



Part 1

OPENING SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2:22-24 (NLT)

INTRODUCTION: So many married couples feel that love begins to decrease and even die after the wedding and honeymoon. But why? And how is this a direct parallel to our relationship with Jesus?

MAIN TEXT: Genesis 1:27-28a (NKJV)

OUTLINE:

I. The Start

- There are sweet things, romance, attraction; both physical, mental and social attraction. There is passion and anticipation. There is an effort to put forth your very best.
- You want to look your best, act your best, be kind, considerate, and even silly. Now everyone is different. But if you really fell in love, there are also some unrealistic expectations that can go along with any relationship.
- There is a desire to woo the other person. To entice them. To talk with them...some will even talk for hours!
 - o Maybe back in your day you wrote letters, cards...others you emailed, talked on an old rotary phone... others had cell phones (flip phones) and worried about having enough min. that you would not go over! LOL
- The Start is Wo-Man! I love her/him and I can't wait to start a life with them. And then LIFE happens!
 - ➔ It can be the same way with our relationship to God. We go to church, read the bible, put on our best, feel so much freedom and joy. Can't get enough! Talk to God in prayer and feel such a rush of His presence! You could go to the alter and pray and time seemed to stand still! You would laugh, cry, repent, surrender, & feel like you could arise & DO ANYTHING!
 - o Revelation 3:11 (NKJV) Romans 8:35 (CEV)
 - o We could go on further in marriage. By sickness, arguments, disagreements, financial problems, physical changes, parenting priorities, and petty preferences?
 - ➔ What happens?

→ There is an answer...but it is not easy for Marriage couples or in a relationship with God.

II. Continue the Pursuit!

- Continue to Care.
 - o About each other's needs.
 - Communication.
 - Don't let walls cause you to give up!
 - Physical needs.
 - Don't let walls cause you to give up!
 - Personal space.
 - Don't let co-dependence – selfishness – jealousy – or pride cause you to give up!
- Don't give up on Passion! **Proverbs 3:3** (NIV)
 - o It takes two! Talking, caring, and wanting each other!
 - o In our relationship with God: It takes two! Talking, caring and wanting each other!
 - God will always be there to talk, care and want you!
- Here is the problem: If two in a relationship do not continue to work on these and many other things... One will be tempted, drawn to, or find ways to get what they are missing, elsewhere!
- In a marriage, this is deadly! In a relationship with God...it is idolatry.

Here is the truth for both:

It can be found in a relationship between a Husband and Wife who care enough to pursue it!

God certainly has everything you need in Him, if you care enough to pursue it!

One day, The bridegroom is coming! Will you still be in love? Will you still have passion for Christ? Or will it have flickered out? Died? Love grown cold?

As a Christian, single or married, you can find everything you need in Him!

PURSUE HIM