

Christ And His Bride

Intro: Eph. 5:22-33 ²² Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. ²⁴ Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let the wives be* to their own husbands in every thing. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. ²⁹ For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: ³⁰ For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. ³¹ For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. ³² This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife *see* that she reverence *her* husband.” Christ and the church are united, even as the head is united to the body. Eph. 1:22-23 ²² And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, ²³ Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”; Col. 1:18 ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.” They are one and inseparable. The relationship is very strong and intimate, Christ is the church’s lover. The church is married to Christ, Rom. 7:4 ⁴ Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, *even* to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.” They are joined in spiritual wedlock. Let us consider:

I. WHAT CHRIST DOES FOR HIS BRIDE.

A. For her he gave Himself.

1. Eph. 5:25 ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”
2. Gen. 2:21-23 ²¹ And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; ²² And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. ²³ And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”
3. Acts 20:28 ²⁸ Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
4. Tit. 2:14 ¹⁴ Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

B. For her He bestows His tender affection

1. Eph. 5:25 ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”
2. John 13:34 ³⁴ A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”
3. Rom. 8:37 ³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”
4. Eph. 5:2 ² And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”
5. 1 John 3:1 ¹ Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”
6. 1 John 4:10 ¹⁰ Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.”
7. He left the Father’s bosom to woo her.
 - a. Gen. 2:24 ²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

- b. Phi. 2:6-8 “⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

C. He sanctifies her.

1. Eph. 5:26 “²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word”
2. Before the marriage, the bride passes through the bath of purification.
3. 1 Cor. 6:11 “¹¹ And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”
4. Heb. 10:10, 14 “¹⁰ By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*... ¹⁴ For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”
5. Heb. 13:12 “¹² Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.”

D. He provides for her.

1. Eph. 5:29 “²⁹ For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church”
2. With her he shares His treasures. Unto her He says, “All that is mine is thine.”
3. He provides food.
 - a. John 6:33, 35, 48 “³³ For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.... ³⁵ And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.... ⁴⁸ I am that bread of life.”
 - b. Song: “Break Thou The Bread Of Life”
Break Thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me, As Thou didst break the loaves
Beside the sea; Within [Beyond] the sacred page I seek thee, Lord; My spirit pants
for Thee, O living Word!
Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, To me, to me, As Thou didst bless the bread By
Galilee; Then shall all bondage cease, All fetters fall, And I shall find my peace, My
All in all.
4. He provides raiment.
 - a. He found her when she was unlovely and adorned her with loveliness.
 - b. Isa. 61:10 “¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels.”
 - c. Gal. 3:27 “²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
 - d. Rev. 19:8 “⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”
5. He provides shelter in the storm.
 - a. Psa. 46:1 “¹ God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”
 - b. Psa. 91:1-4 “¹ He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say of the Lord, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. ³ Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence. ⁴ He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler.”
6. He provides protection from the enemy.
 - a. Rom. 8:31, 33 “³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?... ³³ Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? *It is* God that justifieth.”

- b. Heb. 13:5-6 ⁴⁵ *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.* ⁶ So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

E. Unto her He is faithful and true.

1. Heb. 13:5-6 ⁴⁵ *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.* ⁶ So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”
2. He allows nothing except the unfaithfulness of the bride to sever the tie.
 - a. Mat. 19:6 ⁴⁶ “Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”
 - b. Jam. 4:4 ⁴⁴ “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”
 - c. John 10:28-29 ⁴⁸ “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father’s hand.”

F. At last, He will lead her before the Father and present her unto Him.

1. Eph. 5:27 ⁴⁷ “That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”
2. Then she shall eat with him the marriage supper of the Lamb.
3. Rev. 19:7-9 ⁴⁷ “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. ⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. ⁹ And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.”

II. WHAT THE BRIDE SHOULD DO FOR CHRIST.

A. She responds to His tender affection.

1. Love should meet love.
2. 1 John 4:19 ¹⁹ “We love him, because he first loved us.”

B. She makes herself attractive.

1. Eph. 5:27 ⁴⁷ “That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”
2. Eph. 1:4 ⁴⁴ “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:”
3. Col. 1:22 ²² “In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight:”
4. Rev. 19:8 ⁸ “And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”

C. Honor Him by wearing His name.

1. The name Christian honors Christ.
 - a. Isa. 62:2 ⁴² “And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name.”
 - b. Acts 11:26 ²⁶ “And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”
 - c. 1 Pet. 4:16 ¹⁶ “Yet if *any man* suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”

2. When a bride refuses to wear the name of the bridegroom, or when she wears the name of another, she dishonors the bridegroom.

D. She should keep herself for Him alone.

1. The bride should be true to the marriage vow of chastity, keeping herself free from spiritual adultery.
2. Hos. 2:19-20 ¹⁹ And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. ²⁰ I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord.”
3. Jam. 4:4 ⁴ Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”
4. 1 John 5:21 ²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.”

E. She should render loving obedience to Him

1. Eph. 5:22-23 ²² Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”
2. The woman was made of man and for man, hence her subjection to him.
 - a. Gen. 2:21-24 ²¹ And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; ²² And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. ²³ And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. ²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”
 - b. 1 Tim. 2:12-15 ¹² But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. ¹³ For Adam was first formed, then Eve. ¹⁴ And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. ¹⁵ Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.”
3. The church was made of Christ and for Christ, hence her subjection to Him.
 - a. Obedience is the test of love and loyalty.
 - b. John 14:15, 21, 23 ¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.... ²¹ He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.... ²³ Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”
 - c. 1 John 5:3 ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

Conclusion: Consider well what the Lord has done and is doing for the church. Is the church responsive? Is the church a loyal and loving bride? What are we, as individual members doing to make the church acceptable to the Lord?