

Couples In Bloom – Better Than Wine

January 2010

Use *Valentine's Day* as a *ministry opportunity*: share this website and booklet with those whose marriages need help, *especially the unsaved*. Ephesians 5:15-18 ⇒ 'Walk circumspectly (*look around*), not as fools, but as wise, redeem the time, because the days are evil. Do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not be drunk with wine, but be filled with the Spirit.' We never know how much time anyone has left on earth. *Let's reach them while there's still time.*

God's love is better than wine ⇒ Song of Solomon 1:4. Wine has temporary enhancement and anesthetic qualities: complementing the good (food, for example) and masking pain. **God's love** permanently ministers plus removes pain, without adding more problems as wine does ⇒ Proverbs 10:22 + 20:1. Wine falsely comforts heavy (literally bitter, angry) hearts ⇒ Proverbs 31:6, but **God's love** truly heals hearts ⇒ Hosea 14:4. The differences are so vast, it seems unfair to compare them, but God compares them to explain His love for the lost, including those trying to lift their heavy hearts with wine.

Marital love is better than wine ⇒ Song of Solomon 1:4 when it operates according to **God's love** ⇒ Ephesians 5:23-33. God's anointing of servanthood, blessing, and discipleship make this love strong and brings his kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven. Christian couples have God's power and agreement in faith to resolve their problems ⇒ Ecclesiastes 4:12. Unsaved marriages have no such help or hope; just wine. This is sad.

God's love is the Good News people need. God saves real people, not mannequins. People need to see real Christianity that bleeds, cries, gets up, heals and has scars that don't hurt anymore. As a prince (of the power of the air) but not a king, the enemy has temporary and limited impact on earth and fears Christian marriages. He wants us to think our struggles disqualify us from sharing about the Lord. *God's power that solves our struggles is exactly what the lost need to know about.* Children, family, in-laws, outlaws, neighbors, friends and enemies all need to know that **God's love** fixes problems.

God's love multiplies. As husbands and wives produce children, so ministry flows outward when God and his Bride are one. Our spouse does not exist solely to minister to us. Marriage adds responsibilities and opportunities to minister. Aside from marriage, all of us are the Bride of Christ. A well prepared bride gets attention so use it to glorify your Bridegroom. As the Bride of Christ, let people know how great He is...*while there's time.*

♥ Loren & Kathy Falzone

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