February 15th, 2017

Hello my Friends and welcome back to the Bear Cage.

How's it going? I hope ya'll are fine and dandy.

Well, yesterday was Valentine's Day. What did ya'll do for it? did you have some fun? Me? Oh, just the normal crap I do every year in this place, especially since I'm single and locked up! But hey, don't let that stop me, right?

As it was Valentine's Day yesterday, and I do consider myself a lover, not a fighter, I thought I would write on the topic 'What is the Greatest Gift You Have to Offer Your Partner?'. I mean, just because I'm incarcerated doesn't mean I don't have anything to offer...Hell, one thing she wouldn't have to worry about, is me screwing around on her, right? Sorry, but I go for females only! So, what is the greatest gift you have to offer your partner? Think about it for a minute...Are they that special someone you've been looking for all your life? Or just a current girlfriend to get you by?

Me...I think my greatest gift I have to offer my partner, it would have to be loyalty. Loyalty and dedication.

You see, I have always had a problem of finding a girlfriend, because I am picky about the types of girls I like. I don't just kcik any female to the curb just because of their race, but I am more attracted to the exotic ladies. There

has been some white chicks that just blow me away too!

Anyways, I was raised by people who didn't know what loyalty was. They would lie and cheat all the time. When I was a kid, I decided that that wasn't how I wanted to live. That type of lifestyle wasn't for me. As a matter of fact, there are only 3 couples I've known in my life that stayed together for the long haul. One couple, who I had always called Grandma and Grandpa Bates, who were from our church, have both passed away. They were together for as long as I knew them, and I know they were together long before that too. I met them in the early 80's, when my mom started going to their church.

The next two couples are my Aunt Kay and Uncle Rick (thats what I was raised calling them because my mom was her best friend) and my Aunt Laura and Chuck (They were also my moms best friends). My mom married my step-dad, Jeff, when I was 2, but they were not happy. They were always fighting over any and everything, because neither one of them knew how to compromise or work together. They both wanted to be incharge, and that didn't go to well.

Anyways, from seeing my Aunt's Kay and Lauras, as well as Grandma Bates marriage when I was a kid, I decided thats the type I wanted too. I thought it would be easy, because they made it look so easy. I also thought it would be easy to find my soul-mate...WRONG!!! It is so hard to find your soul-mate in this world. I guess you just have to be patient, huh?

I said loyalty and dedication would be my greatest gift to offer my better half, is because I am extremely loyal. And when I set my mind on something, I'm dedicated to seeing it through. I don't believe in half measures, because life is too short to do it half way and then have to go back and redo it again. I just turned 40 on the 5th, and I have screwed up many relationships because of my being uncommunicative and unable to open up and share my feelings with enyone. It is real hard for me to talk about how I feel or my desires because of my childhood and past. And guys, I have to tell you, that is a no-go for a woman! A woman, especially if you are together, wants to know how you feel and what you're thinking. You have to be able to reassure her and woe her. A woman is more into hearing what's on the inside, and it has been hard for me to do this. So you can imagine the types of relationships I have had in the past. But I am extremely loyal.

There's nothing that I wouldn't do for my girl. I mean, I want to see her smiling and happy. If I'm with a girl, I want to see a smile on her lips, as well as to hear her laughing, too. I always tried to do this, but where I did fail, was not opening up to them. It just wasn't the man thing to do. I was wrong! Hey, a man has to take responsibility for his actions. When you're wrong, you're wrong. Admitt it, fix it and move on. Of course I can't take any of these mistakes away, because the ladies are long gone out of my life, but what about the next one that decides she wants to try to have something with me? Even old dogs can learn new tricks, right?;-)

I learned how to be loyal from my Aunts Kay and Laura and Grandma Bates. Their relationships are still going strong, except for Grandma Bates, but when she passed, she was still in love with Grandpa, as he was with her when he died. Just watching them taught me how to be loyal and what loyalty is. So what is loyalty?

Loyalty, for those of you that don't know, is when you're willing to stick it out and lay it all out on the line for someone, come what may! It also means you're willing to put your all into the relationship to make sure each other is happy and taken care of. What makes loyalty hardest though, is that everyone has a little bit of selfishness within themselves. I know I do. And we all have pride too. These must be overcome.

So, how do we show loyalty in our relationships? Its not just about standing up for someone when they are being attacked. Its about every aspect of the relationship. When shes down or upset, you show your loyalty by cheering her up or finding the solution to the problem shes having. You show loyalty by being her everything. Its deffnently not easy, as I am still waiting for a girl I can show true loyalty and dedication to. And guys, drop your pride when it comes to your girl. Don't blow up or vent on her: Talk to her, try to figure out whats going en. Semetimes, a woman is just

going to be a woman. A man will never figure a woman out, thats why we keep coming back for more! I know is ounds like torture, but its true. On some level we like it. Hey, I'm just being real.

That is the greatest gift I have to offer my partner, because when it all comes down to it, a woman wants to know that she's safe and secure, and has someone they can depend on. A woman wants a man that will be there when the times are tough, just as they were there when the times were easy. They love to be taken care of. And you know what, most of them deserve to be. And then you got the ones that don't deserve to be, but you should do it anyways...because they are your partner. They are a part of your life. I know, I learned this kinda late, right? But like they say, 'better late than never! right?

Anyways, theres a few of my thoughts on what I would have to offer a woman that wanted to be my partner. I still have alot of work to do on myself, but admitting it is the first step.

Th, I almost forgot, just because this is about your 'partners', doesn't mean you can't use it for your friends as well. I mean, you can count on friends more than you can family most of the time. Just look at my Aunt's Laura and Kay. They weren't blood, but my moms best friends. They have done more for my family then our own family did. So think about using loyalty for your friends too.

Well, I guess I'll close this down for now. Take care and hope to hear from ya'll soon. All of ya'll comments are important to me and everyones opinion counts. How else are we to get to know each other or learn from each other if you don't respond? You can also feel free to give me topics to write on, which I will gladly accept.

Until next time, keep your head up and stay safe and well. And don't think small thoughts, because you become what you think.

Always Yours,

crizzly Bear