

Being Christ's Bride

The whole purpose of creation is for Christ to develop a Bride. A people who are compatible with him, a people conformed to his image

This earth is temporary. We are told at least a dozen times, that heaven and earth are going to pass away. In Revelation 21:1, John sees heaven and earth passing away, and a new heaven and earth. The only thing that remains from this earth, going into the new earth, is a bride. A people who have responded to God's love.

Re 21:9b: Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

Why did God create this temporary Earth? To develop a tested people who have responded to his love. A bride. He offers his love to everyone, but only some respond.

God put a design in his creation. Every living creature is male and female. All the fowls of the air, fish of the sea, land creatures of earth, want a mate. There is a divine message in this. The Lord is saying — He wants a bride.

Christ desires a people who *know Him, who understand Him* (Jer. 9:23-24). The Lord wants close intimate friends. He wants to be our Hero, our Protector, our Provider. He desires to be our Heavenly Bridegroom.

The same things a man looks for in a bride, the Lord looks for in His prospective Bride. He wants to be our Hero, our closest friend.

All of creation is based upon marriage, starting with Adam and Eve. As we study this design in creation, we understand the nature of the Designer.

Male and female is interwoven into God's entire creation, therefore, it is also what Satan wants to corrupt most. Satan's number one attack is against the relationship between male and female.

Marriage is *God's greatest object* lesson by which He teaches us about our relationship with Him.

The Lord has lavished mankind with His love and every conceivable blessing. But He looks for mankind to return that love and kindness back to him, out of our own free will.

You can never force anyone to love you. It must flow from one's own free choice.

Christ wants someone compatible to Himself, someone conformed to His image. We should study the characteristics of the Heavenly Bridegroom in order to become like Him!

What Kind of People Make Up the Bride:

- The Bride is *a many-membered group* of choice saints. She is perfectly spotless (Eph.5:25-27).
- Christ is coming for a mature and glorious Bride who has made herself ready (Rev.19:7,8). She is without spot or blemish.

The Bride rules and reigns with Christ as kings and priests for a thousand years (Rev. 20:4-6).

- The Bride has a better resurrection. These are resurrected when Christ comes (Rev. 20:4-6). This is called the first resurrection.
- The other believers are resurrected after the 1000 yr reign (Rev. 20:11-15).
- When we look more closely into the Scriptures, we observe that not every Christian is spotless. All of us must change, and learn, and grow.
- The Corinthians were termed “carnal” and “babes” and many lived just like the world (1 Cor. 3:1-3). You would never give the throne of rulership to babies, or to those who are carnal.
- Throughout the generations, there have been millions of believers, but the Bride is a choice group *within* them.

In Queen Esther's time, there were many fair young virgins, but only one was chosen to be the queen.

- Solomon had “virgins without number” but only one was termed his “undefiled” (Song 6:8-10).
- The Church is composed of many virgins. They are *virgins* in that they are washed in the blood. But according to Christ’s parable, some virgins are wise and some are foolish (Mt. 25:1-13). Wholehearted, or halfhearted. Would you want to marry someone who is halfhearted towards you?

The theme of this parable is not whether one is saved or lost. All were virgins, thus, believers. The theme of this parable is whether one is worthy to be admitted into the marriage feast.

High Qualifications are Required to be Christ's Bride:

- There is an enormous difference between a newborn baby and a mature Bride. Compare 1 Peter 2:2 newborn babies, with Revelation 19:7-8. (the bride has made herself ready, clothed with righteousness)
- Christ will not be wedded to a child (immature) or someone incompatible. Someone double minded, loves God—loves the world.
- • To be a joint-heir with Christ upon the throne, we must be fully developed.
- • The throne is for the overcomer (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21). All the promises of God have conditions.
- “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”
“He that overcometh shall inherit all things;...” Revelation 3:21; 21:7

Qualities Christ Looks for in a Prospective Bride: He Desires —

- **One who deeply loves Him.** Would you choose a person who has no passion for you, or is just casual about you?
- **One who is compatible with Him.** Would you desire someone who is independent, inflexible, and stubborn?
- **One who understands Him.** Would you want to marry someone who had no appreciation for your vision, purpose, or experiences?
- **One who has the spirit of Ruth.** Would you want someone who is loyal only when life is easy? Where you go, I go, only death parts you / me.
- **One who has time for Him.** Would you want someone who is only occupied with her own life, schedule, and interests?
- **One with a meek and quiet spirit.** Would you want to dwell with hysteria, anger, bitterness, and criticism?
- **One who reflects His character.** Would you want to be wedded to someone who greatly misrepresents you?
- **One who is not nagging.** Would you want to marry someone who never learns contentment?
- **One who is not idle or bored.** Would you want to walk with someone who had no purpose or vision in life?
- **One who is not easily offended.** Would you want to live with someone who is touchy, holds grudges, or hardens their heart?
- **One who is conformed to His image.** Would you marry someone who is incompatible? Everything a man looks for in a woman, Christ looks for in a prospective bride. Let's seek to make ourselves attractive and appealing to the Heavenly Bridegroom.

Marriage is a school of the Spirit. God is developing divine qualities in us in marriage. Patience, wisdom, forbearance, forgiveness, understanding, endurance, faith, and many other virtues.

Many people have the wrong idea of marriage. They expect to find all their happiness in another human being. “If you don't meet my needs get out of my life!” Many marriages are ruined by this thinking. In marriage, God is developing us in our relationship with Him.

The Bride Must be Without Blemish:

- **Christ is coming for glorious Church w/o spot or blemish (Eph. 5:27).**
 - **This is the whole purpose of the great tribulation; it is to wash our garments and make them white. This is often not understood or appreciated in much of the church world today. Read Rev. 7:13-14:**
- **“And one of the elders said to me, Who are these which are arrayed in white robes? and from whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” Revelation 7:13, 14, KJV.**
- **Garments of humility and meekness, the garment of praise.**
 - **A beautiful garment can be greatly depreciated by one spot / stain.**
 - **One's good character and reputation can be spotted and ruined by a besetting sin or fault. Lust, or deceit, bitterness, unforgiveness.**
 - **God wants to remove all blemishes and spots in our life (Eph.1:4, Col. 1:22, Jude 1:24, Rev.14:4,5).**

The Problem of Blemishes:

As individual believers, we are called to be priests unto God, to offer up spiritual sacrifices (1 Pet. 2:5,9; Rev. 5:10).

Every believer is invited to come within the veil, into God's very presence (Heb.10:19-20).

But there are conditions to be met before we can approach God (Psa. 65:4, Psa.15:1-4, Heb.12:14). Clean hands, and a pure heart....

In Leviticus 21:17, 23, we are told that any priest who had a blemish was in his approach to God (Lev. 21:17,23). These physical blemishes represent spiritual flaws. Blind-no vision. Lame-inconsistent walk, etc.

He was also limited in his ministry to others (Lev. 21:21).

Any priest who had a blemish could not come within the veil (the holy place).

Certainly, any high priest who had a blemish could not come within the holy of holies.

The message is clear—spiritual blemishes hinder our relationship with God and limit our service. Let us ask God to remove flaws from our lives that make us undesirable. God wants and glorious bride without spot.

The Key to Growth and Unity:

- **AS we grow spiritually, we will also grow in our marriage, and in other relationships. It is not possible to grow in our marriage if we are not growing spiritually. The only way to grow spiritually is by obeying what God is addressing in our life.**

- If we ignore what God is saying, there will be no growth and no change.
- To grow spiritually means we are becoming wiser, more meek, forbearing, understanding, more forgiving, and we are having all the beautiful fruits and virtues of divine nature developed in you.
- We are in the process of being prepared to be the bride of Christ, to be His eternal intimate friend. God uses the home and marriage to develop us to be his bride.

Unity in the Church Begins at Home:

- The Church is a collection of many families.
- When there is no unity in the families, there is no unity in the Church.
- The movings of the Holy Spirit are limited in the Church because of the condition of the homes.

The Power and Blessing of Unity:

Acts 2:1-2 when united, God's Spirit poured out.

"Every house divided against itself shall not stand" (Mt.12:25).

God commands blessing when brethren dwell together in unity (Psa. 133:1-3).

Unity first begins in me. "Lord, unite my divided heart" (Psalm 86:11). Remember, Lord is coming for a glorious bride without spot or wrinkle. Let's be in that group, and have a better resurrection, And rule and reign with him in the millennium. Amen.

