

**My Beloved Is Mine and I am His!**  
Song of Solomon 2:16-17; Hosea 3:1-3  
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In this most beautiful love song, Song of Solomon, our relationship to Jesus Christ is likened to marriage. Through this allegory, we behold the love of Jesus Christ for His bride whom He has loved from everlasting, has sacrificed Himself to purchase her from all her sins and unfaithfulness, and has entered into a marital covenant with her to be His one and only spiritual bride and for her to forsake all other lovers and for Him to be her one and only spiritual Husband. This is beautifully portrayed in Hosea's marriage to Gomer—a harlot. After her harlotry, God commands Hosea to do the following: Hosea 3:1-3. This is a faint picture of the love of Jesus for you, His one and only bride.

When God performed the first marriage in the Garden of Eden, the union between Adam and Eve is declared in these inspired words: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). This union is not declared to be two separate flesh—each going his or her own way, each possessing only himself/herself. No, they come together by way of a marital covenant before God and witnesses to become one flesh. He possesses her, and she possesses him. Together they possess one another in a marital bond that permanently glues them together as one.

This oneness in marriage is what the Lord would have us to see in the oneness and spiritual marital union that is ours with Jesus. He has bound Himself to you, dear Christian, and you have bound yourself to Him. You are not your own to do whatever you please. And all that He does in this world and in your life is out of infinite love for you. He is yours and you are His. There is not a more precious summary of what it is to be a true Christian. This we will seek to understand much better from our text. Let us consider these main points: (1) The Union of the Bride to Christ (Song 2:16); (2) The Communion of the Bride with Christ (Song 2:17).

**I. The Union of the Bride to Christ (Song 2:16).**

A. As you recall from the previous verses, Jesus came to His beloved bride and called her to come away with out of her winter of coldness and into the spring of warmth and life with Him (Song 2:10). But upon hearing the loving and gracious words of the Lord Jesus to her, she was overcome with shame over her sins and failures. Why would Jesus want her to come away with Him? She was like a dove that was mourning in the solitary clefts of the rock. But Jesus speaks to her with such gentleness and love (Song 2:14). In the midst of her struggles and grieving over them, He wants her to look up at His glowing face of mercy and love for her. Mourning over sin is necessary, but we must always behold the beaming face of Christ's mercy and love lest we be cast into despair. Then the Lord Jesus warns her that there are little foxes (or enemies within and enemies without) that would seek to destroy the vine of Christ's Church. These little foxes should not be entertained or indulged but removed because they will do much damage to the soul and to the church.

B. Now we come to Song 2:16.

1. It would appear that the bride is again alone. She does not sense her beloved's presence as she did in the previous verses when Jesus came to her. But something is different now. She is no longer overcome with a downcast heart, nor does her speech belie a sense of being all alone. She speaks with such great assurance of her marital covenant with the Lord Jesus in Song 2:16. Here is growth indeed. She has learned from the words of Jesus and from His great love that she can trust that He is truly near even when He may not feel so near.

2. Dear ones, this is indeed an evidence of Christian growth and maturity in your life when you do not have to have the emotional highs, feelings, or experiences to be confident that Jesus is yours and

you are His. That is what faith is all about—trusting when you do not see or do not feel that Jesus is with you and that all His promises are absolutely true—then casting yourself upon His love and faithfulness. What joy, peace, and relief from fear and worry when you do so. You are resting in His everlasting love and mercy.

3. You will never find peace and contentment in this life until you find it Jesus Christ. You will not find contentment in thinking you must first change your husband or wife (or any other person). You will not find contentment in thinking you must first change your job, your finances, your health, or reach your ambitions and goals. If that is the case, you will never find contentment because you cannot change people nor can you change all of your circumstances; and there will always be people and circumstances that need to be changed (beginning with you and me). Jesus has you where you are right now to teach you that very lesson—that there is only blessed peace, joy, and contentment in falling upon the love, faithfulness, righteousness, and sovereignty of the Lord Jesus—nowhere else. This is where the Lord Jesus has brought His chosen bride in the beautiful words of assurance that she has of her union with Jesus (Song 2:16). May He bring all of us to the same place.

C. Now we are ready to look at the confident words of the bride of Jesus Christ in Song 2:16.

1. **“My beloved is mine, and I am his”** (Song 2:16).

a. This is the essence of the marital covenant (earthly or heavenly). When you covenant before God and witnesses to be united as husband and wife, your husband or wife becomes yours and yours alone, and you become his or hers and his or hers alone. You become one flesh. Your purposes, goals, love, commitment, faithfulness, and duties are not about yourself individually, but are about yourself as one flesh together. It is because couples do not enter into marriage truly understanding this biblical truth that so many marriages fail or continue to be so rocky. When trouble and conflict arise, it is too easy to think about breaking that marital union. However, marital union upon earth may only be dissolved for the two biblical reasons (adultery and willful desertion). Otherwise, that marital union continues as God instituted it (regardless of what church or state may say to the contrary).

b. The elect bride of Christ has grown in faith and is not looking to her physical sight of Jesus or to her feelings of His presence any longer, but is firmly founding her peace and contentment upon her union with Jesus: “I am united to Him by covenant, and He is united to me by covenant—He is mine and I am His—and nothing can change that whatever I feel or pass through.” Nothing can dissolve this everlasting Covenant of Grace—for unlike earthly marital covenants, Jesus will never be unfaithful to His covenant and He has forgiven us all of our covenant unfaithfulness through His death and resurrection, and will grant us repentance, godly sorrow, restoration, and renewed love and obedience in all of our disobedience. All is yours because He is yours.

c. This glorious Covenant of Grace wherein you are united with Jesus Christ in love begins in divine election from eternity, stretches into time when Jesus redeems you in love, and is applied in love in your effectual calling, justification by faith alone, adoption, sanctification, and glorification. All of the benefits and blessings that you have in Jesus are the result of that Covenant of Grace (your marital covenant with Jesus).

(1) **“MY beloved is mine.”** He is yours and all that He has is yours. This possession of Jesus is in the singular (Psalm 18:2). This not presumption, but is faith based upon the covenant promises of Jesus Christ. He becomes yours personally by faith when you trust Him to be your Savior and Lord. You are spiritually united to Jesus by faith alone. He is not partially yours—all of Jesus is yours. He is not only yours when you walk in loving obedience—He is yours even when you fall and stumble. He is not only yours here upon earth—He is yours for all eternity. All on earth is lent to you for a season, but not Him.

(2) **“And I am His.”** You are His and all that you have is His (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). You are not partially His—all of you belongs to Him. You are His at all times—in the midst of hardships, heartbreaks, pain and sorrow, joy and gladness, gains and losses of family and

friendships. Your dreams, your time, your talents, your family, your possessions are His. He will not forget you, lose you, or abandon you because you are His. Because you are His, sin shall not have dominion over you (Romans 6:14). You are under His marital Covenant of Grace for all eternity. That is why you cannot live your life for yourself. Your life and death belong to Him—just as His death and life belong to you. What is His is yours and what is yours is His forever. That’s a marital covenant.

2. **“He feedeth among the lilies”** (Song 2:16). The trust and assurance of the bride that she is united to Jesus (He is mine and I am His) is not jarred at all by any supposed objection like, “Where then is He right now if He is yours and you are His?” With confidence she answers such an objection: “He feedeth among the lilies.” Her response isn’t, “I don’t know where He is”, but is, “I know that Jesus is always near me because it is His unbreakable covenant and delight to always feed and be among His lilies” (lilies are His church, Song 2:1-2). It is not possible for Him to forget you (Isaiah 49:15). It is not possible that He is not near you at all times (John 14:23; Hebrews 13:5-6). This is true whether you see Him or feel Him. He especially is seen as He walks in your midst and blesses His ordinances in worship. These are her words of faith.

## II. **The Communion of the Bride with Christ (Song 2:17).**

A. Just because the bride here evidences such faith in the marital covenant even when she does not sense His presence does not mean that she does not long to have that sense of His nearness with her and to enjoy that blessedness of communion in feeling His nearness with her. However, communion must begin with union (“He is mine and I am His”). She does long to enjoy the sense of His presence with her (as all true Christians do); and lifts her longing cry to the Lord in the following words.

1. **“Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved”** (Song 2:17).

a. There are many times of darkness and shadows by way of what you all experience as Christians here upon the earth—tribulation, suffering, tears, losses, waiting upon the Lord, and ultimately death. It was revealed by Jesus and His prophets that this is what you should expect in this world (John 16:33; Acts 14:22; 1 Peter 4:12-13). But tribulation works patience (Romans 5:3). And even the worst kind of tribulation cannot separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:35). Jesus comes to you throughout your life and by His blessed promises and presence has dispelled those dark, foreboding shadows of the evening so many times (a foretaste of heaven to come).

b. The bride knows that there will be more of those shadows that will come upon her and she longs to have the sensible nearness of Jesus to comfort her—to enjoy that blessed communion with Him once again in the banqueting house and at His love feast (Song 2:4-6). What true Christian doesn’t desire that experience of nearness? Thus, she cries out to Him, “Turn (or “Turn about”) my beloved” (Song 2:17). In effect she says, “I know and am assured that thou, my beloved, are with me because thou has made an unbreakable marital covenant with me. But there is such darkness around me that I long to feel thy presence with me through thine ordinances. Turn around and come to me.” Dear ones, heaven will bring an end forever to all such shadows when night will be forever gone and the light of that glorious day shall never end.

2. **“And be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether”** (Song 2:17).

The word “Bether” means “division”. The bride prays to the Lord Jesus to turn around and come to her leaping over all of those mountains and obstacles of division that might keep His sensible presence from her. “My beloved Jesus, let no sin, no trouble, no suffering, no success, no comfort, no pleasure; let not the world, the flesh, or the devil cause a division between us. Turn and come to me as I worship and commune with thee in thine appointed ordinances.” For that is how the Lord Jesus always comes to us—through His appointed ordinances (the Word, prayer, and sacraments). It is no wonder at all that we know so little of Christ’s presence if we do not love to spend time with Him in His presence worshipping Him.

B. Since we shall come together next Lord’s Day to celebrate the Lord’s Supper, I close today with

some application to that love feast.

1. As you come to eat of the bread and drink of the cup, you are renewing your marital covenant with Jesus (the Covenant of Grace). You are proclaiming that you are not worthy in yourself to come (due to your sin and rebellion), but Jesus has loved you, chosen you, purchased you, married you by faith through His death and resurrection—and He is yours and you are His now and for all eternity.

2. You declare in coming to this love feast that if Jesus should take everything and everyone in this life from you, you have Him that is more precious than anything or anyone. You have His love, peace, joy, contentment, righteousness, justice, and heaven in Jesus. Though none would desire to lose family, friends, jobs, possessions, freedoms, health, or life, yet to lose everything in order to gain Jesus is to gain everything that will truly bring contentment and last forever (Philippians 3:7-8).

3. When you feed upon Christ by faith, you bear witness that Jesus is your life—nothing else is truly your life but Him (Philippians 1:21).

4. In the Lord's Supper, Jesus comes to you over the mountains of division (whatever that may be) to commune with you and to feed you in love among His precious lilies and to confirm in that love feast that He is yours and you are His now and for all eternity.

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