

## CouplesInBloom.com – Likers And Lovers

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I do not like some things about God. God does not like some things about me. The reason I do not like some things about God is that I do not understand why He does some things certain ways ⇒ Isaiah 55:9. The reason God does not like some things about me is that my heart, which is still being transformed ⇒ Romans 12:2, has wicked things in it ⇒ Jeremiah 17:9. However, for God and me (*and you?*) our likes do not determine our love:

God **loves** those He does **not like** ⇒ Romans 5:8-10. I love God because He loved me first ⇒ 1 John 4:19. God loves me because He chose to, and this makes me like Him, too.



Loving is sowing.....Liking is reaping.

Loving is giving.....Liking is getting.

Loving is input-based.....Liking is outcome-based.

Loving is about others.....Liking is about I / self.



God is love; and a **lover**.....People (and their social media) are **likers**.

**No one falls in love; they fall in like.** They *like* what they *get* and mistakenly call it *love*. **Lovers help** their marriage by saying *I love you* as part of their commitment to do that. **Likers harm** their marriage by **not** saying *I love you* when their selfishness is not fed as much... the end results of their *liking*-based mentality. Many people including Christians unfortunately seek, marry, and try to change / modify people they *love* (**no**) *like* (**yes**).

**God does not try to modify people;** that is *not* why He made them. God *does* love to do two things: give goodness and reward response to it. Neither of these are attempts to modify people; **people can never be spiritually modified!** What God *does* is offer to **add zoe** (pronounced *dzo-ay*) life to people ⇒ John 10:10, Romans 5:10; Matthew 7:14; and 124 other verses. **Zoe** is new-life power exclusively *from* God *to* responders to His love.

For thousands of years, many foolishly try to fabricate **zoe**, duplicate it, and own it... even under the guise of Christian labels. Psychology is the 'holy spirit' of Buddhism: the mental counterfeit of **zoe**. It is very popular with people who *like* God because it makes them *feel empowered*. God's authentic **zoe** actually *gives power*, but only to those who actively *love* God in return. Counterfeit **zoe** is an evil stronghold, but not our topic today.

God *never* changes / modifies ⇒ Malachi 3:6, **nor** is His power about mere mental modification such as will power, psychology, or humanism. God gave humans an eternal spirit, paid for their eternal life, and gave them the option to take it or not. If they do not take it, their only option is eternal death... *because* they are made **eternal** (in His image ⇒ Genesis 1:26) **and** they refused to have their **sin** removed, which Heaven has none of.

God says *liking follows loving*; but conversely and expectedly, worldliness says *loving follows liking*. The fruit of both are very obvious: in relationship successes and failures. If *liking* is the foundation of a relationship, feelings can destroy it. When *loving* is the foundation of a relationship, commitment ever strengthens it. **Did you hurt your marriage by liking your spouse instead of loving them first?** If so, you likely feel like you do not like them much anymore; **you starved** both of you! **Jesus commanded loving, not liking, each other** ⇒ John 13:34-35. If you **love** your spouse, you will  Like the results! **♥♥**