

# Enthusiasm



## Intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval

Some people are naturally enthusiastic, others are not. Most of us get enthusiastic about something, even though there are also widely varying displays of enthusiasm. We can all agree that we are very different in our enthusiasm; whether it be what we are enthusiastic about or the ways we display our enthusiasm. Those differences are usually very conspicuous in the marriage relationship and at times, can cause hurt. Many of the things my wife is enthusiastic about, I really could care less about - and it works the other way also. I can get *very* enthusiastic about certain types of coffee, raspberries, macadamia nuts, and waffles. Put all of those together for a breakfast and it is heaven on earth for me. Carmen doesn't particularly like any of them and while I have an *eager enjoyment* of that type of breakfast, she doesn't even want to eat that breakfast. Carmen is enthusiastic about reality crime dramas and reality talent competition shows. She has an *intense interest* in those programs and I simply don't like them.

So what is a couple to do? Does the oneness in marriage God created us for require that Carmen get enthusiastic about macadamia nut waffles with raspberries? That I become enthused about reality TV? You may not like the answer, but it is "yes" and "no." Carmen will never be excited about my favorite breakfast, but there are times when she makes that exact breakfast for me and she does enjoy my enthusiasm over it (and my 'aaahhs' during such a breakfast). I have stopped criticizing the programs she likes (yes, sadly to say, I did criticize them) and I've even come to appreciate them - some. The answer is that we participate with our spouse in the things that they are enthusiastic about - you never know you make come to like them yourself.

What is love? Giving of ourselves; and we love our spouse by taking an interest in what they are interested in. (Caveat here; this does not mean taking an interest in sinful behaviors or practices.) Yes, as husband and wife we may have some separate interests, but growing in oneness means that we know our spouse intimately in every way. We don't become our spouse, but we choose to get to know what he or she likes and perhaps even try doing what they like doing. I don't have to get *excited* about reality programs, but I can enter into my wife's world by watching those programs with her. Not always; she doesn't ask me to watch every program she watches (it's not like she spends every evening watching reality programs), but I can choose to watch with her. Demonstrate your love for your spouse by choosing to enter into his or her enthusiasm.

### Helpful Resources:

***Fortified Marriages Resource page: [www.fortifiedmarriages.com](http://www.fortifiedmarriages.com) - The Fortified Marriages Manual & Workbook is a great resource to help you and your spouse build a healthy marriage.***

### Article to check out:

***Choosing Enthusiasm*** by Gary Thomas - [garythomas.com](http://garythomas.com)