

Couples In Bloom – Please Come To My Funeral

January 2011

By this we have known the love of God: Jesus laid down His life for us; if we do not lay down our lives for each other... is the love of God in us? ⇨ 1 John 3:16-17. For whoever desires to save his life, he shall lose it. But whoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel, that one shall save it ⇨ Mark 8:35. The life-giving truth is this: **righteousness requires rightlessness**, us choosing to lay down what we call our “rights”.

As Christians, we need to have our funerals now ⇨ Romans 6. This spiritual necessity also becomes obvious in marriage, as two people become one, and Jeremiah 17:9 comes alive ⇨ “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” But fear not! Jesus has provided just what we need to resolve this insidious problem.

This is very serious. Lucifer, the former worship leader of Heaven itself, became obsessed with self value. Christians know this story but subconsciously spin it, becoming obsessed with self *devaluation*. This arrogance glorifies self as the victim to be pitied (i.e. worshipped, just like Satan). Jesus Christ was the only sacrificial lamb, and He alone is worthy of all worship. All of creation should and will humbly bow to exalt Jesus as Lord.

Laying down our rights allows us to minister to our spouse without hindrance, just as in Christianity. A church, the bride of Christ, is a failure if its message is itself instead of Jesus. Likewise, I am a failure if my message is myself instead of my spouse. If we are guilty of such selfishness, we need a specific kind of funeral in order to live victoriously.

This funeral is the death of our rights and the birth of our new freedom to minister to our spouse. Jesus’ death conquered the victimization that our sins nailed on Him. Knowing what it is like to be human, Jesus taught us to partake of communion to remind us of His death. Marriage is a shadow of our relationship with God, and it also needs a “**Do this in remembrance of me**” activity to maintain a right mind and a right spirit.

History documents many healings that happened during communion services. God’s healing power manifests within forgiveness. Most marriages could use some healing right now, and the Bible shows us how God brings healing to us, His bride, the bride of Christ.

Jesus always represented righteousness, yet He did *not* fight for **right versus wrong**. He did win that battle, however, by **being wronged**. The power of God is forgiveness ⇨ 1 Peter 4:8 and the power of sin is the law ⇨ 1 Corinthians 15:56. Although **100% right**, Jesus chose to be **100% wronged**. The marriage lesson: **actually dying to being right, especially when we are right**. This brings more life than right versus wrong ever could.

Try this “**Do this in remembrance of me**” activity in your next marital disagreement:

1. Isolate the **right versus wrong** topic and think about being willing to **be wronged**.
2. Prioritize your **being wronged** as more important than the **right versus wrong** topic for the purpose of introducing the road to the higher place for both of you.
3. Break the bread of your own self by **acting on** this new priority for your spouse.
4. Drink the cup of covenant to your spouse by **pressing in** with God to really become renewed in your mind, to make good progress, and to not backslide into selfishness.

“**Please come to my funeral.** I want to be more like Jesus.” ♥ Loren & Kathy Falzone