

Marriage



MARRIAGE PART 1 - GOD'S INTENT

Before we can start to look at our earthly marriages between a man and a woman, we must first know through the power of revelation, the marriage covenant God has already established between Himself and His church.

Ephesians 5:22-33 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

Without this knowledge as our first or beginning place, we will never know the true meaning and purpose of the marriage covenant between husband and wife and we will find ourselves defining for ourselves what we believe the purpose of marriage is.

I personally believe this is a major reason why Christian earthly marriages fail. The problem is two-fold.

Firstly, it's because we have no revealed knowledge of the marriage covenant God has put in place with us as His people, which is to define our earthly marriages.

Secondly, it's because we have no living knowledge of the true purpose of the marriage covenant between a man and a woman.

We must come into the realisation that the living prophetic Scriptures are written in the context of a marriage covenant between Jesus Christ and His church. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a relational Gospel,

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primarily based on the covenant of an eternal love, which has been established on the basis of the blood of the Son.

The Gospel is not primarily a functional or transactional Gospel based on works as many are taught, so it will require a significant renewing of the mind for each follower to truly lay hold of God's true purpose for His beloved, a marriage between Christ and His church.

Where do we begin?

We must start at the beginning.

The first thing every follower of Jesus Christ must know when they receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, is that they have been invited to their own wedding. A wedding between the Son and all those who have been invited be His bride.

The Scriptures describe this as being 'betrothed' to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:1-4 I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me. For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.

But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

We use the word 'engagement' in the West, but being betrothed is far more serious, as it means you are legally bound to the covenant of marriage to which you have been betrothed. In other words, you are as good as married to Christ now, and the challenge, is to live a life that is faithful and obedient to this covenant of marriage.

This must all be heard, seen and understood through the filter or lens of the Spirit. To attempt to grasp and understand this through the flesh or the carnal mind, will only leave us confused, disheartened and disillusioned.

QUESTIONS

1. What are our initial thoughts in relation to what you have just heard?
2. What do you notice which is significant about the Ephesians 5:22-33 passage and why?

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3. How significant is the Holy Spirit's role in revealing this dimension in and to us and why?
4. Would you say the Gospel you have heard and received is a relational, or functional/transactional Gospel? Why do you say this?
5. Why is the enemy doing his best to deceive us from this truth of being betrothed to Christ?

Watch the accompanying You Tube video here: <https://youtu.be/xD5qZPlIRj8>