

WHEN
Christ Says
“I Do”

The Lord Seeks a Godly Seed

Ephesians 5:31-32 (NLT)

- 31) As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.”
- 32) This is a **GREAT MYSTERY**, but it is an illustration of the way **CHRIST AND THE CHURCH ARE ONE**.

Christ and the Ecclesia

- Apply the IDEALS OF MARRIAGE to our RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST
- Learn how to BETTER FULFILL OUR ROLE AS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST by examining our ROLE IN MARRIAGE

FAITHFULNESS

- **MARRIAGE** is all about **FAITHFULNESS**, and is therefore one of our **MAJOR TESTS OF FAITH**
- He that **REMAINS FAITHFUL IN MARRIAGE** strengthens his **FAITH IN CHRIST**

2nd Corinthians 11:2-3 (Message)

- 2) The thing that has me so upset is that I care about you so much - this is the passion of God burning inside me! **I PROMISED YOUR HAND IN MARRIAGE TO CHRIST**, presented you as a pure virgin to her husband.
- 3) And now I'm afraid that exactly as the Snake seduced Eve with his smooth patter, you are being **LURED AWAY FROM THE SIMPLE PURITY OF YOUR LOVE** for Christ.

Learning from Marriage

- We need to **LEARN FROM THIS CONCEPT OF MARRIAGE** as much as possible
- We want to live the kind of life that allows Christ to meet us at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and say **“I DO!”**

The Purpose of Marriage

The reason **GOD**
MADE MARRIAGE
is because He
wants **US** to
become a
GODLY SEED!

The reason **GOD**
SENT CHRIST
is because He
wants **US** to
become a
GODLY SEED!

DISCIPLESHIP

“The process which transforms the disciple into the **FRIEND**, the witness and the **SERVANT** of the Master.”

- Brother Dennis Gillette
The Genius of Discipleship

2nd Corinthians 3:16 & 18 (NLT)

- 16) But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, then the veil is taken away.
- 18) And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, **WE BECOME MORE AND MORE LIKE HIM** and reflect his glory even more.

*7 Ways YOUR SPOUSE
Helps You*

*7 Ways CHRIST
Helps You*

1) CHALLENGES You

1) CALLS You Higher

*7 Ways YOUR SPOUSE
Helps You*

- 1) CHALLENGES You
- 2) ACCOUNTABILITY

*7 Ways CHRIST
Helps You*

- 1) CALLS You Higher
- 2) Will JUDGE You

*7 Ways YOUR SPOUSE
Helps You*

- 1) CHALLENGES You
- 2) ACCOUNTABILITY
- 3) COUNTER-BALANCE

*7 Ways CHRIST
Helps You*

- 1) CALLS You Higher
- 2) Will JUDGE You
- 3) SHARES Burdens

Matthew 11:28-30 (KJV)

- 28) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
- 29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
- 30) For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

*7 Ways YOUR SPOUSE
Helps You*

- 1) CHALLENGES You
- 2) ACCOUNTABILITY
- 3) COUNTER-BALANCE
- 4) PRAYS For You

*7 Ways CHRIST
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- 1) CALLS You Higher
- 2) Will JUDGE You
- 3) SHARES Burdens
- 4) MEDIATES For You

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- 5) Someone to PLEASE

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- 6) Is HONEST With You

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- 5) Someone to SERVE
- 6) Asks For HONESTY

1st Corinthians 11:28 (KJV)

28) But let a man **EXAMINE HIMSELF**, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup.

*7 Ways YOUR SPOUSE
Helps You*

- 1) CHALLENGES You
- 2) ACCOUNTABILITY
- 3) COUNTER-BALANCE
- 4) PRAYS For You
- 5) Someone to PLEASE
- 6) Is HONEST With You
- 7) Keeps You HUMBLE

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Helps You*

- 1) CALLS You Higher
- 2) Will JUDGE You
- 3) SHARES Burdens
- 4) MEDIATES For You
- 5) Someone to SERVE
- 6) Asks For HONESTY
- 7) Wants You HUMBLE

Matthew 18:4 (KJV)

- 4) Whosoever therefore shall **HUMBLE** himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Ephesians 5:24 (NIV)

- 24) Now as **THE CHURCH SUBMITS TO CHRIST**, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

SURRENDER

- The Heart of Worship is **SURRENDER**

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

- 1) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as **LIVING SACRIFICES**, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.

Ephesians 5:24 (CEV)

24) Wives should always put their husbands first,
as **THE CHURCH PUTS CHRIST FIRST.**

- Accepting Christ's **AUTHORITY** in your life is the key to being **TRANSFORMED**

UNFAITHFULNESS

- Just as there are those in the **ECCLESIA** who will prove to be **UNFAITHFUL** to Christ
- There are also those who will be **UNFAITHFUL** in **MARRIAGE**

UNFAITHFULNESS

We learn the **IMPORTANCE**
God places on **FAITHFULNESS**
by comparing it to how much
UNFAITHFULNESS upsets Him

Malachi 2:16 (Message)

16) “**I HATE DIVORCE,**” says the GOD of Israel. GOD of-the-Angel-Armies says, “I hate the violent dismembering of the ‘one flesh’ of marriage.” So watch yourselves. Don’t let your guard down. Don’t cheat.

- **UNFAITHFULNESS** is something that God **HATES!**

RECONCILIATION

- **IF** a man or a woman is **UNFAITHFUL** to their spouse, they are expected to **REPENT**

RECONCILIATION

- IF there is UNFAITHFULNESS
- And IF there is REPENTANCE
- Both Parties are expected to RECONCILE

RECONCILIATION

- The **UNFAITHFUL** is expected to show **REPENTANCE**, and the **INJURED** is expected to show **FORGIVENESS**
- **IF** we are **REPENTANT**, we can find **FORGIVENESS** in Christ

RECONCILIATION

- Christ is full of **GRACE**, and **RECONCILIATION** is his goal for our relationship with him

2nd Corinthians 5:17-19 (NIV)

- 17) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
- 18) All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the **MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION:**
- 19) that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the **MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION.**

Ministry of Reconciliation

- The reason we have hope at all is because Christ **RECONCILED OUR RELATIONSHIP**
- **RECONCILIATION** needs to be the **HALLMARK** of our relationship with each other

John 13:35 (NLT)

35) Your **LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER** will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

RECONCILIATION

- Don't Seek **RESOLUTION**
- Seek **RECONCILIATION**
- Seek to **RECONCILE** your relationships, and you will become more **CHRISTLIKE**

WHEN Christ Says “I Do”

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- We are **BETROTHED** to Christ

John 14:1-3 (NLT)

- 1) “Don’t be troubled. You trust God, now trust in me.
- 2) There are many rooms in my Father’s home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly.
- 3) When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

1st Thessalonians 4:16-17 (KJV)

- 16) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.
- 17) Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Revelation 19:7-9 (NIV)

- 7) 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.
- 8) Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)
- 9) Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

WHEN Christ Says “I Do”

- Christ has **ALREADY** said “**I DO**”!
- The only thing that we await is the **UNION** of our bodies

WHEN Christ Says “I Do”

- If you strive to remain faithful to him, he will forgive your mistakes, and his **GRACE** will **RECONCILE** your relationship with him
- Don't be **UNFAITHFUL** to him, and you will one day share in the Marriage Supper with him