

# The "WOW" Factor

My grandson asked me last night what makes a successful marriage?

I wrote him two letters.

This is the first one.

I'll share the second letter in two weeks.

In Genesis 2:21-22. God shares how He created the woman. Mind you that in all of creation there was no suitable mate found for Adam. And this was not good since Adam was to procreate and fill the earth to fulfill God's will for fellowship. And so God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam.

God took one of Adam's ribs and created a woman and presented her to the man. When Adam was in a deep sleep, from out of his side came a bride, a special gift for man from God that would "complete him. Can you just imagine Adam's reaction when he first saw her?

He must have busted out in song.

"I just want to take a little time right now,  
And Thank You Lord.  
Thank you for all  
You've done for me."

Thousands of years later, another Bride would come from the side of another Adam, the last Adam, Jesus Christ. When a Roman soldier stuck a spear in Christ's crucified side and the birthing fluids of blood and water poured forth to end His life, a Bride was born: the New Testament church of Jesus Christ which includes all Born-Again Christians.

Unlike the first bride given to Adam, this bride will be given to Jesus, holy and unblemished.

Paul instructed the Ephesians (Ephesians 5:25). Husband, you are to love your wife like Christ loved the church. How much did Jesus love His bride. Totally. He ransomed her from eternal death and banishment from God by paying for all of mankind's sins; past, present and future.

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Christ became a man and died for His bride, so she would be spotless and perfect and able to spend all eternity with Jesus. Likewise, we are to die to ourselves for our bride—to our needs, our desires, our dreams because that's what Christ did for us.

Wives will find fulfillment by the side of their husbands. They will neither lead him nor lag behind him but stand with him and submitting to him with both of you submitting to Christ.

But know this, wives, your husband will never be all you want or need. Neither will you be all that he needs. Ever since the fall in the Garden of Eden, mankind is far less than perfect. I've been told that since a rib was taken from Adam, men have been missing something ever since.

But praise God, Christ has it all together. Jesus is not called the Second Adam, which would have meant there might be a third one. He is the Last Adam because there is no other.

And Jesus is not missing a thing. Why? Because He wasn't born the way every man since the first Adam was born. Jesus overcame man's sin nature and never sinned once throughout His entire life.

Thus, when we start seeking what we crave from the Last Adam, from Jesus Christ, we take pressure off our husband or wife and are then able to enjoy them without expecting something from them that they cannot give us.

In Genesis 2:23, Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh...

"Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh" is a Hebrew idiom meaning, "exact counterpart." God is a triune Being: Father, Son, and Spirit. And because He made us in His image, man is triune as well.

1. Our body is how we get around on earth. It is this physical part of us that relates to the material world around us. With regard to our wives/husbands, there must be a physical attraction between us and the one we marry.
2. Our soul speaks of our mind and emotions and relates to the people around us. We must be able to communicate on the same wavelength with the one we marry.
3. Our spirit is the part of us that relates to God and will live forever. One's love for the Lord, commitment to the Lord, and involvement with the Lord must equal our spouse.

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It was the matching of their body, soul, and spirit that caused Adam to realize Eve was truly bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh. This carries on through each of us today. Body, soul, spirit—when those three are mirrored in another, it is a match made in heaven.

The problem is, we usually settle for two out of three.

At the physical level you may feel romantically attracted to her. And she has the same feeling for him. Spiritually, they both love the Lord, go to Bible study, and pray together. But the soul is a mismatch. This kind of marriage will take work to make it succeed. Often this kind of marriage is discovered quite a ways into the marriage. BUT.... It can work. With God all things are possible.

Now a marriage in which, soulfully speaking, you're the best of friends. You talk by the hour and love just hanging out with each other. Spiritually, both love the Lord and are committed to the kingdom. However physically, one or the other isn't all that attracted to their spouse. This relationship can work—but, again, it will take a lot of vigilance and work to make it successful. There is considerable danger, and both must be ever so vigilant to ensure that someone outside of the marriage is unable to snatch away a wavering spouse based on a physical connection. This takes great reliance on the Lord to overcome these kinds of problems.

When the physical and the soulful portions are thriving, yet the spiritual elements of the spouses are misaligned, fundamental rifts are possible. It may well be one spouse has a heart on fire to serve God and wants to be a missionary while the other is content to simply attend church only on Christmas and Easter." This relationship is destined for hardship because, due to different commitment levels spiritually, each will view life through a different lens.

Body, soul, and spirit. It's amazing how many couples connect only in two out of three, or even one out of three. When people settle for one out of three, their marriage almost inevitably ends in divorce, which is totally outside of God's will. Remember, with God, ALL things are possible. When couples settle for two out of three, they can make it work, but it takes a lot of work. It is those who connect on all three levels who, like Adam, are able to say, "Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh. Wow!"

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