

Jesus Christ the Ideal Husband

Proverbs Chapter 5

This chapter is prefaced with the admonition “My son, pay attention to my wisdom; lend your ear to my understanding, that you may preserve discretion, and your lips may keep knowledge” (vv.1f). The father then instructs his son regarding faithfulness in marriage and duties to his wife. Solomon, the writer of this Book of Proverbs, gave these instructions to his son(s). Every godly father should give these instructions to his son(s).

We here will observe the manner in which these instructions are fulfilled by Jesus Christ as both Son of *God* and Son of *Man*. He assumedly received these instructions from His legal and step-father: for Joseph was a “just man” familiar with God’s law (Matthew 1:19) and would fulfill His God-given obligation to instruct all his sons regarding it (see Luke 2:51f). Most certainly God the Father gave these instructions to His only begotten Son: for Jesus Christ in His incarnation received the law from His Father (Psalm 40:7f) and throughout His life kept all its commandments (John 15:10).

Jesus Christ is the Husband of her who is here called “the wife of your youth” (v.18).

Jesus Christ’s “wife” is His church (Ephesians 5:22-32), comprised of all who are by Him loved, redeemed, sanctified, cleansed, and made by Him to be glorious and perfect (vv.25-27). He elsewhere assures her that “your Maker is your husband, Jehovah of hosts is His name” (Isaiah 54:5).

And Jesus Christ’s church is indeed to Him “the wife of Your youth” for two reasons.

- First, she is His wife from the moment His Father ordained her to be so “before the foundation of the world”.
- Second, He embraced her while yet a young man.

And Jesus Christ’s church is His *only* wife.

We here will observe the manner in which Jesus Christ as the Ideal Husband fulfilled all the duties of a godly husband. He obeyed these exhortations:

1. Avoid the “immoral woman”;
2. “Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well”;
3. “Let your fountain be blessed”;
4. “Rejoice with the wife of your youth”;
5. “[Let her be to you] as a loving deer and a graceful doe”;
6. “Let her breasts satisfy you at all times”;
7. “Always be enraptured with her love.”

1. Avoid the “immoral woman” (vv.3-14, 20-23). In the *physical* realm she is an adulteress. In the *spiritual* realm she is anti-Christian seduction, “Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Of The Abominations Of The Earth” (Revelation 17:5).

Although Jesus showed saving mercy to adulteresses (e.g.,

John 8:3-11), He never had an illicit relationship with one.

2. “Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well” (v.15). A “cistern” is a receptacle for water conveyed to it, usually rain in Palestine. A “well” is a deep shaft dug far under the rocky surface for the purpose of storing what is here called “running water”, that which percolates through the strata in its sides. To “drink water from *your own* cistern, and ... from *your own* well” is to slake your thirst from only those water sources that belong to you rather than those belonging to another.

Jesus will slake His thirst only from His wife. He says of her, “A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse, a spring shut up, a fountain sealed” – water reserved for Him alone (Solomon 4:12).

She desires it to be so. Accordingly she says to Him, “Let my beloved come to his garden and eat its pleasant fruits” (Solomon 4:16).

Jesus gladly grants her desire in replying, “I have come to my garden, my sister, my spouse; ... Drink, yes, drink deeply, O beloved ones [members of His church]” (Solomon 5:1).

Jehovah also cites a reason why His Son should slake His thirst from only His own wife (vv.16f): “Let your fountains be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets. Let them be only your own, and not for strangers with you.”

These “fountains” and “streams” are the offspring of a man and a woman. The faithful husband will ascertain that all his children are the legitimate offspring of his own wife. Let them be “fountains dispersed abroad” and “streams of water in the streets” in the sense of going forth for the public good and spreading the gospel.

Accordingly, all Jesus’ children are legitimately His, and they go forth with His gospel. He has no offspring in idolatrous Babylon.

3. “Let your fountain be blessed” (v.18a). This “fountain” is a spring from which water flows. Here it is the husband’s wife, the formerly cited “fountain sealed” (of Solomon 4:12). (Note that the singular “fountain” is here used, in contrast to plural “fountains” of v.17). She not only is the cistern and well from which he slakes his thirst, but also the spring from which his children issue.

Jesus ascertains that His own fountain is indeed “blessed”. He blesses His wife with children, and her and them with every blessing of salvation (Isaiah ch.54). He blesses her by keeping her to Himself, and Himself to her. And He blesses her so greatly that she will not seek intimacy with another.

4. “Rejoice with the wife of your youth” (v.18b). To “rejoice” is to be glad. Consider the particulars of this instruction.

First: To “rejoice *with the wife*” is to ascertain that she is glad also.

Jesus rejoices over His wife (Zephaniah 3:17): “Jehovah your God in your midst, The Mighty One, ... will rejoice over you with gladness, ... He will rejoice over you with singing.”

Jesus’ wife rejoices in Him (Solomon 1:4): “The king has brought me into his chambers. We will be glad and rejoice in you. We will remember your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you.”

Second: To “rejoice with the wife *of your youth*” is to be glad in and with her from youth to the very end. Saints are exhorted to do so (Ecclesiastes 9:9): “Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun.”

Likewise, Jesus will never desert nor divorce His wife, and will rejoice in and with her as much throughout eternity as He did when He first fell in love with her.

5. “[Let her be to you] as a loving deer and a graceful doe” (v.19a). The female deer is a fitting emblem of Jesus’ church because of its graceful form, gentle nature, delicate limbs, and because it is lawfully a “clean” animal (Deuteronomy 14:5).

Jesus’ church as a female deer is here identified as “loving”, and all her love is to her Husband alone.

She is also “graceful” or *full of grace*, not only that of her spiritual beauty to Him but also of His unmerited favor to her.

In contrast, false religion is “a woman sitting on a scarlet beast [a savage and ferocious animal] which was full of names of blasphemy” (Revelation 17:3).

6. “Let her breasts satisfy you at all times” (v.19b). Physical “breasts” contain the mammary glands that secrete milk used to feed infants.

The breasts of Jesus’ church are her ministers. They nourish her children with “the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2). And they confess to her children that “I fed you with milk” (1 Corinthians 3:2).

All the nourishment required by infants is found in their mother’s milk. Likewise, all the nourishment required by babes in Christ is found in what is preached by Christ’s ministers.

Jesus says to His wife, “Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle” (Solomon 4:5 & 7:3).

Jesus’ ministers are “like two fawns” or very young deer in the sense of being ever *youthful* in their service to Him: As long as they have physical strength, they will nurse His children.

Jesus’ ministers are “twins” in the sense of being *symmetrical and identical*: They all preach the same gospel and dispense the same milk.

Mammals develop breasts only when milk is needed for their offspring, after which time the breasts shrink away.

But God made woman to develop breasts before they are needed for nursing, and to remain afterward. This is because her breasts are intended not only for nursing her infants, but also for the constant pleasure of her husband.

Jesus accordingly is here instructed to “Let [your church’s] breasts satisfy you at all times.” He enjoys especial intimacy with His ministers, and they especially gratify Him.

Jesus’ church acknowledges this in confessing “my beloved ... lies all night between my breasts. ... Do not stir up nor awaken my love until he pleases” (Solomon 1:13; 2:7 / 8:4).

7. “Always be enraptured with her love.” (v.19b). This is a natural and blessed result to the husband who loves his wife above all others, who goes to her alone for the gratification of his thirst, who blesses her with all she needs, who rejoices in and with her alone, who finds satisfaction in her alone: His loving and graceful wife will ravish him with her love!

So it is with Jesus.

For His church delights in confessing, “I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine. and his desire is toward me” (Solomon 6:3; 7:10).

And her desire is toward Him, for she also confesses, “I found the one I love. I held him and would not let him go, until I had brought him to the house of my mother, and into the chamber of her who conceived me” (Solomon 3:4).

And there He will “always be enraptured with her love”! She will ravish Him with her worship and adoration and exaltation of Him, with her praise to Him for His redemption of her and salvation to her, with her holy communion with Him. Most joyfully she will ever abide in Him, and ever delight in knowing that He abides in her, and that He and she are one for all eternity.

The Father who here instructed His Son regarding the proper treatment of His wife now asks, “For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, and be embraced in the arms of a seductress?” (v.20).

Why indeed! God’s Son is not a fool! He will not be seduced by false religion.

God’s adopted sons follow the example of His only begotten. They are faithful to their wives and avoid manmade religion.

– Daniel E. Parks