

# My Beloved

Every relationship is diminished or elevated by the words and by the actions of the parties involved. The strength of any relationship is determined by the amount of love demonstrated by the individuals involved. Love is doing something beneficial for another person that costs me something. For our discussion, love must be considered as a verb more than a noun. The feelings of love rise and fall, mostly determined by loving actions or the absence thereof.

Today we are focusing mainly on the marriage relationship. Several references in the Old Testament compare God's relationship with Israel to marriage. The New Testament continues the theme with Christ and the Church. The closest human relationship to the relationship God desires with us is marriage.

## Bride of Christ

- **Revelation 21:2** NKJV - Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**
- **2 Corinthians 11:2** NKJV - For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have **betrothed you to one husband**, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.
- **Matthew 9:14-15** NKJV - Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.
- **Ephesians 5:22-32** NKJV - Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but **I speak concerning Christ and the church.**

## My Beloved - Song of Songs (Solomon)

- Unique - no interest in Law or Covenant or Yahweh the God of Israel
- Does not reach or explore Wisdom like Proverbs or Ecclesiastes
- It celebrates love between a bride and a bridegroom
- Praise and yearning for each other
- The women of Jerusalem form a chorus celebrating the couples' love
- It can be viewed as an allegory of Christ and His bride, the Church
- **Observe how they use words to build the relationship**
  - Observe how they speak to each other
    - **Song of Songs 1:8-10, 16-2:3**
    - **2:16-3:4**
    - Bridegroom to his bride: **4:7-15**
  - Observe how the bride speaks about her groom to others: **5:10-16**
  - Revelation of the bridegroom's love for his beloved (**2:16; 6:3; 7:10-13**)

## Use your words

- Words edify and heal, so use your words
- Words destroy, so guard what and how you speak to and about each other
- What you say to others reveals what is in your heart
- You can change your heart by changing your words. There is a heart/mouth connection.
  - **Psalm 17:3** NKJV - You have tested my **heart**; You have visited me in the night; You have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my **mouth** shall not transgress.
  - **Psalm 19:14** NKJV - Let the words of my **mouth** and the meditation of my **heart** Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.
  - **Psalm 49:3** NKJV - My **mouth** shall speak wisdom, And the meditation of my **heart** shall give understanding.
  - **Proverbs 15:14, 28** NKJV - The **heart** of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, But the **mouth** of fools feeds on foolishness. ... The **heart** of the righteous studies how to answer, But the **mouth** of the wicked pours forth evil.
  - **Proverbs 16:23** NKJV - The **heart** of the wise teaches his **mouth**, And adds learning to his lips.
  - **Ecclesiastes 5:2** NKJV - Do not be rash with your **mouth**, And let not your **heart** utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few.
  - **Matthew 12:34** NKJV - "Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the **heart** the **mouth** speaks.
  - **Matthew 15:18** NKJV - "But those things which proceed out of the **mouth** come from the **heart**, and they defile a man.
  - **Luke 6:45** NKJV - "A good man out of the good treasure of his **heart** brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his **heart** brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the **heart** his **mouth** speaks.