

Secondly, the one infatuated knows only a few characteristics of that person On the other hand, feelings of love grow out of a maturing relationship with the other person which appraises the whole personality, not merely a few characteristics.

Thirdly, an infatuated person sustains a fantasy of the object of infatuation based largely on idealization. The fantasy image will vanish when they learn About the other's faults, weaknesses and sinfulness; whereas one who truly loves another will constantly check their ideas of that person against the growing awareness of their whole character.

Fourthly, an infatuated person tends to have a false sense of security about the romance. It is based upon wishful thinking and there is a compulsive need for reassurance in the relationship. A person who knows true love on the other hand, tends to have a true sense of security in their relationship, based upon a growing trust, affection and mutual concern. True love between a man and a woman will stand the test of time and separation, whereas infatuation will not stand up to this test. All young people who feel that they may love someone need to give their relationship the test of time and preferably the test of separation so that they can find out if their love is really true.

1. Does he really love you?

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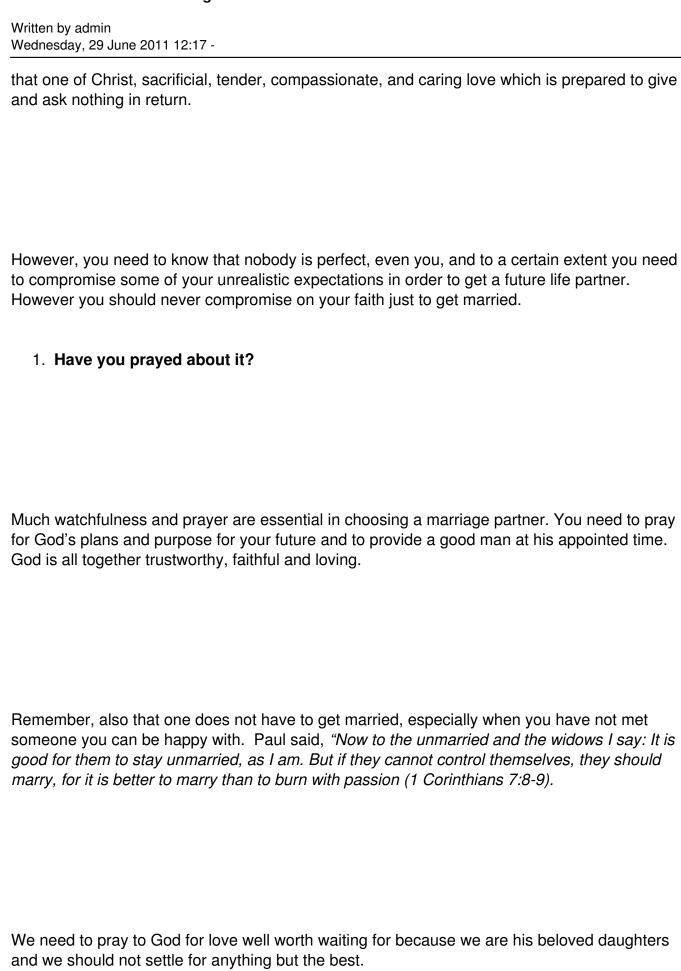
If your man is selfish, controlling, manipulative, and belittles you, he does not really love you. If he is only interested in your physical attributes without wanting to find out about the rest of you, he does not really love you.

Sometimes physical attraction is all that is there in some relationships. This love is born out of selfish desire, seeking only self- gratification. and for many marriages this is all that there is from the very outset.

You know that he loves you if he talks and listens to you, is truly interested in what you say, tells you the truth, wants to spend time with you, is considerate, adores you, faithful, loyal, willing to shoulder responsibilities, is sensitive to your emotions, is not jealous or possessive, not easily influenced by what others say about you, is romantic (gifts for no reason), encourages you, is kind and gentle, patient and not too demanding. "Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful and trusting." 1 Corinthians 13:7

Love sees you at your worst but never forgets your best; thinks you're a little bit more wonderful than you really are; will talk with you endlessly or just sit with you in silence; is happy about your success, cares about you enough to say what he really means; doesn't try to act smarter or be your constant teacher and listens, even when what you have to say is not particularly interesting. Why? Because love believes you're important!

We want our partner to love us as we are. We want to feel accepted no matter what we may say or do. When we make a mistake, we want to be forgiven. We want to be loved unconditionally. If he only loves you when you do what he says, that is not love. Love is like



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A problem comes though when we do not reciprocate unconditional love. For example, there will never be genuine love expressed between two people if both individuals are seeking to have their needs met. How can two people make a relationship work if both define love as, "if you love me then you will do what I want"?

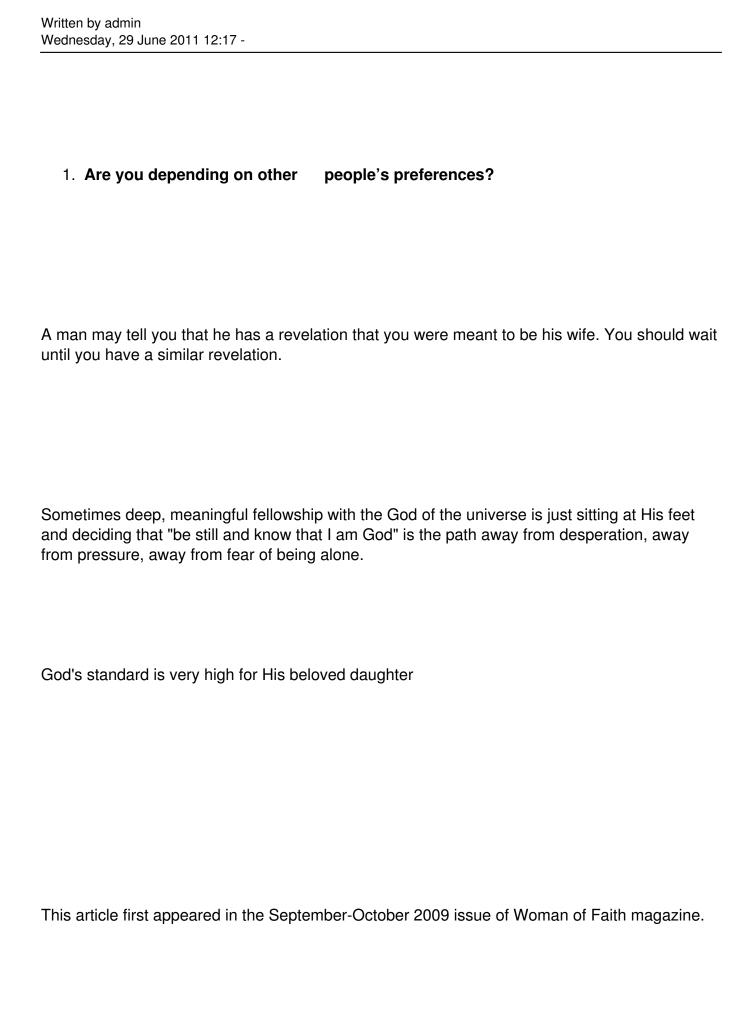
"Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, ... Love rejoices with the truth. Love believes and endures all things. Love never fails."

Over and above the eros physical element, there will be alonging for each other and for each other's company. There will be an emotional satisfaction derived merely from being in each other's company. If eros speaks of that physical and natural affinity, then phileo speaks of that emotional affinity and oneness.

A husband should love his wife like Christ loves us. A husband is to love his wife in spite of all her defects and failings. This is a vital message for our day when the divorce rate is so high. Secondly, Christ "gave himself for it." Such is His love for the Church that He laid down his life as a sacrifice forher. This agapao love is a sacrificial love which a husband should have

for his wife. The highest love that the world can know is this eros andphileo love. There can be natural, physical attraction for each other, and emotional affinity, but the world can go no higher than that. Only the Christian can rise to this agapao level, because it is a love which is based upon and flows out of Christ's love for the Church. When the World so glibly sings and talks about falling in love, it is usually referring to erotic and sensual attraction. On occasions it may go beyond that and encompass emotional attraction, but Christian couples

need to have far more than this. They will need the love which sanctifies the first two elements.



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