

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

Eph.5:21-33

(Essential Church Series 3)

INTRODUCTION: A) "A Bride from His Side", Gen.2:7,18-25; 1 Cor.11:7-9. B) Jesus is called a BRIDEGROOM, Matt. 9:15; John 3:29-30. God is spoken of as a husband to Israel, Is. 54:5;62:5; Jer.3:14; Hos.2:19. SEE JOHN 19:34 & Acts 20:28. C) The Church is the Bride of Christ, Eph.5:21-33; Rev.19:7-9; 21:1-11; 22:1. D) Preparing for Presentation, 2 Cor.11:2; 2 Cor.4:14; Col.1:22-29. *PARAISTANO/ISTEEMI*, (GK), 'to stand by'. Presentation can be seen as a bride being given to the groom, standing beside /before him. Jesus is working in His church to present her to Himself a splendid, beautiful bride! E) A Profound Mystery, Jesus' union with the church, Eph.5:30-32; John 17:20-23; 1 John 2:24; Rom.7:4; 1 Cor.6:15-20; Heb.2:11.

THREE REASONS LOCAL CHURCH COMMITMENT IS ESSENTIAL TO BEING THE BRIDE OF CHRIST:

- I) IN THE LOCAL CHURCH WE LEARN SUBMISSION, Eph. 5:21-24.
 - A) Jesus is the Head. *KEPHELA*, (GK), 'that which can be grasped, chief source, primary cause' (Dave Simmons).
 - 1. Over all creation, 1 Cor.15:27,28; Eph.1:22.
 - 2. Over the church, Eph.1:20-23; 4:15; 5:23; Col. 1:15-18.
 - B) SUBMISSION, *HUPOTASSO*, (GK), 'to arrange in order under'.
 - 1. Here in the Greek middle voice meaning the wife cannot be forced to submit, but submits herself. See also Col.3:18; 1 Pet.3:1-6. We are to submit to government, Rom.13:1-7; 1 Pet.2:13; Titus 3:1.
 - 2. Submission to church leaders, 1 Cor. 16:15,16; Heb. 13:7,8,17,24; 1 Pet.5:5; 2 Thes.3:4,14,15.
 - 3. Submission to other believers, Eph.5:21; Room.12:10; 15:1-3; Eph.4:2; 1 Cor.10:24; Phil. 2:2-5.
 - 4. Christ's example of submission, Phil.2:5-11; 1 Pet.2:21-3:1; Matt. 26:39-42.
 - C) Why Submission is so important.
 - 1. We, the Bride of Christ, will reign with Jesus, Rev. 2:26,27; 3:21; 1 Cor.6:2,3; Luke 12:32; Rom.8:17.
 - 2. We must be under authority to be in authority, Matt. 8:5-13. All authority belongs now to Jesus (Matt.28:18) and He delegates it.
- II) IN THE LOCAL CHURCH WE LEARN TO RECEIVE AND RECIPROCATATE JESUS' LOVE.
 - A) Husbands are commanded to love their wives AS JESUS LOVES THE CHURCH, Eph.5:25,28,29,33.
 - 1. Jesus loves by sacrificial giving, Eph.5:2; Rom.5:8; John 3:16; John 13:1; John 15:13; Gal.2:20; 1 John 3:16.

(OVER)

2. Jesus loves by nourishing His church, Eph.5:29. *EKTREPHO*, (GK), 'to feed and build up'. Jesus uses people to feed and nourish His church, John 21:15-17; Eph.4:11-17; 1 Pet.5:1-4.
 3. Jesus loves by cherishing His church, Eph.5:29. *THALPEI*, (GK), 'to warm by holding close, to soften by warming'. 1 Thes.2:7,8; Deut. 22:16 (LXX).
- B) The Church (wife) RECIPROCATES Jesus' love. In Eph. 5:22-33, the wife is not commanded to love. It is assumed that her love is a response to the husband's love. See 1 John 4:19.
- 1.The wife/church reciprocates by reverencing her husband, Eph. 5:33. *PHOBEOMAI* (GK), 'to fear'. This word is also used in the context of fearing God and worship, 1 Pet.2:17; Rev. 14:7; 15:4; 19:5-7.
 2. Believers in the church reciprocate nourishment by edifying others, Eph.4:29; Rom.14:19; 15:2; 1 Cor.8:1; 10:23; 14:3,12,26; 2 Cor.10:8; 1 Thes.5:11.
 3. Believers in the church reciprocate cherishing by loving others, John 13:34,35; 15:12; Eph.4:16; 5:2; Col.1:8; 3:14; 1 Thes.3:12; 1Pet.1:22; 1 John 4:7; Heb.10:22,27.

III) THERE IS CLEANSING IN THE LOCAL CHURCH.

- A) Jesus is sanctifying His Bride, Eph.5:26,31. *HAGIAZO*, (GK), 'to set apart'. Groom to Bride in wedding ceremony, "you are sanctified unto me." See also John 17:19; Heb.2:10-12; 10:10,14; 13:12; Acts 20:32; 26:18.
- B) Believers are washed by the Word, Eph. 5:26; John 15:3; 17:17-21; 1 Pet.1:22; James 1:21,22.
- C) The Cleansing of Fellowship, 1 John 1:5-9; Zech. 13:1; James 5:13-18. Believers should desire purity before the return of Jesus (Our Wedding Day! Rev. 19:1-9; 21:2). 1John 2:28-3:3; 2 Cor.7:1; 2 Cor. 11:2- "Chaste"; Matt. 5:8.