

GOD QUESTING

PART 5: Romancing The Stone

INTRODUCTION – Moving From Religion To Romance

James 1:26-27; Philippians 4:18; Hebrews 13:15-16

We serve God spiritually by loving others _____.

Proverbs 19:17; Hebrews 6:10

Why Serve God? – Moving From Duty To Desire & Delight

Deuteronomy 28:47-48; Psalm 16:11; 32:11; 37:4; 90:14;
Matthew 5:11-12; 25:21; Luke 10:20; John 15:10-11;
Romans 5:3; 12:8, 12, 15; 2 Corinthians 1:24; 6:10; 8:2; 9:7; Philippians 4:4;
1 Thessalonians 5:16; Hebrews 10:34; James 1:2; 1 Peter 1:8; 4:13; 5:2

If there is no pleasure, no desire, no delight in the kiss of the lover, then the beloved has not been _____ by the duty.

Note: For some reason, all joy overflows into _____.

Instead of delighting in the divine romance of our relationship with God, many of us are dying from _____.

BUT WHAT ABOUT COMMITMENT FOR COMMITMENT'S SAKE?...

Deuteronomy 13:4

Sheer unadorned commitment is the _____
for the high wire act of romance. It may need to be called
upon from time to time, but staying there is not the goal.

Psalm 32:11; Psalm 100

CONCLUSION – The Secret To Delight

1 Samuel 12:24; Isaiah 6:1-8

Developing passion in our faith, like passionate kissing, is all
a matter of _____.

Psalm 84:10

Recommended For Further Study...

Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist, by John Piper
The Dangerous Duty of Desire, by John Piper

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. If you're a *LORD OF THE RINGS* fan (and hey, who isn't?!), why do you think Aragorn and Arwen speak in Elvish sometimes when they are involved in intimate conversation? How does this relate to last week's discussion?
2. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read **Jeremiah 15:16**. To what extent can you say with integrity the same thing as Jeremiah about God's words? Why?
4. Read **Psalm 100**. a) What do you think our obedience to **verse 1** should look like today? b) How and/or why can our recognition of God as our Creator increase our delight in him? c) Describe how our focus on **verse 5** can make **verse 4** a more probable experience? d) To what extent does this Psalm describe what your relationship with God is like?
5. In this message we've talked about us taking delight in our romance with God. Find out what kinds of things delight God by reading **1 Samuel 15:22**; **1 Chronicles 29:17**; **Psalm 35:27**; **51:15-17**; **149:1-4**; **Proverbs 3:12**; **11:1, 20**; **12:22**; **15:8**; **Isaiah 1:11-17**; **42:1**; **Jeremiah 9:24**; **Hosea 6:6**; **Amos 5:21**; **Micah 6:7-8**; **7:18**; **Zephaniah 3:17**. What are some things you could do this week to bring God delight? Give specific examples.

SO WHAT?...

6. How well have you done living out **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** this past week?
7. Thinking back over this series, a) in what area of your relationship with God have you grown the most? b) What area still needs the most improvement? c) Thank God together for "a" and pray for each other about "b".

HOMEWORK...

8. Try meditating on **Galatians 2:20** each day this week. Allow its truth to become the focus of your heart. Express your growing desire and delight to God through praise.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, February 1 / 8, 2004