



50 Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die

Part 8

35. To give marriage its deepest meaning

God's plan for marriage

- Usually when we talk about God's plan for marriage, we are making reference to the fact that God created marriage to be for one man and one woman. While this is absolutely true, it's not what we are discussing today. Today I want to talk about God's secret agenda regarding marriage. So, what is this secret agenda? What is God's hidden purpose for marriage? I believe it is this... ***In creating marriage, God created a human relationship that portrays the relationship between Jesus his Church.*** You might be asking yourself, what so secretive about that? The thing that make this a secret agenda is the simple fact that it was hidden from us for thousands of years. It was not until the Apostle Paul penned his letter to the Ephesians that we discovered this truth. This is why Paul describes it as a mystery.
 - ❖ Ephesians 5:31-32--*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*
- So we must ask ourselves, in what ways does the marital relationship reflect or portray the relationship between Jesus and his church?

The wife is a picture of the Church's submission to Jesus

- ❖ Ephesians 5:24--*Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.*
 - Just as wives are to submit to their husbands in everything, the Church is to obey Jesus in everything. The Church is not free to do what ever it wants to. The Church does not make up its own rules and regulations as it sees fit. It follows Jesus. For example...
 - Who does the Church belong to? Jesus
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 6:19-20--*You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price.*
 - ❖ Romans 7:4--*you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God*
 - Who does the church obey? Jesus
 - ❖ John 14:15--*If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*
 - Where does the Church get its mission? Jesus
 - ❖ Matthew 28:18-20--*And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*
 - So just as wives are submit to their husband in everything, the Church submits to Jesus is everything. Which means that you wives have the honor, privilege, and responsibility of being a glorious picture of how the Church relates to Jesus.

The husband is a picture of Jesus' love for his Church

- ❖ Ephesians 5:25--*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,*



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- In saying this the apostle Paul is saying that Jesus' love for his church is the perfect example for how husbands ought to love their wives. So then how did Jesus love his Church? Was it only in dying? No way...
 - (1) Jesus had good plans for his Church for all eternity and Jesus is personally making sure that the full extent of those good plans come to fruition (Ephesians 1:4-14).
 - (2) Jesus endured human weakness and frailty that he might be able to empathize with his Church (Matthew 4:2; John 4:5-6).
 - (3) Jesus endured and overcame real temptation that he might be the Church's sympathetic high priest (Hebrews 4:15).
 - (4) Jesus endured shame for his Church, that his Church might stand before God unashamed (Hebrews 12:2-3).
 - (5) Jesus died for his Church (Ephesians 5:25; Romans 5:8).
 - (6) Jesus was raised that his Church would be raised with him to eternal life (Ephesians 2:4-7).
 - (7) Jesus pleads for his Church to the Father (Hebrews 7:25).
 - (8) Jesus purifies his church (Ephesians 5:26-27).
 - (9) Jesus unites himself to his Church (Ephesians 5:30-32).
 - (10) Jesus attains, for his church, every good thing (Romans 8:32).
- This is how Jesus loved his Church and just as Jesus loved his Church and gave himself up for her, we husbands are to love our wives just the same. We husbands have the honor, privilege and responsibility of being a glorious picture of how Jesus loves his Church.



The unity of husband and wife is a picture of being united to Christ

- ♣ Ephesians 5:31-32--*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*
 - When a man and a woman get married, they are no longer independent. The husband is no longer his own man, he is now the head of a household and must lovingly lead and guide his family toward happiness and holiness. The wife is no longer her own woman, she is now united to her husband and must now follow his every lead. So, the husband's job is to provide a life and livelihood for his wife, and the wife now finds her life in her husband.
 - So it is when we are united to Christ. We are no longer our own but are his. He is our head and he lovingly directs every aspect of our lives. We are submitted to him and must follow his every lead. Jesus provide for us life and we find our every purpose for life in him.
 - Thus, our marriages are intended to portray this very thing. That we no longer seek our own life, but that we gladly lay our own lives down to find life in Jesus. To be united with him.



Jesus came and died to reveal that the institution that he created, marriage, was indeed a glorious picture of his relationship to his beloved Church.

36. To create a people passionate for good works



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- ❖ Titus 2:14--*[Jesus] gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*

🕒 These works do not save us

- It is not that Jesus gave himself up that we would be able to do works that would save us. This we clearly seen a little later in this same letter...
 - ❖ Titus 3:5--*he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy,*
- This reality leads some to ask, why then are we “zealous for good works?” It is not as if it saves us. They don’t seem to bring us any tangible benefit. Why all the zealousness?

🕒 Our good works glorify God.

- ❖ Matthew 5:16--*let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*
 - I believe this truth separates the men from the boys, the true believers from the fakers. How so? When there is no tangible benefit to you, how zealous are you for good works? When you aren’t getting anything for being good, how good do you really want to be? A true believer is so overflowing with gratitude and awe towards God, that he is passionate about doing things that glorify God.

🕒 Jesus came and died to create people a people who were passionate about glorifying him through good works.

37.To call us to follow his example of lowliness and costly love

🕒 Jesus is the example

- ❖ Philippians 2:6-8--*who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*
 - In this text, Paul gives us specific ways that we are to imitate the lowliness and costly love of Jesus. Jesus emptied himself. Jesus became a servant. Jesus humbled himself. Jesus was obedient even to the point of death. How do we know this though? This text is great example of the lowliness and costly love of Jesus, but it doesn’t say that we are to be like Jesus in these ways.

🕒 We are called to follow this example

- ❖ Philippians 2:5-8--*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*
- ❖ Philippians 1:29--*For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake*
- ❖ 1 Peter 2:21--*Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.*
 - If we are being honest, this sounds awful. What in the world could possibly be worth this. The bible points out this fairly universal human sentiment when it says...



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❖ Romans 5:7--*For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—*

- What glorious virtue could shatter our hesitancy? What could possibly make imitating Christ in this way worth it?


The glory of Jesus' and the salvation of Jesus' Church

(1) The glory of Jesus

- We are created to find our deepest joy in the glory of God. Because of this, we will indeed be most joyful when he his most glorified. This is why it is worth it. This is why the biblical authors sometimes say things like...
 - ❖ Psalm 16:11--*in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*
 - ❖ Philippians 3:7-9--*But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him,*
- If a little more honesty is permitted, many would ask...“how come I don't feel that way?” To help you discover the answer for yourself you should consider the following questions...
 - i. Are you really a Christian? Do you really love Jesus? Have you really repented of your sin and placed your faith in Jesus?
 - ii. Do you think too highly of yourself? When you compare yourself to Jesus, are you broken by who you are and in awe of who he is? If you have too high an opinion of yourself, you will not be capable of treasuring Jesus.
 - iii. Do you really understand who Jesus is? Your ability to be in *awe* of Jesus is directly proportional to how *awesome* you esteem him to be.

(2) The salvation of Jesus' Church

- If you are one who lives for the glory of Jesus, you will find that you love what he loves. Jesus loves his church and he gave his life for his church...
 - ❖ Ephesians 5:25--*Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,*
- The Apostle Paul demonstrated to us how loving Jesus causes us to love what he loves when he said...
 - ❖ 2 Timothy 2:10--*Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*

 **Jesus came and died that we would humble ourselves as he did, that we would make ourselves servants as he did, and that we would be willing to give it all as he was for the glory of Jesus and for the salvation of his Church.**