

ARE YOU MARRIED to CHRIST?

Ephesians 5:22-33

Ephesians 1:15-23

Ephesians 4:1-16

Words Have Meaning

- Contrasting religion and Christianity . . .
 - In religion, you can change/ignore definitions of words.
 - In religion, you can interpret the Word to have it say what you want it to say.
 - In religion, you can pick and choose what commands you obey.
 - In religion, you can obey how you want to obey.
 - In religion, you can interpret the Word according to your tradition, culture, and/or generation.
 - In religion, you can do what is right in your own eyes.
- BUT, the GOD who sent His Son to die for His people's sins demands that those for whom His Son died for obey Him as He has revealed in His Word. He has **commanded** that all men REPENT and BELIEVE. (Acts 17:30; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 24:46-47; 13:1-5)

What Is Church?

- Church is NOT a WHAT but a _____.
- ἐκκλησία ekklesia {ek-klay-see'-ah} - "called out ones"; "assembly"
 - An assembly of "called out ones".
 - Those who have been called by God to be His special people. (1 Peter 2:9)

Are You A Saint?

- ★ How does God address His people?
 - _____ times "believers".
 - _____ times "Christians".
 - _____ times "elect".
 - _____ times "saints"!
- ★ A church is an assembly of **saints**.



10 January 2021

- ★ **NOTE:** One must be a saint **before** he/she dies. No one becomes a saint **after** he/she dies.
- ★ **NOTE:** Only saints go to heaven.
- ★ **ONLY** God can make someone a saint.
- "saint" — ἅγιος hagios {hag'-ee-os} - "most holy thing"; "holy one"; "sanctified one"; "set apart one".
- A saint is one who has been set apart **from** the world **unto** God.
- A saint is one who have been set apart **by** God for a **purpose** - His purpose. (2 Timothy 1:9; Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:28)
- Are you a saint? What is the evidence? By God's definition, a saint . . .
 - ① Fear God (Psalm 34:9; 22:23; 89:7; Revelation 11:18; 15:3-4)
 - ② Are contrite and humble (Isaiah 57:15; Philippians 2:5-8)
 - ③ Tremble at God's Word (Isaiah 66:2)
 - ④ Live on **every** Word of God. (Luke 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - They **do** the will of God. (James 1:22; Matthew 7:21; 12:50; 1 John 2:17)
 - ⑤ Are faith**FUL** (Colossians 1:2) - obedient to the Word of God.
 - As children of God, they continually **practice** righteousness. (1 John 2:28-3:10)
 - They obey God's commandments because they love God. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 14; 1 John 2:3-6; 5:3)
 - ⑥ Love **all** the saints just as they are loved by Christ. (Colossians 1:4; John 13:34-35; 1 John 5:1-2)
 - Their love **abounds** for each other. (1 Thess 3:12; 2 Thess 2:13)
 - ⑦ Labor in love. (Hebrews 6:10; 1 Thessalonians 1:3)
 - ⑧ Labor in prayer for each other. (Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:12)
 - ⑨ Pursue holiness (Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16)
 - ★ They cleanse themselves from "every from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (2 Corinthians 7:2)
 - ★ They live a life of repentance. (Mark 1:14-15)
 - ★ They purify themselves just as their Lord. (2 Corinthians 7:1)

Are You the Bride of Christ?

- The MYSTERY – Ephesians 5:30-32; Genesis 2:20-24.
 - Paul takes us back to the beginning to where God Adam (a "picture" of the One to come; Romans 5:14) with His "bride"!
 - ★ (v. 20) There was no fellowship. (1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 John 1:6-7)
 - ★ (v. 21) Adam had to be put to "sleep". (1 Cor 15:18; 1 Kings 11:43)
 - ★ (v. 22) Part of Adam was taken to make Eve.
 - ★ (v. 22) Eve was the work of God. (Ephesians 2:10)
 - Eve was *supernaturally* made! (John 1:13; 3:1-8)

- She was not of the original creation - she was a NEW creation! (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- God could have created Eve from the dust but He chose to take “her” from Adam’s side!
- Eve was made before sin entered into the world.
- Eve was “in Adam”; as the Church was “in Christ”. (Ephesians 1:3-4; 2 Timothy 1:9)
- ★ The LORD “formed” Eve - (Heb. *banah* NOT *bara*) “to build”. (Matt 16:18; Eph 2:19-22; 1 Cor 3:9; 1 Peter 2:5)
- ★ God **gave** Eve to Adam, just as God **gave** Christ a Bride. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-29; 17:2, 6, 8-9, 11, 24)
- Husband and wife become ONE flesh; as Christ and the Church ARE ONE. (John 17:11, 21, 22; 14:20; 1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:4)

Paul’s Point (Ephesians 5:23-33)

- (vv. 30-32) Paul was speaking about Christ and HIS Church.
- (v. 25) Christ loves His Church and **gave** Himself for His Church. (Titus 2:14; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 5:2)
- (v. 30) The Church is members of His Body.
- (v. 31) The Church is in UNION with Christ. They are ONE.
 - **MEDITATE ON THIS HARD!**
- This passage is **primarily** used to describe what the Church **is** in God’s eyes. It is the Bride of Christ. It is an organism with ONE HEAD and ONE BODY. The HEAD and BODY are intimately joined together.
- Each member is intimately joined together, serving each other, and growing together.

What Does This Mean?

- ① All that is Christ’s is ours!
 - We are JOINT HEIRS with Christ. (Romans 8:17)
 - HE is OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. (1 Cor 1:30; Jer 33:16; Isaiah 61:10)
- ② Christ, the GROOM, assumes all our debt. (Isaiah 53:6; Psalm 69:5; Hebrews 7:22; Matthew 26:28; Galatians 1:4; 2:20; Matthew 20:28)
- ③ He has prepared a home for His Church. (John 14:1-6; 17:24)
- ④ The BODY follows the HEAD. (Eph 1:22-23; 5:23; Col 1:18; 2:19)
- ⑤ The BODY does what the HEAD “commands” and does it in harmony TOGETHER. (1 Cor 1:10)
- ⑥ The BODY grows TOGETHER (Ephesians 4:16) because it is ONE (Ephesians 4:4-16; 2:21; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; Romans 12:4-5; 1 Cor 12:12-13, 20; Col 3:15)

CLEAVED Together Forever (Ephesians 5:30-31)

- προσκολλάω (proskollao) means to be glued together, cemented together, to be joined together.
- Christ and His Bride are in a union that is so close that they are consider to be ONE.
- What can separate Christ’s Bride from His love? NOTHING. (Romans 8:35, 38-39)

The Church’s (MEMBERS) Responsibility (Ephesians 5:21)

- Marriage is a PICTURE of the UNION of Christ and His Church. (v. 32)
- We can learn of OUR great privilege of being the Body of Christ; the Bride of Christ, and our responsibility in this relationship.
- The Church has ONE responsibility . . .

SUBMIT in EVERYTHING

- (v. 21) The word ὑποτάσσω (hupotasso) means “to submit” or “to be subject to”. It a military term meaning to arrange or rank under.
 - The Church is to SUBMIT to her LORD in EVERYTHING.
 - The Church confesses with their mouths that Christ is LORD. (Romans 10:9-10)
- The Greek term has the idea that one gives up his or her RIGHTS to another person.
- To submit means to see the other more important than yourself. (Philip. 2:3; Luke 18:14; Romans 12:10; Ephesians 4:2; 1 Peter 5:5)
 - The Church, the called out ones, saints SUBMIT the Christ’s commands because they love their Lord and Groom. (John 14:15, 21, 23-25; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 2:3-4; 5:1-3)

Are You . . . ?

- ARE YOU a SAINT?
- ARE YOU married to Christ?
- ARE YOU joyfully SUBMITTING to the commands of Christ?
- ★ Christianity is NOT a religion.
- ★ Christianity is an INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP with Christ.
- ★ Do you love Christ? (Consider John 14:15, 21, 23; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 5:3 with John 14:24 and 1 Corinthians 16:22)