

God has a failsafe way to a happy, unified, fruitful marriage

This is the way we all were by nature and this is how we become again when not in Christ

Eph 2:1 NLT **Once you were dead, doomed forever because of your many sins.**

2 **You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan ...He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.**

3 **All of us used to live that way, following the...desires of our evil nature. We were born with an evil human nature...**(only our spirits came directly from God)

4 **But God (love) is so rich in mercy (forgiveness) and He loved us so very much,**

What prospect does a marriage have, or their children have, if both husband and wife still live this way or revert to living this way? Or if one of them lives or reverts to living this way?

We become Satan's when we don't obey God and God commands us to love one another:

John 13:34 (Jesus) **A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; the same (forgiving way) as I have loved you, that you also love one another.**

Heb 8:12 (God) **I will be merciful...and their sins...I will (choose to) remember no more.**

How? Just as we have received God's love, in that very love we now easily love others:

Matt 10:8 (Jesus) **...Freely you have received (loving forgiveness), freely now (for)give.**

1 John 4:7-8 **Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves (this higher forgiving way) is born of God and (currently) knows God.**

8 **Those who do not love (and forgive) do not (currently) know God, for God is love.**

11 **Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought (in and by Him) to love one another.**

John 15:5 (Jesus) **...when separated from Me, you can do nothing (I can't love).**

What kind of love is this? It's not human love that can't do this, it's God's love, it is God

Here are some of the sad limitations of human love. It is based on feelings that are ever changing, so it's selective, loving some not others, its conditional, loving those that meet its requirements, like loving me back; so it can be withdrawn instantly and stop loving. It is tied directly to my self-importance, which is my pride, if you mess with that and offend or hurt my self-importance, I won't love you and probably I won't even like you anymore.

But God's love in me doesn't change with moods or circumstances because it's His nature:

Jer 31:3 **The LORD...Yes, I have loved you with an unchanging love; Therefore with lovingkindness (that is, My living, loving words) **I have drawn you** (to My nature).**

2 Pet 1:4 **By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises (His loving words) that by these we may partake of His divine nature (of love).**

Don't love me with human love, but with God's love, it won't give me the silent treatment. And it will choose, by God, to never remember whatever wrong I did, nor ever bring it up.

Where and how to we get this divine, this totally higher kind of love that always forgives?

1 Jo 2:5 **Whoever keeps** (heart believes, retains and does) **God's word, truly the love of God is perfected in them. By this we know that we are living in Him.**

1 Jo 3:16 **By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.** (How do I do what isn't natural?)

Rom 5:5 ...**The love of God is poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us** (and He gives His Spirit to those willing to obey Him – Acts 5:32)

The nature of this love, is God's own nature, imparted to me from His words and His Spirit. By them God has revealed to me that Christ bore the sins of everybody, including the one who sinned against me. Will I forgive that one for whom Christ died, so for Christ's sake?

1 Jo 2:2 **Christ Himself is the substitute sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but for the sins of the whole world** (including the person who sinned against me).

Eph 4:32 **So be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just the same as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you** (forgive them for Christ's sake).

We all need a nature change from Satan's Eph 2:2-3 people to God's Eph 4:32 people

2 Cor 5:17-18 **If anyone is "in Christ" they are new creations** (live in God's nature); **old things have passed away; all things have become new and all things are from God..**

To be in Christ means to retain His words and be constantly changed into His likeness by them, and to have submitted to the continual control of His Holy spirit over us. Now God's very nature of unchanging love is operating through us and we will always forgive others.

1 Jo 3:24 **Whoever keeps God's words lives in Him, and He lives in them. And by this we know that He lives in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.**

1 Jo 4:20 **If someone says, "I love God," and hates their brother or sister, they are liars; for if they don't love their brother or sister whom they have seen, how can they love God whom they have not seen** (physically, but have spiritually)?

Matt 7:16 **You will know them** (those who currently love God) **by their fruits** (meaning, by their words, are those words alive or dead, especially towards their spouses).

With God's love in us, as our new nature, we cannot help but forgive our spouses, for Christ's sake, knowing that He died for their sins, and pray God's will for them, and feed His word to them, and thank God continually for them knowing that they are His gift to us.

Isa 44:22 (God) **I have wiped out your transgressions like a thick cloud, your sins like a heavy mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed** (and forgiven) **you.** NASU

1 John 4:7 **Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves** (this higher forgiving way) **is born of God and (currently) knows God.**