



# The Bride of Christ

BEING CHURCH (Part 1)

**Ephesians 5:22-33**

Matthew 22:1-14; Revelation 19:1-10

**One Week into 2022**

- “WE” or “ME”
- “OUR” or “MINE”
- “Church” or “Me”
- Growing as Disciples
  - Catechism Questions
  - Memory
- Goals for 2022
- “Imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.”  
(1 Cor 11:1)

9 January 2022

**Catechism Question #3:** What do the Scriptures principally teach?

- Answer: The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man. (Deut 10:12-13; Eccl 12:13-14; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

**Memory Work:** Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

## Five “Ds” of Discipleship

- **Are you a disciple of Christ?** (Luke 9:23; 14:26-33)
- What is your plan for growing everyday? Have you started one?

**Do We Mean What We Say to GOD?** Or do we just lie to Him?

- Today’s Song: One Pure and Holy Passion
- Today’s Song: Refiner’s Fire
- Christians live on every word that comes from the mouth of God. (Luke 4:4)

## What Is Your Definition of “Church”?

- Do you have a Biblical definition of the meaning of “Church”?
- Can you expound on your answer? Are in-depth answers important to you?
- Are you BEING Church in obedience to God or do you just come to church?

## What Does God Call HIS Church?

- He calls His Church – CHURCH! - HIS CHURCH. (Acts 20:28)
- He calls His Church – Flock/His Sheep. (John 10:11, 14-15, 26-29; Acts 20:28)
- He calls His Church – A Body (1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12:4-5)
  - ★ Each member have **duties** within the Body.
- He calls His Church – His Temple (2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:22)

- He calls His Church – Household of Faith (Galatians 6:10)
- He calls His Church – A Royal Priesthood (1 Peter 2:9)
- He calls His Church – A Holy Nation (1 Peter 2:9)
- He calls His Church – His Own Special (**Peculiar**) People (1 Peter 2:9; Deut. 4:20; 7:6; Titus 2:14)
- He calls His Church – A Chosen (elite; picked out) Generation
- He calls His Church – His Elect (Matthew 24:22, 24, 31; Romans 8:33; 9:11; Colossians 3:12; 1 Thess 1:4; Titus 1:1)
- He calls His Church – Saints (Rom. 1:7; 2 Cor 1:1; Eph 1:1; Philippians 1:1)
- He calls His Church – Brothers (Colossians 1:2; Hebrews 2:12, 17)
- He calls His Church – Disciples (Acts 6:1-2; 18:23; 20:7)
- He calls His Church – His Family who do the His will. (Hebrews 3:6; John 1:12-13; 3:3-8; James 1:18; 1 John 3:1, 2, 10; 5:1-3; Matthew 12:50)
- He calls His Church – the Pillar and Ground of TRUTH. (1 Timothy 3:15)
- He calls His Church – Living stones being built up (1 Peter 2:5)
- He calls His Church – the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-27, 30-33)

### **What is the meaning of the Word?**

- ἐκκλησία ekklesia {ek-klay-see'-ah} “out” + “to call”

#### **“CALLED OUT ONES”**

- A “church” by definition are those who have been sovereignly called by God to be His special people. (Romans 8:28-29; 1:6; 9:24)

### **Living As Christians in the World** (Ephesians 5)

- (v. 1) IMITATE GOD.
- (v. 2) WALK in love as Christ loves us.
- (vv. 3-7) DO NOT LIVE as the world in actions or words. Separate ourselves from those who live as the world.
- (v. 8) WALK as children of light as He is in the Light.
- (vv. 9-14) “Wearing” visible fruits of ALL goodness, righteousness, and truth.
- (v. 15) WALK circumspectly in an evil world.
- (v. 16) REDEEM the time given to us as a gift.
- (v. 17) STUDYING, UNDERSTANDING, and living the will of God.
- (vv. 18) FILLED with the Spirit.
- (v. 19) Having the Word of God fill and abide in us. Speaking the Word.
- (v. 20) Giving thanks always for ALL things to God
- (v. 21) Submitting to each other – WALKING in humility as Christ walked.

### **Verses 22-33 - What Is GOD’s Main Point?**

- (v. 32) “I speak concerning Christ and the Church.
- Paul, as he has been since the middle of chapter 2, is speaking of the Church as ONE BODY.

- This passage is primarily used to describe what CHURCH is in God's eyes. It is an organism with a HEAD and a BODY. That HEAD and BODY are intimately in union with each other. Each member belonging to each other, serving each other, and growing together.

## **We ARE One with Christ** (Eph. 5:31)

- In the true mystery of marriage husband and wife become ONE. (Mark 10:6-9)
- We ARE the Body of Christ! (Ephesians 1:22-23)
- In our marriage with Christ we become ONE with Christ! The Bride and the Bridegroom become one.
  - See John 17:11, 21-22 – Christ prayed that His Bride be ONE with Him *just as* He and the Father ARE ONE.
- 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 Corinthians 1:30; Jeremiah 33:16)
  - ② Christ, the Groom, assumes all of my debt. (Isaiah 53:6; Heb 7:22)
  - ③ The Father clothes us in our "wedding garments" - See Isaiah 61:10; Matthew 22:11.
  - ④ He has prepared a home for us. (John 14:1-6; 17:24)

## **The BRIDE (The Wives)** (Ephesians 5:22-24)

- During Biblical times (and most of history) most marriages were ARRANGED! God, the Father, arranged His Son's marriage before time began. (Ephesians 1:3-4; 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Matthew 22:1-14)
- "Wives" carries with it "without exception." – ALL WIVES.
- "own" has the idea of ownership – The husband does not own the wife more than the wife owns the husband. There is a mutual ownership and submissiveness.
  - The husband's body belongs to the wife and the wife's body belongs to the husband. (1 Corinthians 7:4)
- The word "to submit" or "to be subject to" is a military term meaning to arrange or rank under.
  - (v. 21) We are to submit or be subject to each other.
- The Greek term has the idea that one gives up his or her RIGHTS to another person. (Luke 9:23)
- 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 wife is NOT commanded to OBEY the husband as children obey their parents (Eph. 6:1) or as slaves obey their masters (Eph. 6:5).
  - Husbands are not to treat their wives as slaves, servants or children.

- The husband is the HEAD of the wife, as Christ is the HEAD of His Bride.
  - This is a God mandated hierarchy.
  - There is NO SUGGESTION of superiority or inferiority.
  - **JUST AS** Christ is the Head of the Church in which He is **ONE** with it.
- **The Bride (the Church) and wives are subject to the HEAD in everything.**
- Our Husband (Christ) is our **LORD** and we are to submit to Him in everything.

## The Groom (the Husbands) (Ephesians 5:25-29)

- Husbands are to love their wives **just as** Christ loved the Church.
  - ① He came into the world as a SERVANT. (Matthew 20:28; Philippians 2:4-8; John 13:4-17; Luke 22:27) **Love is demonstrated in service.**
  - ② He did not come into the world because the world deserved it. He came to do the will of the Father. (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; Matt 26:39-43; Psalm 40:7-8; Hebrews 10:7-9)
  - ③ Christ's love was UNCONDITIONAL. A husband's love must be UNCONDITIONAL. (Jeremiah 31:3)
  - ④ Christ's love was PERFECT and UNCHANGING. (John 13:1)
  - ⑤ Christ's love is not depended on what we do or what we do not do. Husbands love your wives **just as** Christ loves His Bride.
  - ⑥ Christ's love was so great that He **gave Himself completely for His Bride.** (See 1 John 3:16; John 10:18)
  - ⑦ Christ's love demonstrated or demonstrates itself in His protection, His purity, and His providing for His Bride. A husband must do the same.
  - ⑧ Christ's servanthood serves as an example to the Church. A husband's submissiveness should be an example to the wife.

## CLEAVED Together Forever (Ephesians 5:30-32)

- 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. It is God who unites His Church (the Bride) to His Son (the Bridegroom). (Matthew 19:6; Mark 10:7-9)
- When a husband takes a wife they become ONE. (Genesis 2:24)
- What can separate Christ's Bride from His love? NOTHING. (Romans 8:35, 38-39)
- Husband and wives are to remain married until DEATH. (Romans 7:2-3)

## Husbands, Wives, Church (Ephesians 5:33)

- Husbands love your wives - as yourself.
- Wives revere and respect your husband.
- CHURCH love, revere, be in awe of, obey and willingly submit to your Husband.