

A person is seen from behind, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, with their arms raised high in a gesture of praise or surrender. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with a bright sun partially obscured by clouds, creating a golden glow. The overall mood is one of awe and devotion.

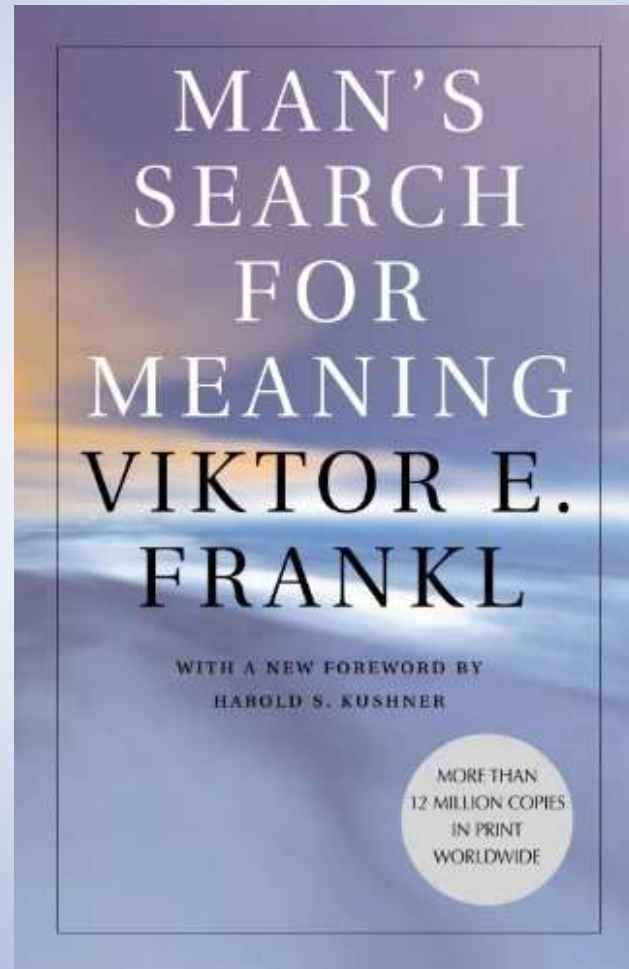
Belonging to Him (Conclusion)

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Viktor Frankl
1905-1997

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To Love and Be Loved

There was one thing that kept Frankl going while in the camps:

If there was even the remotest possibility that there was someone out there who he loved and who loved him, he had a reason to live.

Belonging to Him (Conclusion)

To Love and Be Loved

The idea that Frankl learned was that *Life is Relationship*.

If life has any merit, any meaning, it's that we have the opportunity to love and be loved.

The deepest need of the human heart is for healthy, intimate, and sustaining personal relationship with both God and other human beings.

Belonging to Him (Conclusion)

To Love and Be Loved

“Right before you die, you'll realize your whole life was about loving people...and you watched too much television.”

– Donald Miller

Belonging to Him (Conclusion)

To Love and Be Loved

“To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances. To seek him, the greatest adventure. To find him, the greatest human achievement.”

– Raphael Simon

No Greater Romance



25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. Rom. 12:5

28 ¶ And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

30 Have all the gifts of healing? do I speak with tongues? do I understand in part, but I desire to know more

4 Charity endureth long, is kind, charity envieth not, is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, is not easily offended, rejoiceth in the truth; 1 Cor. 13:4-7

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 1 Cor. 13:6

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Rom. 15:1; Gal. 6:2; 2 Tim. 2:24

8 Charity never falleth: whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, and we desire to know more

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is perfect shall be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I left childish things.

12 I know in part, but then shall I know even as also I am known. Now abide faith, hope, charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity. 1 Cor. 13:11-13

No Greater Romance

Divine Romance?

*“I have loved you with an everlasting love.
Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.”
(Jeremiah 31:3)*

No Greater Romance

Divine Romance?

“God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone.’” (Genesis 2:18)

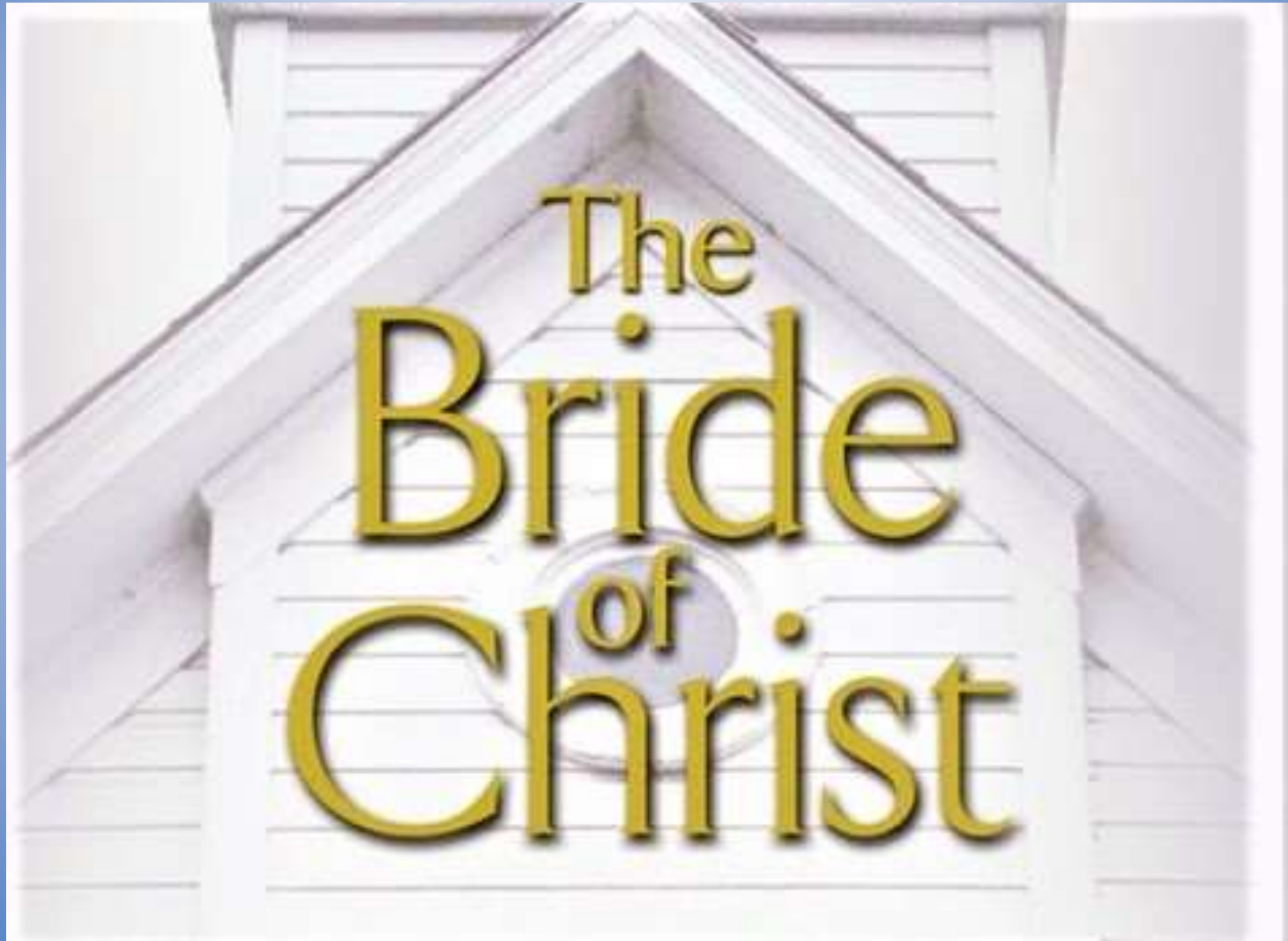
“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” (Genesis 2:24)

No Greater Romance

Divine Romance?

*“A man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”
(Ephesians 5:31-32)*

No Greater Romance



No Greater Romance

The Bride of Christ



No Greater Romance

The Bride of Christ



*“I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”
(Revelation 21:2-5)*

No Greater Romance

Happily-Ever-After?



No Greater Romance

Between Our Happily-Ever-After

“To the woman he said...‘In pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you’...And to Adam he said...‘In pain you shall eat of [the ground] all the days of your life.’” (Genesis 3:16-17)

*“God sent him out from the garden of Eden...”
(Genesis 3:23)*

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Between Our Happily-Ever-After

- **The biblical story doesn't hold back from showing the consequences of our broken relationship with God.**
- **But then this Jesus drops into the picture as a bridge between our pain and our hope for reconciliation.**
- **Jesus is real about our sin and weaknesses while inviting us to consider a miracle where this broken marriage can be healed and restored.**

No Greater Romance

Between Our Happily-Ever-After

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” (Ephesians 5:25-27)

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The Hard Question from This Series

Does the Gospel have a genuine effect on my life?

Or is there a wall of separation between what I say I believe about personal relationship with God and others and how I truly live?

What Is Romance?

A close-up photograph of a single white rose. The rose is in full bloom, with its petals showing a slight yellowish tint. A small, rectangular white tag is tucked into the center of the flower, with the words "i love you" written in a cursive, handwritten font. The background is dark and out of focus, featuring several warm, glowing bokeh lights that create a romantic and intimate atmosphere. The rose is resting on a light-colored, textured surface.

i love you

No Greater Romance

What Is Romance?

“[God] said to him, ‘What is your name?’ And he said, “Jacob.”

Then he said, ‘Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.’” (Genesis 32:27-28)

No Greater Romance

What Is Romance?

Are we looking for perfection? Or is the romance God offers us in the here-and-now more about...

- **Working through our differences?**
- **Patience in the midst of dysfunction?**
- **Kindness in everyday, ordinary choices?**
- **Perseverance and commitment when our relationships become boring, and even hopeless?**

No Greater Romance

What Is Romance?

Are we looking for perfection? Or is the romance God offers us in the here-and-now more about...

- **Trusting in an acceptance and belonging that comes from above—where God, from whom I have a right to expect nothing...gives me everything?**

No Greater Romance

What Is Romance?

What is romance?

Shared experience. Feeling valued. Affection.
Forgiveness. All these things.

But ultimately, it's about knowing and being known.

“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.”

(1 Corinthians 13:12)

No Greater Romance

Knowing and Being Known



“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.” (Revelation 21:2-5)

No Greater Romance

Knowing and Being Known



*“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore.”
(Revelation 21:2-5)*

No Greater Romance

Knowing and Being Known



“For the former things have passed away. And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’”

(Revelation 21:4-5)

No Greater Romance

Knowing and Being Known

Ultimately, true romance never happens without sacrifice.

For any marriage (or any meaningful relationship) to work, you must each sacrifice your own way in order to become one.

No Greater Romance

Knowing and Being Known

Ultimately, true romance never happens without sacrifice.

Jesus sacrificed himself so you could become one with God— a knowing, a communion that will last for eternity.

No Greater Romance

Knowing and Being Known

Two lives join as one and create more life...

There's no greater romance than that.

A person is seen from behind, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, with their arms raised high in a gesture of praise or surrender. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with golden light breaking through dark, layered clouds. The overall mood is one of awe and devotion.

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