

The Bible is a Romance

Jeremiah 31:3 Indeed I have loved you with an eternal love...

1. In the Old Testament God told His redeemed people Israel that He was their Husband and that they were His wife.

Isaiah 54:5 For your Maker is your Husband; / Jehovah of hosts is His name. / And the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; / He is called the God of all the earth.

Hosea 2:19-20 And I will betroth you to Myself forever; / Indeed I will betroth you to Myself / In righteousness and justice / And in lovingkindness and compassions; / Indeed I will betroth you to Myself in faithfulness, / And you will know Jehovah.

2. In the New Testament the Lord Jesus came as the Bridegroom to take the bride, who is the church.

John 3:29-30a [John said,] “He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom’s voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full.” He must increase...

3. The love between husbands and wives is a picture of Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her that He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word, that He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

2 Corinthians 11:2b ...For I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

4. The Bible concludes with the marriage of God and His redeemed people.

Revelation 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

Revelation 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Developing our Personal Romantic Time with the Lord

After we have received Christ as our life, we must have a very personal seeking after Christ. Every believer's relationship with Christ must be personal and affectionate.

1. Personal - We must know the Lord personally

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me

Mark 16:7 But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you into Galilee.

John 13:23 One of His disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining on Jesus' bosom.

2. Affectionate - We need to enjoy the Lord's love

Song of Songs 1:2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! / For your love is better than wine.

Song of Songs 6:3 I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine...

Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength."

3. Private - We need to develop our secret life with the Lord

Matthew 6:6 But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Matthew 14:23 And after He sent the crowds away, He went up to the mountain privately to pray. And when night fell, He was there alone.

4. Spiritual - Our spirit is the key to contacting and worshipping God

Song of Songs 1:4 ...The king has brought me into his chambers— / We will be glad and rejoice in you; / We will extol your love more than wine. / Rightly do they love you.

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

5. His Word - We should receive the Word by means of all prayer

Ephesians 6:17-18 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God, **18** By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

Pursuing Christ with Companions

1. Our personal, affectionate, and spiritual pursuit of the Lord will cause others to be attracted to Him

Song of Songs 1:4 Draw me; we will run after you—The king has brought me into his chambers— / We will be glad and rejoice in you; / We will extol your love more than wine. / Rightly do they love you.

2. Proper companions strengthen us to flee youthful lusts and pursue Christ with all our heart

2 Timothy 2:22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Daniel 2:17-18 Then Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, **18** that they might request compassions from before the God of the heavens...

Ecclesiastes 4:12 And while a man may prevail against one, the two will withstand him, and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

3. Our pursuing with our companions will help us to be built together as God's house to become His bride

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider one another so as to incite one another to love and good works, **25** not abandoning our own assembling together, as the custom with some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as you see the day drawing near.

Matthew 18:20 For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst.

Ephesians 2:20-22 Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone; **21** in whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; **22** in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

Revelation 21:2-3 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.

The Gospel: An Issue of Loving the Lord

1. The desire for the Lord Jesus to come back will stir up within us a concern for the salvation of others

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.

Revelation 22:20 He who testifies these things says, Yes, I come quickly. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

2. We can cooperate with the Lord for the salvation of others by coming to Him to pray on their behalf

1 Timothy 2:1, 4 I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men; **4** [our Savior God] desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.

3. The enjoyment of the Lord will cause you to go to people with the gospel

Philippians 1:3-5 I thank my God upon all my remembrance of you, **4** always in my every petition on behalf of you all, making my petition with joy, **5** for your fellowship unto the furtherance of the gospel from the first day until now

4. The more we preach the gospel the more our joy is made full

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at His coming? Are not even you? **20** For you are our glory and joy.

1 John 1:3-4 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. **4** And these things we write that our joy may be made full.