

September 2012

3 = God + male + female: Genesis 1:27 ⇨ “And God created man in His image; in the image of God He created him. He created them male and female.”

2 = God + husband / wife united as one: Genesis 2:24 ⇨ “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife and they shall be one flesh.”

1 = God / His Bride united as one: Ephesians 5:31-32 ⇨ ““For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two of them shall be one flesh.” This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church” (...us!). John 17:21-22 ⇨ God’s #1 desire is being “1” with us **and that intimacy is wonderful!**

Life is all about developing this “1”-ness. Although Heaven eternally consists of this, it is rarely mentioned in modern Christianity. Instead, we often hear about the benefits God offers us; what happened to Biblical Christianity? The Bible says: “Know this also, that in the last days grievous times will be at hand. For men will be ...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying the power of it; even *turn away from these.*” ⇨ 2 Timothy 3:1-5. God gave us ample warning of this problem.

As **Christianity has** eternal purpose far greater than earthly and eternal benefits, so **marriage has** eternal purpose far greater than earthly and eternal benefits. Without discernment from God’s Holy Spirit, marriage seems to be all about **spouses**. The Bible, however, shows marriage is God’s picture of intimacy with **Him**... to prepare us now.

Married or not: if “2” or “3” (respectively) seem good enough, **we missed God’s point for life and marriage!** Both are an eternal **waste** without this 1-ness with God. We must ask how well we even **know** God if His benefits motivate us rather than 1-ness with **Him**.

Compare these Scriptures: a) Psalm 36:7-8 ⇨ “How precious is Your loving-kindness, O God! And the sons of men take refuge under the shadow of Your wing. They shall be satisfied with the fatness of Your house; and You shall make them drink of the river of Your **pleasures**” and b) Matthew 23:37-38 ⇨ “...How often I desired to gather you in the way a bird gathers her chicks under her wings! And you did not desire it. Behold, "your house is left to you **desolate.**”” Intimacy with God **does** replace **desolation** with **pleasure**.

Married Christians: there is **no** Biblical exemption for saved spouses to grow spiritually as individuals but **not** as a couple. Realize the inconsistency: enjoying 1-ness with our spouse **and** with God **separately**... but **not** with God **with** our spouse! There is **no justification to exclude marriage from the intimacy God designed it from: HIS !!!**

Why would we **want** to go to Heaven (forever!) if 1-ness with God does not interest us **now??** Do we expect our heart to **start** loving God once we die? Remember **we** go to Heaven; **not** some kind of clone. We **will** get new bodies, but the spirit inside it is still **us!** Matthew 7:20-23 ⇨ says having 1-ness with God **NOW** qualifies us for Heaven **THEN!**

Examples of 1-ness / intimacy with God with our spouse: interactively pray, study the Bible, worship and minister together often. **We know how to be one** with our spouse and how to be one with God; **now we need consistency: no longer withhold intimacy from God in our marriage: we need to be God’s intimate Bride with our spouse!** ♥