

The Bride Jesus Longs For

Series on the Church:

- The Body Of Christ
- The Bride of Christ
- The Family of God

The Bride

- easy picture to relate to
- many opinions on what the role entails!
- Jesus clear on what He longs for

- Skip to the ending – discover what happens
- Great picture of the celebration expected

“Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. Then the angel said to me, ‘Writ: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb! And he added, These are the true words of God.’”
Revelations 19:6-9

How Does it Get there:

- made herself clean, ready ?
- fine linen, bright and clean given to wear?
 - notation in bible – righteous acts of the saints
 - how does the covenant, promised relationship reach the celebration we long for?

Look at Ephesians 5:22-32

- commonly used to teach on Christian marriage
- *“but I am talking about Christ and the church. However each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”*

“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; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water and 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 should 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.”

Eph.5:22-32

1. Loved Us Before We Were Attractive!

- Eph 1:4, chosen and loved by God
- note – not a response to our beauty, we had none!
- took us as His own, knowing we had issues
- was a love that moved Him to action
 - savior
 - provider
 - making beautiful

2. Gave Himself First vs.25

- hear of what men sacrificed for the ring, house etc.
- Christ gave himself totally
 - abandoned the glory of heaven
 - helpless infant in the arms of teenagers
 - limitations of earth, physical body
 - face the temptations, trials, sorrows of all of us
 - endured pain, rejection, abandonment
 - gave up his life – for this relationship

*note – maybe that's why accepting leadership not a significant issue

3. Active In The Cleansing Process

- washing with water – baptism
 - picture of sin stuck to us making us dirty
 - guilt, fear, pride, - making us unclean
 - dying to self – raised to new life in Christ
- word
 - power of the truth is unbelievable
 - renew the mind, restore the heart, revive purpose
 - active in knowing how to live differently

4. Process of Being Made Ready

- sanctified – set apart for God's exclusive use
- radiant – reflecting God, glowing
- without stain, wrinkle or any other blemish – perfect
- holy and blameless – worthy of the bridegroom!
- experiencing the focused love of God
- Feeding and Caring for it
 - aware of the need of the body, providing for it
 - Christ making available all we need for healthy life

5. Don't Miss The Celebration

- what is promised and worked on will have fulfillment
- present her to himself – beautiful
- We have a part: *“and his bride has made herself ready..” Rev. 19:7*
 - submit to Christ's leadership – direction
 - participate in cleansing – forgiving & forgiven
 - increasing sanctification – living up to who I am
 - remembering who God is, and who we are!

So What

1. We are the Bride of Christ:

- Loved before we were worthy
- Actively pursued and saved for Christ himself
- Expected to Get Ready for the Big Day!

2. Everything we Need Is Provided

- cleansing from before, becoming beautiful
- process is implied – stains, blemishes, wrinkles

3. How Are We Preparing For that Day?

- can we be presented to the bridegroom?