

CALL to PRAYER - Pray for our marriages Gospel evident marriages

Ephesians 5:25-33 - The CHURCH as a BRIDE

Intro- The church is a group of *Believers* the Bible describes as: a *Building*...a *Body*...& a *Bride*. The church is a gathered group of called out believers. Church = “called out ones” (assembly). The church is a building. Jesus is the builder & the foundation of a Temple where God dwells. The church is a body. In the incarnation Jesus identifies with humanity by taking on flesh and so connects Himself to His church that He is the head, and we are His body. We are in Christ... Today we look at the church as a *Bride*. Each one of these descriptions involves a deeper level of intimate love. A builder loves his building. A man is connected to his body. But a husband is intimately bound and becomes one with his wife. The church is Christ’s wife. We are going to consider Jesus’ love for His bride and how the bride (church) ought to be with her Husband

JESUS LOVES HIS BRIDE

- Eph. 5:25 Jesus Christ loves His church. She is His wife. Marital love
 - Eph. 5:30-32
 - The Son left the Father so He could be united to His bride...the church
 - The church is part of Him and completes Him Eph. 1:22-23 Gen. 2:18
- Jesus’ love for His bride is special and particularly directed towards His church
 - Jesus’ love for His church often gets diluted for fear someone might feel excluded
 - Beware – sentimentalism leads to universalism
 - Jesus is not polyamorous or polygamous
 - His love is not a philandering love – given willy-nilly to every philly
- Jesus loves His church as a husband loves his wife. (singular affection)
 - Special love. Particular love. she is the sole object of His marital affection
- God’s love directed toward mankind is mentioned about 92 in scripture
 - 90 – directed particularly toward His people / church / believes / bride
 - 2 - directed towards mankind generally (generically)
 - We should speak of God’s love toward His church 45 x’s more.... biblically balanced
- If you want to feel the assurance of God’s love and Christ’s embrace...be in The Church
 - Jesus loves His church
 - The church is His bride...the special object of His affection.

A BRIDE SHOULD DRESS FOR HER HUSBAND

1. A bride dresses for her husband and to please her husband. (his eyes only)
2. We should “dress for church” (sometimes say, “put on our Sunday go to meetings”)
 - a. NOT meaning external adornment. Not clothes, but conduct
 - b. Warning to wives about undue attention to outward dress. 1 Peter 3:3-4
3. Rev. 19:7-8 Adorned with holiness. Decked out with good deeds
 - a. We are not dressed for church when we attend with sin. misdeeds = mis-dressed
 - b. Fighting and complaining is the wrong clothing for church. (Are you dressed right?)

A BRIDE SHOULD LISTEN TO HER HUSBAND

- “Be careful how you listen” - Luke 8:18a 17 x’s - “he who has ears, let them hear” (Rev. 3:22)
- Church is a place where the bride comes to hear from her Husband
 - Acts 10:33
 - when the church assembles, we give attention to what Christ has said
 - Eph. 5:26
 - The word of Christ makes us holy
 - Listening to His words cleanses us, washes us, renews us
 - Psalm 119:103-105
- A husband’s words should be a blessing to his wife
 - Edifying/sanctifying/encouraging/cleansing/healing/correcting/protecting
 - A wife should listen to her husband / Husband
 - husbands...how are you words to your wife?

A BRIDE SHOULD PRAISE HER HUSBAND

1. Praise is a priority for a bride.
 - a. When the church gathers, we garner praise for Him – direct praise to Him
 - b. Eph. 5:19-20 Col. 3:16 Heb. 2:12
2. A bride should speak well of her husband
 - a. To her own self internally. Thinking good about Him
 - b. To others externally
 - i. A bride shouldn’t complain to others about her Husband
 - ii. A bride spreads good news about her Husband
 - iii. When you love someone, you speak well of them to everyone
3. When the church (bride) assembles together... we do so to praise our Husband
 - a. We talk about Him..... think about Him..... sing about Him....thankful for Him

A BRIDE SHOULD BELIEVE IN HER HUSBAND

- One of the main monikers of the church is that we are BELIEVERS.
 - A main descriptor of us is that we *believe* in Jesus Christ
- We believe in: His Person His Work & His Word
 - The Bride believes in *who* He is (a bride believes in who he is)
 - Jesus is the Son of God. He is the God-Man. He is Christ the Redeemer
 - The Bride believes in *what* He does (a bride believes in what he does)
 - He came to work for me...live for me...sacrifice Himself for me
 - The Bride believes in *what* He says. (a bride believes in what he says)
 - He communicates to me, and I believe what He says
- Am I speaking of what our marriages should be or of relationship of Christ & church?
 - Yes, I am
 - Marriage is a picture of the gospel....even the marital union
 - We are to model the gospel in our marriages as husbands and wives.
 - The church is Christ’s wife. He loves her and she believes in Him