

## CouplesInBloom.com – Draw Or Claw

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Psalm 103:2-5 ⇨ “Bless Jehovah, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits; He who forgives all your iniquities; who heals all your diseases; who redeems your life from destruction; who crowns you with kindness and tender mercies; who satisfies your desire with good; your **youth is renewed like the eagle's.**” Deuteronomy 14:11-12 ⇨ “You shall eat of all clean birds. But you shall **not eat of these: the eagle**, the black vulture...”

God uses His creation to teach us good and helpful lessons. Besides dietary education, the word meanings of the ‘**do not eat**’ birds show important truths about **communication**. The word eagle means **lacerate**; black vulture (ossifrage) means **claw**; other meanings from this bird list include **screaming, violence, emaciating, vomiting, irascibility (easily angered)** ⇨ Deuteronomy 14:11-18. These verbs in our communication are today’s topic.

Two aspects of the eagle in the Bible are **drawing** ⇨ Revelation 4:7 and **clawing** ⇨ Job 9:26. The picture on the left below represents communication by **drawing** the other so that they **long** to join us in conversation. The picture on the right below represents communication by **clawing**, where every sight and sound wreak with negativity, making us feel like running in the **opposite** direction as fast as we can; it is **very discomfoting!**



“Shall I come to you with a whip (clawing ⇨) or in love with a gentle spirit?” (⇨ drawing)

1 Corinthians 4:21



Spouses may not realize that the mean looking picture above to the right 🦅 is **precisely how their communication feels to their mate!** This is what the Word of God is for: improvement! ⇨ 2 Timothy 3:16-17. **Drawing** our spouse makes them **want** us ⇨ Song Of Songs 1:4. **Clawing** (includes nagging) our spouse makes them **loathe** us ⇨ Proverbs 19:13b. Three questions for you and your spouse to answer privately; then share answers:

1. WHICH PICTURE DO YOU **RECEIVE FROM YOUR SPOUSE?** \_\_\_\_
2. WHICH PICTURE DO YOU **GIVE TO YOUR SPOUSE?** \_\_\_\_
3. DOES YOUR SPOUSE **AGREE WITH YOUR ANSWERS TO #1 OR #2?** \_\_\_\_

We must remain teachable, and not call communication **clawing** just because it hurts. Exercising the discipline of forming good habits *when things are calm* equips us to do well *when the heat of the moment flashes up* ⇨ Psalm 119:11. Jesus wants disciples: people who receive- and live by- instruction ⇨ Matthew 28:19, Proverbs 9:1-12; not slackers ⇨ Proverbs 9:13-18 ...**because** He loves us and therefore wants the best for us.

Communication in marriage is patterned from our prayer to God. As prayer may suffer lack, so may meaningful conversation between spouses. Of *all* marriages, *Christians* have such *power* available for **drawing** their lover (and their Lover) with it! ♥ Loren Falzone