

## Couples In Bloom – Buddy Guard

July 2009

Some of you requested more help as in the June Ministry Update. To the hurting, and also to those just in need of a boost, God says, ‘In the world you will have trouble, but **cheer up: I have overcome the world.**’ ⇒ John 16:33. God wants Christians to take dominion in life. “Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.” ⇒ Matthew 6:10. Scripture is full of help for life, including marriage. Christians need not believe their marriage relationship is lost. Know this: Satan lost and God has everything. Christian marriages need to thrive. This is the foundation good marriages are built on.

We find that people need **practical help knowing HOW to thrive**. Realize that the church is a bride, and that marriage on earth is a copy-paste of that original. This brings specific marriage advice to light in Scripture. Ponder this: “**God got the worst bride.**” Jesus came to redeem his bride and both Old- and New- Testaments are subsequently full of relationship teaching. The Holy Spirit is currently God’s marriage counselor. Study the Bible together in this context. Couples who test Scripture by fire find ‘keeper’ results.

One practical example is something we call ‘buddy guard’. This goes far beyond a body guard. Jesus paid dearly to save his bride from her own weakness (sin). Application: what do you do with your spouse’s weakness / sin? Some call it **grounds for divorce**. God calls it **ministry to your spouse**. He modeled it by how he treats Christians as the bride of Christ. Do you see the copy-paste? God made YOU your spouse’s buddy guard. Jesus was even silent before the slaughter... all for his bride. Time to guard **your** buddy.

**Marriages that work have spouses that work... together.** “Work” is everything: working, playing, worshiping, arguing, listening, and most of all: serving. The first five words of the Bible are God’s first instruction (again by example) for relationships: “In the beginning God created...” Giving is the first step in every successful relationship. Expect lack in your marriage relationship if your primary motivation is anything else. God made men and women differently to necessitate dying to self and servanthood to the other. This is **how** blessings continue, yet Satan calls this **irreconcilable differences!** Are you getting the picture? This is spiritual warfare, but whoever cooperates with God will be victorious.

Discuss these things together, and then apply them. We will include more practical helps in future Ministry Updates. Feel free to ask specific questions in confidence.

♥ Loren & Kathy Falzone

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