

The Bride of Christ

Introduction

1. **A Marriage relationship is very important in the eyes of God. God has purposed two important marriage relationships - The physical and the spiritual.**
2. **Though important in God's eyes, man has torn apart and disrespected both the physical and the spiritual marriage relationship that God has made.**
3. **We need to learn the importance of both of these relationships and understand that the spiritual marriage relationship between Christ and man is not only important, but necessary in order to obtain eternal salvation.**

The Bridegroom

1. **Jesus Christ is the bridegroom.**

Rev 19:7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

John said that he wasn't Christ – and said:

John 3:29 "He who has the bride is the bridegroom....."

- A. **One can't ask for a more faithful, trusting, loving bridegroom than Jesus.**

The Bride

Note: Man puts Christ on in baptism

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

1. The church is the bride.

Rev 21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."

As we read concerning Christ as the bridegroom we see also that the church is the bride of Christ:

Rev 19:7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

- A. We find in these passages a relationship between Christ and His bride, the church. This **faithful union** between the two will be one in which both will live together in eternity with one another.
 - 1) However, it **MUST** be a faithful union.

Marriage Customs of Ancient Days

- 1. The marriage customs of ancient days explain the relationship of Christ and the church.
 - A. Before a man got married, he bought his wife (paid a dowry)

Dowry: The archaic definition means **"a gift by a man to his bride"** This gift also consisted of gifts to the father or members of the family.

1) Abraham's servant took gifts to buy Isaac's wife

Gen 24:10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, for all his master's goods were in his hand. And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor.

Gen 24:53 Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.

2) Jacob bought Leah and Rachel with 14 years of hard work (Gen 29:18-30).

Gen 31:41 "Thus I have been in your house twenty years; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times.

- a. **We see an example of Jacob's loyalty – he was willing to pay the price for a precious wife!**
- b. **We don't see any indication that Jacob was buying into the saying that "one wife is just as good as another."**

3) David was to obtain Saul's daughter for killing Goliath

1 Sam 17:25 So the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel."

- a) **Saul later promised David his daughter for the lives of 100 Philistines instead of a marriage dowry.**

- B. After a woman had been “bought,” by the paying of a dowry, she was betrothed or engaged to her “man” and to break such a relationship, a divorce was necessary.**

Matt 1:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

*Deut 22:23 "If a young woman who is a virgin is betrothed **to a husband**..."*

- 1) **You can read through verse 30 and see the differences discussed between a virgin, a betrothed (engaged) woman, and a wife.**

- C. At the point when the two were betrothed (engaged), the couple was referred to as husband and wife.**

*Matt 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was **betrothed to Joseph**, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.*

*Matt 1:24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and **took to him his wife**,*

- 1) **Here we have Mary engaged to Joseph, then in verse 24 referred to her as his wife, at the point of engagement.**

- D. Should the wife be unfaithful to the betrothed husband, he could have her stoned (Deut 22:23, under the law of Moses); or put away in Matt 1:19).**

- E. Then, at the end of the betrothal (engagement), there was usually a wedding feast.**

Matthew 22:1-14

- F. After the wedding feast, they lived together permanently.**

Jesus Came to Get a Wife (The Church):

- 1. The Father purposed her to be the bride from the very beginning of time.**

Ephesians 3:7-11, 21

- 2. Jesus FIRST bought his bride (the church), with His own blood.**

Acts 20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

- 3. The church and Christ are referred to as husband and wife (or bride).**

Revelation 19:6-9

- 4. Should the church be unfaithful to Christ, when He comes back, He can have her "stoned" or cast into hell.**

2 Cor 11:2-3 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. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Revelation 20:11-15

- 5. Upon the return of Christ, the marriage supper will take place (Rev 19:6-9). (Will live together forever!)**

- 6. SHOW CHART**

Parallel relationship between Husband and Wife --- Christ and church.

Conclusion

1. Here are some questions for us to consider in relationship with this lesson.

A. Does Christ have more than one bride? If so, He would be a polygamist.

1) Yet, those that say attend the church of your choice are actually saying, attend the bride of your choice. But yet, Christ only has one bride - where is the choice?

2) Who's name should the bride wear? Would the bridegroom care?

3) What should the bride of Christ really be concerned about?

Matthew 6:33

2. I trust that we have gained a deeper and better understanding of the importance of Christ and His bride, the church.

A. In closing, I want to read from Ephesians 5:22-33. If we can have this kind of relationship with Christ during our time on earth, then we will be gathered with Him for an everlasting life in Heaven.

Ephesians 5:22-33

Invitation

Place	Date
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Bride of Christ.wpd
 Richard Thetford, July 2000/2004, (Lesson adapted from the book "The Church -- the Greatest Work of God" by David D. Bonner, Page 24.

