

Revision: Rethinking Church VII

“His Bride”

Both Israel and the Church are personified as a woman.

The study of certain women in the Bible will teach us valuable lessons of our love relationship with the LORD.

With Israel the LORD is the husband and Israel is His bride.

With the church, Christ is the lover and the church is His beloved.

Consider *Ephesians 5:21-33*

KJV Ephesians 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. ²² Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as **Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.** ²⁴ Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, **even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;** ²⁶ **That he might sanctify and cleanse it** with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ **That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing;** but that it should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. **He that loveth his wife loveth himself.** ²⁹ For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: ³⁰ For **we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.** ³¹ For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and **shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.** ³² **This is a great mystery:** but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

I

His love is unconditional. Vs 25

The church is a recipient of His love.

His love is sacrificial. Vs 25b

- We are to love one another as He loved us because we are His beloved.

II

His love is sanctifying. Vs 26

His love is cleansing verses condemning.

- We are to live differently because we are His beloved.

III

He is a redemptive lover. Vs 27

He paid the price to bring us out of slavery and oppression.

He expects our covenant loyalty and exclusivity.

- Study the first half of the book of Hosea.
- We make a daily choice to love Him with our lives because we are His beloved.

IV

His love is mysterious. Vs 32

When a man is joined to a woman in marriage there is a covenant bond.

- Marriage is more than a legal bond.

The power of God goes into operation and knits their spirit together.

They two become one flesh with the LORD. Vs 30

When we are joined to Christ the power of the Spirit knits or joins us with the Lord.

- We are one together with Him because we are His beloved.