

Why Marriage ?

Part 1

Revelation 19:7-8 [NIV] *“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb [Jesus Christ] has come, and his bride [the Christian church] has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)”*

The reward of the church is an intimate relationship with her Creator.

This relationship is depicted by the physical marriage relationship.

All the preparation for a physical marriage relationship and the responsibilities of both partners one to the other are the training ground for this eternal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The marriage of the church to Jesus Christ is the consummation of the New Covenant [agreement] Christ has made with all Christians.

Our goal and reward beyond the resurrection is this spiritual union with Jesus Christ.

Genesis 1:26-28 [NIV] *“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”*

Genesis 2:16-17 [NIV] *“And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”*

The first command from God to His newly created Adam, was to not look to himself for knowledge and understanding of who he was and why he had been created.

Genesis 2:18, 21-24 [NIV] *“The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” ... “So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”*

The second command given to Adam and now Eve was to be joined to each other and become one.

The thought and goal behind this union of Adam and Eve was threefold:

- a) To be **made into the image and likeness** of their Creator;
- b) To be **fruitful** and multiply;
- c) To **rule over** all that God was creating.

God from His sovereignty has always worked with humanity in two ways to bring about His desire to create beings in His image and likeness.

- a) **God makes a covenant [agreement] with us;**
- b) **God then allows us to choose if we will fulfil our side of that covenant.**

Genesis 2:9, 16-17 [NIV] *“And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground, trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” ... “And the LORD God commanded the man, “**You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.**”*

The **two sides of this first covenant** made with Adam were:-

- a) **God offered to us all that was needed for physical life and eternal life.**
- b) To receive this wonderful gift **we had to reject our own way and accept God’s way of thinking and living.**

Proverbs 3:5-6 [NIV] *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and **lean not on your own understanding**; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”*

The way of life God wanted us to live involved conversing with Him and having fellowship with Him.

Remember that the goal of this article is to understand God’s thoughts and direction behind the physical and spiritual union of marriage.

What was the first thing that Satan the adversary of God attacked in his attempt to destroy God’s pinnacle of creation, humanity?

The union between Adam and Eve! Their marriage.

How did Satan do this?

Genesis 3:1-5 [NIV] *“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “**Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’**” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that **when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**”*

Satan used three attitudes of mind to attack Adam and Eve:-

- a) Pride; b) Self-righteousness; c) Desire for physical pleasure.

Result of this first assault by Satan was –

Genesis 3:6 [NIV] *“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.”*

Disobedience to their Creator, failing to keep their side of the covenant, the result of this disobedience was:-

Genesis 3:7 [NIV] *“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.”*

The feeling of guilt.

Genesis 3:12-13 [NIV] *“The man said, “The woman you put here with me, she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”*

The first marriage argument.

Genesis 3:14-19 [NIV] *“So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, **“Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” To the woman he said, “I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”***

This fracture of these covenants, the covenant union between Adam, Eve and God and the marriage covenant between Adam and Eve, resulted in the introduction into humanity of three things.

a) **Enmity**, hostility, culminating in hatred and wars.

Notice this hostility was going to Satan’s offspring [plural], his children and the woman’s offspring [singular] which refers to Christ.

b) **Pain**. There is no mention of pain before the fall of mankind, **pain was the end result of the breaking of the covenant.**

The breaking of any covenant including that of marriage results in pain mentally and physically.

c) **A Curse**. Adam and Eve including all their children, are placed under a **curse, a physical curse** [the **land**] ending in a **spiritual curse** [**death**, in contrast to the promised fruit of the tree of life which Adam and Eve could have eaten but, now not available to them.]

Genesis 3:22-24 [NIV] *“And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. **After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.**”*

God’s desire and great love for us, His Creation, did not want us to live forever under this curse but had already put into place a plan to bring us out from under that curse.

Galatians 3:13-14 [NIV] *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.”*

Jesus Christ was to become the curse for us, all who were Gentiles cut off from God’s presence [as were Adam and Eve.]

This is part of the reconciliation that was needed because we failed to keep any of the covenants that God made with us from the one with Adam and Eve onwards.

Only accepting and abiding by the New Covenant that Christ makes with all people can the union with our Creator be restored.

The marriage covenant and union is the perfect analogy of the spiritual covenant we make with our Creator, Jesus the Son of God.

Ephesians 4:1-2 [NIV] *“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely **humble** and **gentle**; be **patient**, bearing with one another in **love**.”*

We have from Paul an exhortation to mutual love.

Love is the law that governs Christ’s Kingdom, His Family.

Love is the lesson we are to learn as disciples in Christ’s School for eternal life.

The love lessons we are to learn are:-

a) Humility, or lowliness of mind, esteeming ourselves as small [which we are]. The calling we have is high, but **we** who are called are **insignificant compared with the calling we are given**.

b) Gentleness or meekness, an attitude of mind that is unwilling to provoke others and is not easily provoked. The very opposite to anger and irritability.

c) Patience or long-suffering, implies a patient bearing of injuries without seeking revenge or vindication.

d) Bearing with one another in love, we find when we are honest and observe ourselves using the mirror of God’s Word. **Many things that need God’s Grace**. Therefore **we have no right or authority to be judgmental** of others who are also human and in need of the same grace from our Creator and Saviour.

John 13:35 [NIV] *“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

Love is the livery, what distinguishes us as part of His created Family.

It is through love that unity will come to any relationship including that of physical marriage.

Pride and passion break the peace in a relationship.

Humility and meekness restore the peace and unity.

The more lowly-mindedness the more like-mindedness.

Ephesians 4:3 [NIV] *“Make every effort to keep the **unity of the Spirit** through the bond of peace.”*

The basis of any unity is in the spirit/Spirit.

When our human spirit and the Holy Spirit unite with the same spirit/Spirit union in another person will foster unity between us and the other person.

What is the effort we are to make to bring about this unity?

1 John 1:9 [NIV] *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

Confess our sins, each one at a time to God that we may be purified by the atoning power of the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Romans 4:13 [NIV] *“It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.”*

It is by faith that we are made righteous.

Faith in what?

God's Promises!

Romans 4:18, 21-25 [NIV] *“Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ... **“being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.** This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness, for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”*

When we have the same unwavering faith that Abraham had in what Christ's sacrifice can do, we are then credited with some of Christ's righteousness thus made Holy.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 [NIV] *“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.”*

We destroy the temple by grieving the Holy Spirit with sin unconfessed and unforgiven. For the Holy Spirit will **not** dwell anywhere that is **not** purified [by Christ's blood sacrifice] and made Holy [by credited righteousness of Jesus Christ].

When both you and I have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us as a special presence then there will be unity in our relationship.

This is the key to a stable union in a marriage.

One more thing to our part in receiving the special presence of Holy Spirit is to ask for Him to come.

Luke 11:13 [NIV] *“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven **give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**”*

If we seek each morning before we start our contact with this world or our brethren the active presence of the Holy Spirit we then will be:-

a) Led by the spirit

Romans 8:14 [NIV] *“because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”*

b) Allow God's Love to flow out from us

John 7:38-39 [NIV] *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water **will flow from within him.** **By this he meant the Spirit,** whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

c) Will have peace of mind

2 Timothy 1:7 [King James] *“For God hath **not given us the spirit of fear;** but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*

Through the active presence of the Holy Spirit.

d) Guided into all truth

John 16:13 [NIV] *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, **he will guide you into all truth.** He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

e) **The fruits of the Holy Spirit will mature in us**

Galatians 5:22 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,”*

Just as the characteristics of those we spend time with “*rub off*” on us, so our fellowship with the **Holy Spirit will cause His characteristics to become ours.**

With this background and preparation we can see why God regards the marriage union as sacred.