

CouplesInBloom.com – Laodicean Love Life

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Happiness is a curse if that's all we have. This is *not* suggesting we seek sadness; it is realizing that being a '**happiness-seeker**' is not healthy or Biblical... for life or marriage. God *owns* goodness, *wants* the best for us, and made **greatness** the way to be blessed:

1. **Greatest commandments**: love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength; and love others as yourself ⇒ Matthew 22:36-39.
2. **Great commission**: make disciples all over the world, teaching them what Jesus taught ⇒ Matthew 28:19-20.
3. **Greatest is the servant**: God created life so that receiving the best can only come through servanthood ⇒ Matthew 20:26-28; 23:11-12.

The Bible describes this **happiness curse** in Revelation 3:14-22, especially verse 17 ⇒ 'You say, 'I'm doing great! I'm happy! I have everything I want!' when in reality you do not even *realize* how blind and depraved you are.' While happiness-seeking depends on the unreliability of emotions, servanthood reliably helps both its giver and its receiver.

Happiness-seekers often divorce; 'Christians' and 'non-Christians' *alike* can fall into this **trap of selfishness**. Couples who live according to the servanthood of God's Word **grow** in intimacy, and their relationship deepens the longer they live this way. Non-Christian couples *might* have good marriages using the same truths; but tragically end up in hell for rejecting Jesus. Likewise, Christian couples who love Jesus but do not apply these truths to their marriage go to Heaven, but their marriage *may* feel like hell on earth.

It is *tragic* that Christians, churches, and marriage books preach '**happiness-seeking**'. It is what the Bible calls "**another gospel**": falsehood based on the feelings of people which brings a **curse** instead of truth based on the servanthood of Jesus Christ which brings **life** ⇒ Galatians 1:6-12. **God invented** the joy of intimacy ⇒ 1 John 4:19. Our joy increases the more intimate we get with *Him*. Seeking happiness *itself cannot* satisfy because it depends on what **happens**. Joy is stronger than happiness ⇒ Nehemiah 8:10.

Laodicea is where a church preached '**happiness-seeking**' ⇒ Revelation 3:14-22. Many churches and books today still promote this lie, **poisoning marriages** by preaching a **Laodicean love life** to couples, which is **self-god humanism** with a Christian label. On the contrary, God's marriage manual is His relationship with us, as detailed in the Bible and experienced through our intimacy with His Holy Spirit. *Those* three **great** Biblical characteristics listed above are *also* central to having the **greatest marriage love life**:

1. **Love** God first, then your spouse, as passionately as you can; and keep growing.
2. **Build** (disciple) your marriage Biblically, and build up (disciple) others with it.
3. **Serve** your spouse by **volunteering** to (help) do the harder things in life for them.

God designed love life to be great, and wants us to *let Him help us* have it. Be aware of the enemy of our soul who hates God and everyone who loves God ⇒ 1 Peter 5:8. Be wise yet harmless ⇒ Matthew 10:16. We wrote the **Intimate Anatomy** workbook to help you build a **Biblical love life** (online at IntimateAnatomy.com, Amazon.com, and others).

Don't fall into the **happy trap**. **Build up** a **great love life**. ♥ Loren and Kathy Falzone