

CouplesInBloom.com – God Loves Surprises

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As the only sovereign one in existence, God is the best at surprises. Beyond the fun aspects of new things, **surprises** ultimately address **relationship** because the initiation of a surprise begs a subsequent **response**. Of the many types of communication in existence, surprises prompt **spontaneous** communication, which is **highly sought after**... but **why**?

Made in God's image ⇒ Genesis 1:26-27, we seek certain characteristics; three of them are: **1) truth, 2) love, and 3) choice**. Together, these make us want to be truly loved just for who we are. Our deepest motivations are attracted to **surprises** for the purpose of verifying **if authentic love exists**. If it does exist, our God-given desire feels satisfied.

This motivation manifests through surprising **others** and being surprised **oneself**. Desiring to surprise **others** may stem from one's **own** need to feel authentically loved (as the **surpriser**) or from wanting **others** to feel authentically loved (by surprising them). Desiring to **be** surprised **oneself** may reveal one's **own** desire to feel authentically loved.

WE need to be the surprised owner of God's authentic love to be a whole person.

To own it, understand the characteristics God gave us: **1) truth, 2) love, and 3) choice**:

1) Truth: God is love; no one else is ⇒ 1 John 4:8. Atheists, secular humanists, and other self-worshippers believe the temporary deception (*until they get saved or Judgment Day, whichever comes first*) that love is a *human* attribute. On the contrary, human nature is beyond sick; it is **only** the gift of God that anyone has any love at all ⇒ Jeremiah 17:9.

2) Love: authentic, unsolicited and undeserved servanthood initiated by someone else towards us ⇒ 1 John 4:19. We **know** when we have this because inside us there is a relentless explosion of knowledge and experience of being well cared for far, far beyond all the biggest ups and downs in life. This is called the joy of the Lord ⇒ Nehemiah 8:10.

3) Choice: being wanted for all good reasons. This is interesting because only God is good ⇒ Mark 10:18, yet He made the choice to love us, and gave us a choice to love Him back (or not!) ⇒ 1 John 5:1. He forgives those who do, plus gives them His righteousness which is required to join Him forever in Heaven (instead of suffering in hell forever).

This is such an amazingly good deal, you can tell who has it and who does not!

Those who have it **own** the surprise of a lifetime, and are exceedingly glad about it. Subsequently, they are freed from burdensome feelings of insecurity, never feeling loved or surprised or wanted. After all these blessings, though, God actually still gives more...

God wants us to run with this. The Holy Spirit brings spontaneity ⇒ John 3:8 within the protection of God's will ⇒ 1 Corinthians 14:40. In strength ⇒ Matthew 8:5-10 and in weakness ⇒ Matthew 9:20-22, **God loves when we exercise His power in us**. This is called faith in God ⇒ Hebrews 11. Faith was originally a verb, indicating steadfast assurance. Faith pleases God, who rewards us for seeking **Him** (v. 6), the author of faith.

As God **surprises us**, the Bride of Christ, with undeserved-but-intentional blessings ⇒ Ephesians 5:25, so it is our spiritual responsibility and enjoyable privilege to **surprise our spouse** with undeserved-but-intentional blessings. God has **greater surprises** (!) for those who follow His Word and His character ⇒ John 14:12-15. Let's follow! ♥ Loren Falzone