

## CouplesInBloom.com – Why Do You Love?

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“We love because God first loved us” ⇒ 1 John 4:19 is true, but is not a close enough look at the question: “**Why Do You Love?**” We need to know who our love is primarily motivated by / ministering to: **our self** or **someone else**. Do not answer this too quickly, as soul searching with the Holy Spirit ⇒ 1 Samuel 16:7; Jeremiah 17:9 is needed to discover such a rarely asked but immensely important question. But before we start our searching:

Try answering this question: “**Why does God love:** for **Himself** or for **us?**” Consider...

John 3:16 ⇒ God so loved **us** that He gave His only begotten Son (emphasis: **us**).

Revelation 4:11 ⇒ God made us for **His** pleasure / purpose (emphasis: **Himself**).

“**Why does God love**” is **not** an easy question to answer, is it? One thing **is** known here:

**We cannot know God’s heart very well unless we wrestle through this question.**

The Bible has our answer ⇒ 2 Timothy 3:16; follow through: Romans 5:8 ⇒ says God introduced **His** love to His **enemies**. This tells us that God’s pleasure (Revelation 4:11) is **ministry**, as do many other Scriptures ⇒ Hebrews 12:2; Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27-37. God’s love literally translated means unconditional initiation of service / ministry. Other Scriptures show that God’s motivation is **redemption** ⇒ Galatians 4:4-5; Titus 2:11-14.

So regarding the question, “**Why does God love:** for **Himself** or for **us?**” God says:

He made us for **His** pleasure.

His pleasure **is** ministering to **us**, His enemies, to redeem us from badness to goodness.

**HERE IS WHY THIS MATTERS:** ...not about semantics or even just theology:

God’s love is all about improvement, and **He requires us to love this way He loves us** ⇒ John 13:34; 15:12. The answer to our initial question, “**Why Do You Love?**” becomes a revealer of whether we are following God **or** mistakenly just **think** we are. If we love without ministry being central to our definition of love, we are deceived and disobedient.

*Application:* the statement, “I don’t love him / her anymore.” from God’s perspective says, “I don’t minister to him / her anymore.” God never agrees with that (until hell / when it’s too late) so those who say it deceive themselves. The reversed statement, “**They don’t love me** (anymore)” may be true, but is **precisely the situation God requires us to love in** ⇒ Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27-37; and for husbands specifically Ephesians 5:25-29.

*Application to your marriage problem:* the **first step** God uses in redeeming us **is** the same **first step** He requires us to use in resolving our human relationship problems ⇒ John 13:15: agreement on defining the problem ⇒ Mark 3:24-25. Knowing “**Why Do You Love?**” exposes motivation, which verifies that self-exaltation is neither one’s goal.

The **second step** God uses (and requires us to use) is being the initiator of a solution, regardless of the cost: God’s love for us moved our guilt to Him!!! **Do you take your spouse’s guilt as your own? Here’s how: replace their sin against you with ministry towards them** ⇒ 1 Corinthians 6:6-7; Philemon 1:17-18; Luke 10:30-37. Remember: **this** is **how** God forgives you and is **how** you enter Heaven: by living in **this** love; God’s love.

So **Why Do You Love?** To serve yourself or someone else? **Follow** your Redeemer, **experience** how giving out-blesses receiving ⇒ Acts 20:35, and **know WHY you love.** ♥