

# The Honeymoon is OVER!

Heard the phrase: *The Honeymoon is over.*

- The infatuation phase is over. The feelings are subsiding.
- Now you have to live by the spirit & not the feelings of the flesh.
- Now you actually find out if people will move by love & **choose** the relationship.

**The deception:** *We should never have to work at our relationship.*

Ok... then WHY did God give us these verses?

- **2Th 3:13 (NASB)** But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.
- **Eph 4:3 (NASB)** being diligent to preserve the **unity** [*oneness; not splitting up or breaking down*] of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Without effort, everything in this corrupted world breaks down.

- Marriages
- Babies (3 months old crying)
- Block of steel
- Concrete (Alcatraz building example)
- Friendships (high school friend examples)
- Growth
- Our Planting in the Local Church (3 months, 1 Year, 3 Year, 5 year, 10 year, 20 years examples)

Look at these examples:

**(the Supernatural was present in the unity AND the break downs)**

- Generation after Joshua (Judges 2:6-10)
- King Saul & David
- Judas & Jesus
- Apostle Paul & John Mark
- Philemon & Onesimus

***Making it through the end of the Honeymoon phase is essential to God's evangelistic plan!***

**Jhn 17:20-23 (NASB)**

**20** "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;

**21** that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

**22** "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one;

**23** I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

***How do we make it through the POST-honeymoon phase?***

**We MUST consider others higher than ourselves AND take action on that:**

**Php 2:1-4 (NASB)** **1** Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

**2** make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

**3** Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

**4** do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

**This Principle Includes ANY Flesh Item; Fill in the blank:**

**Rom 14:15-20 (NASB)** **15** For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.

**16** Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil;

**17** for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

**18** For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.

**19** So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

**20** Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.

Col 3:12-15 (NASB) 12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

14 Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Eph 4:1-4 (NASB) 1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

2 with ALL humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 *There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;*

**THEN...to accomplish vs. 1-4 He gave us these GIFTS:**

Eph 4:8, 11-16 (NASB) 8 Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."

11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

**We MUST Submit to & Utilize the Ascension Gifts!**

**2 Actions To Uphold Unity & To Avoid Breakdowns:**

1. Consider Others Higher in Thought & Action
2. Submit to & Utilize the Ascension Gifts

***What happens when we stay in UNITY?***

***The world is evangelized AND God commands the blessing!***

Psa 133:1-3 (NASB) 1 A Song of Ascents, of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity!

2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Coming down upon the beard, *Even* Aaron's beard, Coming down upon the edge of his robes.

3 It is like the dew of Hermon Coming down upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing—life forever.