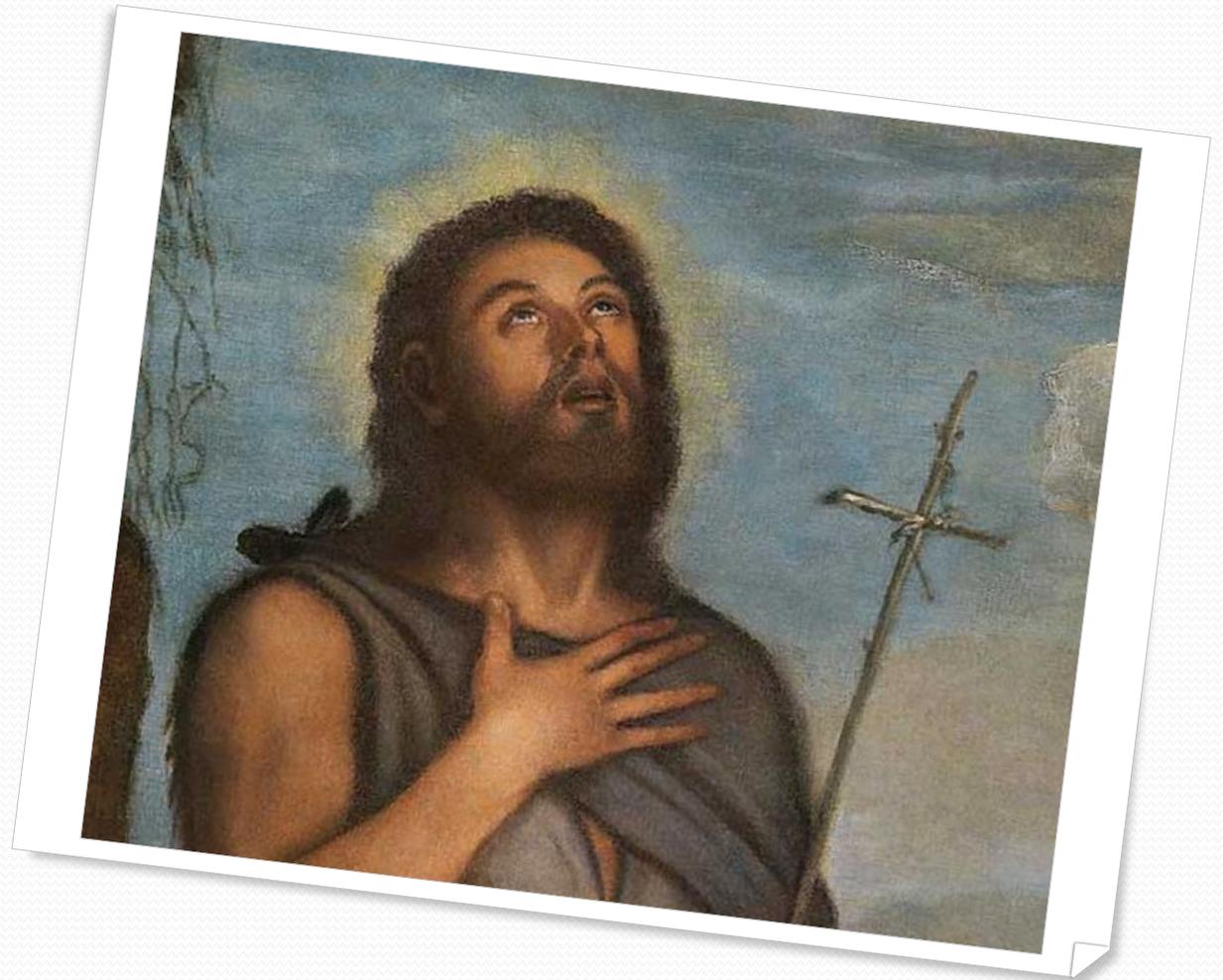


“...but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice”



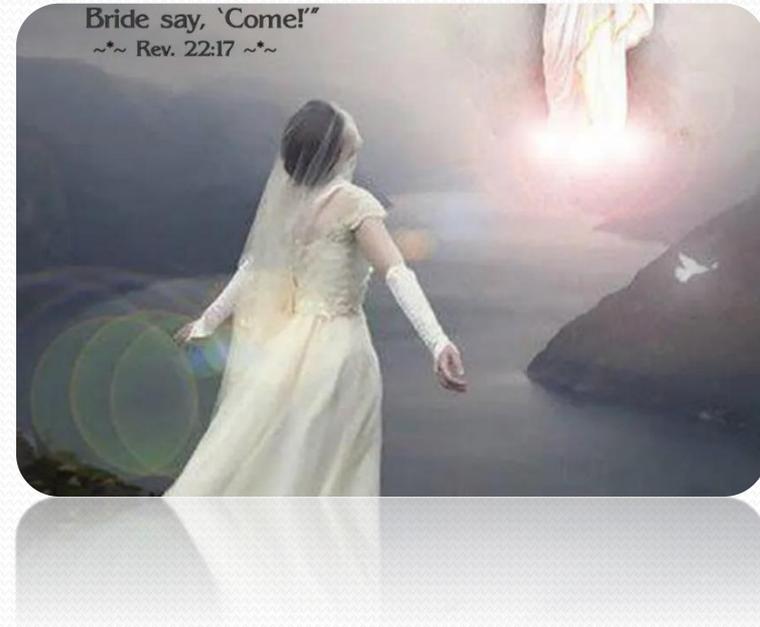
John 3:29



The Four Pillars of Successful Relationships

I. Sacred Purpose (1)

- It's always a three dimensional relationship with the Lord Christ being the center.
- “He who has the bride is the bridegroom” *John 3:29*



I. Sacred Purpose (2)

- “For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” *2 Cor. 11:2*
- “He must increase, but I must decrease” *John 3:30*



I. Sacred Purpose ⁽³⁾

- In church, at home, or with friends, the Lord Christ is to be glorified:

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”

1 Corinthians 10:31



II. The Given Role ⁽¹⁾

- ‘I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent before Him.’ *John 3:28*
- “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’ ” *Mark 1:28*



II. The Given Role ⁽²⁾

- Understanding the source of the true joy: “... the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice” *John 3:29*
- This joy is only attained when we understand life as service.



III. Clear Limits ⁽¹⁾

- “John answered and said, ‘A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven’ ” *John 3:27*
- The mind of a steward not an owner



III. Clear Limits ⁽²⁾

- Eve granted to Adam from the Lord
- “Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD”

Psalm 127:3



IV. Loyalty to the Truth ⁽¹⁾

- “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” *John 3:36*



IV. Loyalty to the Truth (2)

- “But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.’” *Mark 8:33*

