

UTTERLY CONTENT

By Steve Wessels
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They sat across from us on the Blue Line Ferry the other day,
Heading across the Bay back to San Francisco,
a Norman Rockwell portrait of an Utterly Content couple.
They were in their early 40's, he with short brown hair and a moustache,
frosted with a touch of gray, horn rimmed glasses, and
she with short platinum streaked hair nestled against his neck,
Resting from the day's activities, each with their eyes closed,
Resting, secure, arms, hands, and knees entwined.

They didn't speak much. They didn't need to.
Anyone could so easily see in their faces
The utter contentment each had with the other,
Such evident sincerity, simplicity, honesty, integrity, and joy,
So very much at peace.
They might face some storm of life sometime soon, but at that time,
They were Utterly Content, within that holy one-flesh mystery
Of emotional bonds that pass all understanding,
Each knowing that no matter what befell,
The other cared for them so much that little else mattered in life,
Their love would pull them through.

I've seen so many vibrant youth, so full of energy, enthusiasm, cheer,
That "*take-on-the-world*" confidence and joy,
Which dissipates like fog in the hot-sun of pimples and strife,
The plagues of relationship heartaches, the doubts,
As they are forced from their parental coves into
A sin-wracked world of manipulation and deceit
And divorce and storms and rape.

Lord, how can any child survive The Teenage Years
Without the ugly scars, without becoming filled with
Bitterness and despair and anger and hopelessness?

How can we find our soulmate, that one cherished person
Who holds the holy key to our Utter Contentment
Without first "trying them on for size?"

How can I encourage this generation to Hold On, to Have Hope,
To trust in You for human fulfillment, when
You seem so far away, so unapproachable, so remote?
When prayers seem to go unanswered?
Are we all that selfish?

I now know some of the plans You have for me, and of the utter contentment
You've given me with Carol, My soulmate,
my lover, my helper, my partner in life.
And I now know that I'm supposed to cherish her, as You cherish the church,
That You want me to be a dedicated servant to her in every way,
To surrender my wishes and wants in preference to her needs....

But how can I get the attention of the world, to show them
That Utter Contentment is nigh impossible without Your help?
How can I prove that freedom from sin CAN lead to holy harmony of body and soul,
The Utter Contentment You've implanted in our genes?

**Teens desperately grope for life preservers, someone to hold onto
During the raging seas of life and deceit, someone who will
Rescue them from the hopelessness or circumstances they face....
Teens who don't understand that life preservers are not capable of returning love
Or supplying the needed fulfillment of the soul -
Life preservers are only placebos because
They weren't designed to provide that Utter Contentment.
Only the Lord who created that canyon can fill it.**

**Is it any wonder there is so much divorce and heartache when
What should be Heaven's shores - life here on earth with family stability -
Become littered with mere life preservers who are
Incapable of returning love and supplying the
Utter Contentment that God has implanted within?**