Human Love

I'd like to look back on my life and have no regrets, and I may have if it hadn't been for my wife Pat dying. With her gone, I asked God for help, willing to follow wherever he led. He helped me reaffirm who he was, how he loved and how I should love. I then realized I had been loving in my own [limited] power by doing such things as making rules about how to love Pat. (See *Relationship Principles*.) I had not allowed God's love to work through me, which limited my ability to fully love.

This is not to say that, as humans, we cannot love. We are just not capable on our own of consistent, self-forgetting, unconditional love. The truest love involves complete surrender to the other person, which is not possible with human love because *self* gets in the way. It can only happen if you first love God by surrendering totally to him and then his love can flow through you as you surrender totally to your partner. (See *Love Is Surrender*.)

What hurts is that if Pat had not died, I would have just continued on in my life thinking my love was sufficient. It's like God had to pick me up and shake me saying, "I tried to tell you earlier, but you weren't listening." I was too busy loving her to the best of my ability to notice that God had a better way. Human love may be good, but God's love is better. I wish I had realized this while she was still alive.

You may think you are doing fine using human love, but you owe it to your spouse to truly love them. Stop your self-centered love and let God take over where you fall short. Even if only one of you does this, the other will eventually be upended by your unconditional love and follow your lead. Plus your love horizon is expanded to include not just your spouse, but everyone – as God intended. Do it now (see *A Way Out Now*) before God has to "shake you up" to get your attention, so you can look back on your life without regrets.

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