

The bride about the Bridegroom

Song of Songs 5:16 (NKJV) His mouth [is] most sweet, Yes, he [is] altogether lovely. This [is] my **beloved**, And this [is] my **friend**, O daughters of Jerusalem! (*2 different facets of knowing Jesus as bridegroom. Beloved and as friend of the Bridegroom*)

Knowing Jesus Himself as the eternal Bridegroom and viewing ourselves as the beloved bride of Christ, chosen by God to be His eternal partner will release a depth like nothing else. Experiencing Jesus as The Bridegroom is essential in knowing Him in fullness! Bride is a collective term that includes the whole church, it is a term of intimacy and endearment, it speaks of His eternal covenant with His people and His ultimate desire for us.

Augustine (4th–5th century)“As Eve was formed from the side of sleeping Adam, so the Church was born from the side of Christ sleeping on the cross.”The church is born from Christ as Eve is created from Adam. The bride taken from His side!

The bridal understanding will allow for our hearts to ache with a longing for the deep things of Jesus Christ which only He will can satisfy. The thirst that Holy Spirit releases will be both understood and realized as we grow into our eternal calling as the unblemished bride of Christ. Jesus is inviting us to know an obedience that is not just rooted in duty but cultivated and deeply rooted in the soil of love.

Repentance as the Bride

Understanding the bridal paradigm ushers us into a depth that will transform the way we think which will transform the way we live. That is repentance. The bridegroom understanding reveals deep covenant union between Christ and the Church, expressed in baptism, communion , holiness, and the final union at Christ’s return.

For the early Church Fathers, the image of Christ the Bridegroom and the Church as His Bride is deeply connected with repentance and purification. Repentance was understood as the way the bride prepares herself for the bridegroom. The relationship language of marriage made repentance relational rather than merely legal. Repentance Is the Bride Preparing for the Wedding *yielding to the process of sanctification by His Holy Spirit and Holy word.*

Origen 3rd century father and theologian said “*the soul that sins has wandered from the Bridegroom, and repentance is the soul running back to Him.*”

Repentance Is Returning to first Love So repentance is not earning forgiveness—it is opening ourselves to Christ’s cleansing love.

Origen related repentance to a beautiful fragrance that pleases Christ the Bridegroom.

in an early hymn written about Mary of Bethany anointing the Lord’s feet “*Her tears became a sweet perfume before the Lord; the fragrance of repentance rose higher than costly oils.*”

Isaac the Syrian “Until the end of your life, do not cease weeping for your soul, for these tears are the adornment of the bride who longs for the Bridegroom.”

Throughout Scripture descriptive language is used to define God’s love for His people and His longing to receive back that love. Jesus is the first under the new covenant to introduce the Kingdom of God through a bridal perspective. God uses the bridal picture many times though out the Old Testament (covenant). A couple examples: including the entire Song of Solomon are

Hosea 2:16 (NKJV) “And it shall be, in that day,” Says the LORD, “[That] you will call Me ‘My Husband,’ And no longer call Me ‘My Master,’

Isaiah 62:5 (NKJV) For [as] a young man marries a virgin, [So] shall your sons marry you; And [as] the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, [So] shall your God rejoice over you.

Jesus referred to Himself as the Bridegroom.

- **Matthew 9:15** (NKJV) *And Jesus said to them, “Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.*
- In Jesus last public sermon before His crucifixion in Matthew 22 Jesus said: **Matthew 22:2** - “*The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.*

At the core of His being, Jesus is a Bridegroom forever. His leadership, commitment, wisdom and love are perfect and contained in Him is Everything the bride desires. Every human pleasure was purposed to be unlocked in our hearts as we pursue Him alone.

At the time Jesus referred to Himself as Bridegroom this would have been a radical new paradigm of the Messianic King: He’s unlike any other king, He is a bridegroom king. He has deep feelings about the one He is redeeming and leading. He didn’t just save them; they’re a bride to Him. And He’s not just attending a wedding; He’s a bridegroom at the heart-level forever. He never changes. Everyone knew the Messiah was a king, but the part that people

weren't clear about was that **He was more than a man with power; He was a man with deep feelings for His beloved.**

Understand we have Partial revelation now that will continue to grow as we walk in nearness and Gods timing.

When we hear “the Kingdom of God is like throughout the Gospels”, Jesus is giving us glimpses into heaven using earthly parallels. Jesus uses agricultural, fishing, war, economics and more given to us in the parables, but the one that transforms our hearts the most to fulfill the greatest command of loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength is the bridal paradigm! The greatest command will-be restored to His church on a global measure. Holy Spirit invites us, equips us and sustains us as we set our hearts upon Jesus alone.

The Apostle Paul describes the church as being engaged to one Husband, Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. *(Betrothal moves beyond intent to marry and is currently in full commitment. Engagement says I will be married, betrothal says I am married.)*

As we see ourselves as the collective bride (church) we position ourselves closer to Jesus to understand His heart.

We are invited through the finished work of the cross to a relationship with God where we get to know Him on a personal, emotional level, His secrets as well as His promises/ commitments to us as His covenant people in accordance with His will.

It may seem strange that we can know God through His emotions but it's true. We find the source of why Jesus felt the way He did We see God through Scripture expressing joy, anger, laughter, compassion, grief, love and even hate. The Holy Spirit can be grieved (made sorrowful) and as we get to know God we can learn what grieves Him, what makes Him happy, what moves Him, what kind of faith amazes Him. God emotions are rooted in His holiness and are perfect in love.

- **We must set our affections on our Bridegroom and truly get to know Him and delight in Him because He really knows us and delights in us. __**
- **Jesus understands the secret aspects of our life that are unknown, unnoticed and misunderstood. He has intimate knowledge of our victory, passions, sacrifices and struggles and wants to share Himself with us in every area. He is the scroll writer ! He is the God who will never leave us or forsake us. He knows you better than you know**

you. His beauty, His face give us the ability to move from faith to faith, from glory to glory.

Deep truly cries out for deep in this covenant relationship that is only fully experienced as we abandon our selfish interests and yield to His leadership . He wants our all, and is jealous over our affections in the way a husband expects full loyalty from His wife. Jesus tells us some tough stuff that we cannot throw out, yet we need to receive His truth through a paradigm of love and covenant.

When Jesus tells us to pick up our cross and follow Him, to hate your father and mother He is speaking as a bridegroom God calling for loyal love. Outside of love His commands seem harsh! Our love for Him was meant to grow in such a way that all other love by comparison seem small. When we deny ourselves because of our love for Him, it moves Him so deeply, because this is how He responds to us

Love is only fully satisfied when it is both received and given away, it is reciprocal and meant to always increase yet it will only increase when cultivated!

Encountering Jesus as The Bridegroom is essential in knowing Him in fullness, hearing what He is saying as well as how He is saying it.

We the bride are His reward! We are His inheritance! The Fathers ultimate purpose and goal of creation is to provide a suitable and equally-yoked bride for His Son. You are His beloved and you were created to love Him for all eternity.

The history of redemption reveals God's romance. God has a heart. He's the ultimate romantic. Not a physical, sensual relationship with Jesus Christ, an eternal spiritual connection. I'm talking about a desire in the heart of God to fully disclose His heart to His people. As well as His desire to receive their heart and valuing it back.

In Revelation 22:17 is the final call which includes the Spirit and the bride.

Revelation 22:17 NIV. "The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life."

In the end of these days and the beginning of our life for all eternity. It's not the Holy Spirit and the army; it's not the Holy Spirit and the kingdom; it's not the Holy Spirit and the family; it's not the Holy Spirit and the body. It's the Holy Spirit, and the people of God are called "the bride." They're in unity with the Holy Spirit crying to the Bridegroom,

“Come” (Rev. 22:17). There’s a bridal cry at the very end.. God uses the bridal understanding to motivate us to affection-based obedience and lovesick holiness.

The Eucharist as Participation in the Marriage Some Fathers saw the Eucharist as a foretaste of the wedding feast.

Ignatius of Antioch (early 2nd century)

He called the Eucharist: “The medicine of immortality.” Receiving communion meant union with Christ the Bridegroom.

Home groups

1. Discuss what ministered to your heart concerning Jesus as Bridegroom and the church as His bride.
2. Discuss this perspective from the church fathers. Repentance was understood as the way the bride prepares herself for the bridegroom. The relationship language of marriage made repentance relational rather than merely legal.
3. How has the Bridegroom understanding matured your faith and allowed you to love Jesus more?
4. Discuss the difference between obedience rooted in duty and obedience rooted in love and your maturing process in the “why” behind your obedience.
5. Discuss what kind of Bridegroom Jesus is. Discuss His feelings toward His bride using Scripture as your baseline.