

February 2010

Love is a many splendored thing.

Dear Friend,

There is an old song that's titled "*Love is a Many Splendored-Thing.*" The lyrics of this song pull on the heart strings and evoke feelings of a passionate romance. These emotions that millions of song writers attempt to convey are better felt than told.

The emotions of passion and romance have launched ships in the name of someone's fair lady. Wars have been fought to defend the honor of a love in question and at times it has cost men their lives and fortunes to earn the respect of the one they cherished. Men have dueled, knights have fought and armies have marched only for the hand of their sweetheart. What makes this kind of love so powerful? What makes it only second to one other kind of love? No matter how far this love has fallen from its original purpose it still has its beginning in God.

Let's look at God's original purpose for this kind of passion in humanity for a moment. Some people will tell you that the number one reason why God created male and female is so that he could populate the earth, but this simply is not true.

Genesis 1:26-28 says And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

These verses are an overview of God creating male and female. Genesis chapter one is kind of like the big picture, but chapter two begins to describe in detail what those early moments in man's beginning was like.

Genesis 2:18-24 says And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

From these verses it's easy to see that the number one reason that God created woman for man was for companionship. He did not want man to be alone. So he created Adam a sweetie pie to share all of life with by his side.

It is extremely interesting to me the wording that was used to describe how God presented Eve to Adam after her creation. It did not say that God told Eve, *Now go over there that's your husband.* Nor did it say God said, *Adam come over here and meet your wife.* The Bible says, God ***"brought her unto the man."*** It almost seems that God created Eve behind the scenes somewhere only to bring her out just to show case his work of art. It was like God brought Eve out from behind the trees and said, hey son what do you think of this? Remember Adam had been put in a deep sleep by God earlier. If Eve was the first thing he saw when he woke up he must have thought my God I must be dreaming. Adam said, ***"She shall be called woman because she was taken from man"*** or *me*. He also said this ***"bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh."*** From the very beginning Adam was conveying in part, this is mine, she belongs to me and nobody else. This is funny considering they were the only two people on the planet. I believe that when God showcased Eve to Adam was when all the beautiful emotions of love and romance were birthed in the human race.

Notice that all of this happened prior to the fall. Some people may believe that the natural passion that is felt between a man and woman in love is the result of a sensuality that came as a result of man's fall. This is not true. There has however evolved a perverseness on humanity due to the fall but this emotion in its origin springs from something as pure as God himself.

The beautiful and most sacred part of this first marriage was the ceremony. This is the part that I love the most. God brought Eve to Adam. God as the proud Father of his first womanly creation was walking his little girl down the isle. He was giving away his daughter and setting the standard of how all of Eve's daughters should consider themselves for the rest of humanity to come, *a gift from heaven.*

God was saying to Adam, *Boy, you better treat her like a lady. Now you guys go have some fun!* The angels must have been singing something like, *here she is, she's Mrs. World.*

Just imagine how precious their times together were before the fall. No evil thoughts to deal with, neither one of them had a past, no loves gone bad, no memories of anything to confront the purity of what they experienced with each other. Neither of them knew the emotional stress of trying to measure up to unreal expectations. Not in the body, soul or spirit. Eve never had to fight comparing herself to the girl next door, down the street or across the aisle. She never fought the feelings of am I too short, too tall, too small, or too large? Does he like my hair long, short, curly, or straight? Never the thought of maybe I should fix it like you know who? No she was God's *gift*. This was how her dad gave her away and this is how Adam received her.

The fall robbed man from a lot. It robbed him of true romance. It robbed him of his true manhood. It kept him from appreciating who God had made him to be. Then it robbed him of the ability to receive the woman as a true gift from God. The fall also obligated man to bring all his baggage into whatever sacred union would come in the future.

The fall robbed the woman of the beauty of considering herself as the purest gift to her mate. She became bound to the feelings of needing to measure up to something unattainable, almost never being enough.

Friend what do you think Jesus thinks of love and romance? Why do you think he continually called himself the Bridegroom and his church the Bride? He was describing a passion that went back all the way to the creation of man. He was describing something so big in its capacity that he had to use it when he compared his love for us his church. Jesus loved romance. The Bible from beginning to end is thousands of pages of love letters sent from a God who is infatuated with his people.

What about the Song of Solomon? It is just as is titled in the King James Version, a song that was sung by King Solomon to his lover. The song is a red hot, juicy, “*parental guidance suggested*” love affair between Solomon and his wife, his bride, the Shulamite which means “*daughter of peace.*” Solomon of course would represent the “*Prince of Peace.*”

By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not.

The watchmen that go about the city found me: to whom I said, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth?

It was but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.

Song of Solomon 3:1-4

The language in this book maybe questionable by some but the fact remains it is still the Bible. The king is love sick with his bride. They are literally singing these words back and forth to each other in this song. Their heads are swimming. They are drunk with love and romance. The bride is searching for her husband in the middle of the night, going everywhere at any cost just to seek for his love. She’s asking everyone she meets, “Do you know where my love is?” I must find him at any cost. Talk about passion.

Solomon was really writing a prophetic book that describes the passion, love and intimacy that Christ desires to share with his church. Jesus is passionate about us. He can’t stop thinking about us day and night. His greatest hope is that we like Solomon’s bride will search him out at any cost. He desires that there be no limit to our affection. He hopes that we will not stop in this life until he (*Jesus*) fills every room of our heart.

Who taught Solomon to write with such passion about God? Remember his father was David, the great song writer. The man who captured the heart of God with his intimate lyrics, this was the man who wrote ***Psalm 42:1-2 To the chief Musician, Maschil, for the sons of Korah. As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?***

Solomon must have heard his dad sing of his unquenchable desire to know God. This is the greatest desire of the spirit of God, that we pursue a heart throb desire to get to know our father, in the image of Jesus Christ. This happens through nothing less than time spent in communion with the one we are married to in heaven. This intimacy becomes the fullness of the shadow of companionship on the earth.

I was about sixteen when I met the love of my life. Candis Diane Gilman, my wife of nearly thirty-two years. When we first met neither of us had much interest in the other. Time went by for some months and little happened as we would see each other at the little church we attended. We even dated one time earlier and really felt no common interest.

Oh boy, do I remember the day that God “brought her to me,” “the day that he “*showcased*” my wife! All the scales came off. It was like, “Oh my God, what have I been thinking?” “I was blind but now I see.” In one day I fell in love. The details go a little like this; I picked Candy up in my parent’s car only as a courtesy to my sister who was waiting for her at my parent’s house. It was a “set-up” by God. God’s kind of sneaky sometimes. All in one over extended drive across town, I fell in love and have never looked back.

From that time until our wedding day June twenty fourth, nineteen seventy eight, there was a passion that would not let me rest. I thought about her day and night. This was back in the day when teenagers didn’t rule their parents. No cell phones. Car privileges were mostly limited to the weekend. Fridays never came fast enough. I couldn’t stop thinking about her. I dreamed about her constantly. I was sick but had no physical ailment.

I was love sick with a desire for one person only. I couldn’t wait for the day when we never had to be separated. The greatest thing to all this mushy stuff is that I still feel that way today. *Okay, enough already* but its easy to talk this way when it comes from the heart.

The greatest thing that I’ve learned from my passion for my wife is the life lesson I’ve learned from God. I’ve learned the beauty of God’s passion for me. I learned that he is so in love with people that he can reverse all that the fall took from man through intimacy with Jesus Christ. This I am certain of. Passion for Jesus changes everything.

It can change the marriages that have never enjoyed the communion of hearts without pretense. Communion with Christ can dissolve what the pretense of baggage, closet sins and unnecessary comparisons can cause.

It can change all the feelings of rejections and failure that divorce can bring. It can restore to the emptiness that comes from a marriage gone bad, the feeling of worth.

To the single it testifies that they are not alone and they have a purpose. It assures them that they are not less than just because they have no earthly mate. They are a family of one unto God.

To the widow and widowers it testifies of no real loss because of eternity. It promises a hope for the future with the one they shared this life with.

In conclusion whether married, single, widow or divorced we are all the bride of Christ and our groom desires romance. He desires the kiss in the morning of your affection through prayer. He yearns for extended fellowship with you. These are his ways of wrapping his arms around you to whisper sweet things into your heart.

Friend please consider making this your number one pursuit in life, *to search God out and find that his passion for you is endless.*

Love,

Pastor Bronc

P.S. - The word says that we are to exhort one another daily while it is called today and that if two shall agree as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of our Father which is in heaven. If you have a prayer request or a praise report to share please let us hear from you. You can contact us through the web site at www.broncflint.org or email us at fpc@broncflint.org and/or feel free to write us at:

The Family Prayer Center
615 Nassau Street
Immokalee, FL 34142