

## Couples In Bloom – God Has Marriage Problems

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**God has marriage problems.** Sounds wrong, doesn't it?! Consider the following:

- ✓ God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are one ⇒ John 10:30; 1 Corinthians 12:3-12.
- ✓ Those in relationship with God are the Bride of Christ ⇒ Revelation 19:6-8; 21:9-10.
- ✓ The Bride of Christ brings problems into the marriage ⇒ Hosea 2:1-23; John 14:15.

Human relationship with God came before human relationship with each other. Marriage is an earthly copy of Christianity, giving Christians the best marriage model... firsthand!! Christians sometimes prioritize the good God gives as more important than the person God is. We are made in God's image ⇒ Genesis 1:27 and the Bible shows God feeling what we feel. Wrong priorities in marriage can leave God and spouse feeling unloved.

**How does God handle the marriage problem of feeling unloved?** ⇔ read John 14.

- ✓ Heart: **Pray in faith** (God **prays** for us) ⇒ Hebrews 7:25. Jesus' words "It is finished" only referred to His payment; relationship dynamics and communication are eternal.
- ✓ Hands: **Sow the need** (God **loves** us) ⇒ Romans 5:8-11. Jesus lived the pattern of introducing what His spouse needed instead of criticizing her for not having it.
- ✓ Head: **Wash with the Word** (God **leads** us) ⇒ Ephesians 5:25-27. The Bible has examples that the Holy Spirit quickens to our situations, instructing us what to do.

**Where does the power to live in these answers to marriage problems come from?**

God is GOD but we are only human. Jesus lived on earth as a human, remembers the struggle ⇒ Hebrews 4:15-16, and sent the Holy Spirit to give us power over problems. Those who develop relationship with the Holy Spirit receive this power for relationships.

**What if we tried but failed every time?** Then it is time to get positive **help**. The Bible says good things about wise counsel ⇒ Proverbs 11:14; 12:15; 27:9. Bad counsel will tell you to solve your marriage problems by getting rid of your spouse. God hates this choice ⇒ Malachi 2:16. Jesus' blood bought us the answers to marriage problems; rejecting God's costly help and/or giving up hope are unnecessary and damaging choices.

**Remember we all have strengths and weaknesses.** They help us learn to be a family and to love God's way. God's Bride had nothing to offer Him until He **gave** it to her.

**GIVING** is how God handles marriage problems. Who are we to criticize our spouse for lacking something, when we, the Bride of Christ, had lacked everything?! The hypocrite is critical of lack; the one who **receives** God's love **loves to give** God's love ⇒ Luke 7:47.

God's ways and the Holy Spirit's power **give** us answers to our marriage problems. This is the simplicity God uses to love us, His imperfect but nevertheless beloved bride. Marriage problems do not feel simple, but this is where God wants to be God in our life and do what only He can do. God reserves His power to those who obey His ways.

A reader recently agreed with doing things God's way but expressed concern about their ability to be consistent. What does God do with our inconsistency, or our refusal? The same things: **pray, love, lead**. Sometimes God has to **wait** for our readiness, allowing situations to help us get there. If our marriage problems involve waiting, both spouses again need the same heart of **giving** that God maintains with us. ♥ Loren Falzone