

Healthy marriage partners *do* tell each other what they do and do not like all the time; this is good, yet altogether *different* than the unconditional **motivation** only found in **seeking**. *Conditions are cancerous to love*. Businesses have conditions, and need them, because no other dynamic exists to ensure success. Intimate relationships, however, have unconditional lovers who commit to ministering to their spouse, including by seeking their spouse’s desires. Loving is central to the definition of Christianity... and Christians!

Marriages run by conditional love are pornographic. Pornography is all about **control**, as businesses are (see Pornography article at CouplesInBloom.com). 1 Corinthians 7:4 says ⇒ spouses have authority (*literally*: **control**) over the others’ body. The difference is **motivation**: pornography **takes control**; Christianity **gives control**... as a **motivation**, and **not** as a service provided in return for a payment. Ephesians 5:33 says ⇒ our spouse is our priority, not our self. **You may ask: Isn’t giving control risky?! What if my desires are not met?! Answer: motivation answers these questions; but conditions create them!**

Fantasies frustrate intimacy by failing to address our *deepest* desire: to spontaneously receive unconditional love for **who we are**. Just communicating fantasies to a spouse has the power to destroy what we really want: love by volunteerism ⇒ 1 John 4:19. The only way to have our deepest desires satisfied is God’s way: seeking our spouse’s deepest desires instead of our own. **The self-gratification of fantasizing cannot bless the heart.**

Genesis 2:24-25 says ⇒ spouses become **one**. **One means** no barriers. Barriers divide into two or more, thus destroying oneness. **REALIZE HOW GREAT THIS IS:** the fact that two people can become one in marriage yet still be two distinct people **is what allows** each to receive their deepest desire *without* fabricating it themselves! **This**, my friend, is **HOW TO GET THE LOVE EVERYONE CRAVES, INCLUDING GOD HIMSELF.**

Love God and your spouse with the love they cannot get themselves. ♥ Loren Falzone