



## WHO OR WHAT?

*"The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."  
--Genesis 2:18*

If God gave you a gift, beautifully wrapped with a note on it which said "Do Not Open Until Christmas"; what would you do with it? Would you take it home and care for it? For all you know it could be just a lump of coal in the box. "But that's not important," you say. What's important is that this gift was given by God! Whatever is in the box is special just because of the one who gave it. That's why you'll value it, and guard it with your life. Now what will happen when Christmas comes and you open it to find, yep; you got it --a piece of coal. If you look at it simply for what it is there would be no reason to care for it, but if you'll see it for who gave it to you, it will be your most prized possession.

So it is in marriage. If we look at each other for what we are, we will all fall short. We see the faults in one another. It's like we brought home a beautifully wrapped gift from Church when we said "I do." Then when we got home we started unwrapping it to discover a hunk of coal. Now what do we do with it? Do we build disdain for it because it isn't what we thought it was, or will we value it for who gave it to us, -God himself.

What my spouse is will always fall short of my standard, just as I will fall short of hers. I can't love her for what she is. Thank God he didn't love me for what I am. I'm a self-centered sinner. But he loved me for who I am -his very own creation. In the same way I want to love my spouse for who she is: God's gift to complete me where I am incomplete; a helper suitable for me, given to me by the very hand of God. Wow!

Even though I may see a hunk of coal, the truth is more accurately what I fail to see --a diamond in the making! So let us love one another not for what we are but for who we are: God's gift to complete us where we are incomplete.

**PRAYER FOR THE BOTH OF US:** Lord help us to love each other, not for what we are, but for who we are --your gift to complete us where we are incomplete.

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This Couples Devotional is brought to you by Marriage & Family Savers Ministries. Visit them at [www.marriageandfamily.org](http://www.marriageandfamily.org)



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