

The Glorious Bride Of Christ

Eph. 5:22-33

Introduction:

- A. The church of Christ described as a glorious church or bride of Christ.
 - 1. Splendid, noble, gorgeous, honorable (cf. Lk. 7:25; 1 Cor 4:10)
 - 2. The *closeness* of Christ and the Church illustrated by husband and wife.
 - 3. The *roles* of Christ and the Church illustrated by husband and wife.
- B. The church of Christ, as glorious bride sustains three *positions* to Christ.

Discussion:

I. She Is The Object Of His *Glorious Love*. (verse 25)

- A. Died on cross for her. (cf. Acts 20:28) - Suffered pain and shame of cross.
- B. Cares for her as a good husband should. (v. 29).
 - 1. Has given her scripture to guide and comfort her. (2 Tim. 3:15,16; Rom. 15:4).
 - 2. Has given her promise of eternal life to sustain her. (cf. 1 John. 2:25).

II. She Is The Object Of His *Glorious Salvation* (v. 23)

- A. Made up of saved. (Acts 2:47).
- B. Church and salvation go hand in hand. (1 Cor. 1:2).
- C. United to Christ as wife is to husband. (vv. 30-32).
 - 1. Can one be saved without such a union with Christ. (cf. Rom. 6:4,5).
 - 2. Can not bring forth fruit unto God without this union. (Rom. 7:4).

III. She Is The Object Of His *Glorious Purposes For Her*.

- A. That she be pure. (vv. 26-27; cf. Jas. 1:27).
 - 1. Morally. (1 Cor. 5:1,7).
 - 2. Doctrinally. (Rom. 16:17).
- B. That she be submissive. (vv. 22,23,24).
 - 1. Church not author of doctrine, it obeys it.
 - 2. Church does not decide His will, it submits to it.
- C. That she be reverent. (vv. 32,33).
 - 1. For the prayer of Christ. (John 17:20,21). -- Division into denominations.
 - 2. For the position of Christ. (Matt. 28:18; 1 Pet. 5:1-5). -- Assume to power for ourselves.
 - 3. For the word of Christ. (Col. 3:16) -- Rather than word of men.
 - 4. For the name of Christ. (Acts 4:12) -- Prefer human or party name. What if wife did this?
 - 5. For the plan of Christ - Worship, work, organization, etc.
 - 6. For the death of Christ -- (1 Cor. 11:26,27).

Conclusion:

- A. If you are not united with Christ, you can be. (Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3).
- B. If you are a part of glorious bride - Be pure, be subject, be reverent to Him daily.