

Couples In Bloom – What Is Wrong With Your Spouse?

February 2010

What is wrong with your spouse? How many things can you come up with? How do you deal with them? Now list your responses and reactions to those problems. Keep this list handy while we look at: **1)** what's wrong with God's spouse, **2)** how He deals with His spouse, and **3)** what we can learn from His responses so we can handle our spouse correctly. P.S. we, the church, are the bride of Christ. Don't stop now ☺; keep reading ☺.

God got the worst spouse. A long time ago God decided to have a bride. Since He was the only self-existent one, He had to make her. He gave her a free will so she could choose to love Him, to match His own unconditional love. By definition, this free will could sin so God had to also create optional salvation, which cost Him dearly. Long story short, after all His work, his bride was ready... with baggage beyond belief! Take a look:

1) What's wrong with God's spouse: She somehow forgets Who she belongs to, was made by, and was saved by. Next, she gets an attitude, thinking she knows more than Him, which ends up causing much anxiety. She then blames Him for not resolving all this stress she caused. Her blaming turns to bitterness, and she angrily leaves Him, thinking it is all His fault. The only way He could have prevented this grief would have been to not give her a free will; but then He would not have a bride who could love Him by choice.

2) How God deals with His spouse: First, He remembers she is just dust He put an eternal spirit into ⇒ Genesis 2:7; Psalm 103:14. Next, he made His costly payment for her salvation to include having His Son experience all her weaknesses, to know first-hand what it is like to be her ⇒ Hebrews 4:15. He then covenanted to be extremely loving: nearly a million words of promises, instructions, and many other helps, called the Bible. He also provided live 24x7x365 support, called the Holy Spirit. He wants to talk things out all the time... more than she does, waiting every moment of her life for her responses.

2) What can we learn from God's responses to His spouse: First, we need to compare our list from above to God's list. Next, we need to understand **WHY** differences exist between our list and His. The answer is that He **KNOWS** what He does is right ⇒ Luke 23:33-34, but we often do not. **THAT** is why we are here to learn. We then need to understand **HOW** to do what is right, since that takes more than knowledge. The answer is passionate intimacy with God to continually receive fresh inspiration. Marriage on earth is merely a mini-model of relationship with God that **HE MADE TO TEACH US ABOUT HIM**. Reciprocally, **developing intimacy with God teaches us how to have intimacy with our spouse**, which is the obvious opposite of having problems with them.

We need absolute effort (not results, though they do increase) in developing intimacy with God and spouse, in that order. DO these before asking your other questions. We also suggest doing the *Intimate Anatomy* workbook. Drop us a line! ♥ Loren & Kathy Falzone

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