

Bride of Christ - Own It

Ephesians 5:22-32, "Wives, submit to your husbands, as to the Lord, for the husband is head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body of which he is the savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word and to present her to himself as a radiant church without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all no one ever hated his own body but he feeds and cares for it just as Christ does the church. For we are members of his body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh." "This is a profound mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church."

The word church comes from a Greek word found in the New Testament, and the word is ecclesia.

- Ecclesia speaks about a gathering or an assembly of believers.
- Meaning church is not a place, but church is a people.
- Church really isn't about where. It's about who.
- It's something we are a part of not something we go to.
- You and I, we are called to be the church.

Out of all of the things that we could be likened to, we're likened to a bride.

- I don't know if there's a more intimate place on the planet than the marriage between a husband and a wife.
- God is trying to say, that's the type of relationship I want with my church.

Paul continues to write. **"At an appointed time, a man will leave his mother and father and he will be united to a woman and they will become one flesh." He said, "this is a profound mystery, but I'm actually talking about Christ and the church."**

- We're called the bride for this reason that we have rights because of Jesus.
- We are one with Jesus.

It reminds me of what the apostle Paul said in Romans chapter 8.

- He said if you and I, if we're willing to share in Christ's suffering, well then guess what?
- We will also share in his glory.
- When you pray, God hears the prayers of Jesus.

People who are part of the true church are basically pilgrims, or people on a journey, whose ultimate destination is not of this earth: Their priority while on earth is to

develop their personal relationship with God. To be a unified community of people who represent God and bring honor to him in all they do.

Hebrews 10:23-25 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

- NKJV, says let consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.
- Love and Good works do not just occur
- They have to be stirred up!
- Church is where we do that!

The greek word translated stir up has come into English as paroxysm.

- It means a convulsion
- In this context the greek word speaks of the tremendous impact believers can have on each other.
- You being here makes a difference in this church.

The church, is the body of Christ, a living spiritual organism through which Christ reveals himself and accomplishes his purpose in the world.

It is our responsibility to accomplish God's purpose in the world.

Let's Own it!