

## The Bride of Christ #1

# Introduction to the Bride of Christ!

**A. Whole books of the Bible are devoted to the bridal theme such as Song of Solomon and Hosea, not to mention the many references that are through all the rest of the Word.**

*Song of Solomon 2:16 My beloved is mine, and I am his. He feeds his flock among the lilies.*

*Song of Solomon 5:8 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, If you find my beloved, that you tell him I am lovesick!*

*Song of Solomon 6:3 I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine. He feeds his flock among the lilies.*

*Hosea 2:16; 19-20 "And it shall be, in that day," Says the Lord, "That you will call Me 'My Husband,' and no longer call Me 'My Master,' ...19-20 "I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; 20 I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord.*

**B. One, if not the most enlightening of mysteries in the whole Word of God is the “great mystery” of the bride and Bridegroom relationship between Christ and the church.**

*Ephesians 5:28-32 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

**C. God is “our Father” Who is seeking mature sons and daughters for His family and Who is calling and preparing during this age an equally-yoked bride for His Son’s eternal companion.**

*2 Chron 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. KJV*

*Song 5:2 I sleep, but my heart is awake; It is the voice of my beloved! He knocks, saying, "Open for me, my sister, my love, My dove, my perfect one; For my head is covered with dew, My locks with the drops of the night."*

**D. In “Creation History”, God’s “Mission Statement” for all of creation comes to a sovereign crescendo in Rev 19:7,8 as all of heaven announces the highlight of history at the end of the age: “The Marriage Supper of the Lamb and His Bride!” Indeed all of chapters 19-22 in Revelation are a description of events surrounding and describing the uniting of the bride with her Bridegroom at the end of the age.**

*Revelation 19:7-8 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

**E. In “Redemption History,” the story starts with a bride coming out of the side of the first Adam and ends with the bride who is the one redeemed out of the side of the Last Adam through the finished work of Christ by the supreme act of love in laying down His life for us!**

*1 Corinthians 15:45-49 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.*

**F. The Corinthians, who at the time were manifesting many carnal activities, were exhorted and reminded by Paul of who they really were as the beloved of God and the privileged of all creation in Christ!**

*1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (Isa 64:4)*

*1 Corinthians 3:3, 21-23 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? ... 21 Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come — all are yours. 23 And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.*

**G. Here we see that even though the behavior of the Corinthians was described as “mere men,” their calling and privilege is as the beloved of God. This revelation of God’s passionate heart towards us for love as His bride is what makes the difference as far as old behaviors are concerned.**

**H. The creation of man with a “free will” which in one sense seems to have made a mess of things, is found to be critical to God’s desire to have “voluntary lovers” that respond to His love and goodness with a love response. Even the boundaries of man’s habitation and the restraint of God in dealing with demonic hatred have to do with providing a reason for men to “grope after Him” through a choice of their own.**

*Acts 17:26-27 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;*