



# To Have and to Hold

## Lesson 6 The Intended Result of Marriage

1. Our \_\_\_\_\_ changes. We become God's chosen, treasured \_\_\_\_\_.
2. This new relationship and new identity is rooted in the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The focal point of the New Covenant is God's promise that He will completely \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, making us a perfectly faithful bride forever.
4. Our response to God's New Covenant is to be two-fold: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The means of drawing near and holding fast given in Hebrews include:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_

6. God becomes the \_\_\_\_\_ we dwell and the perfect \_\_\_\_\_ to dwell with.
7. We are intimately \_\_\_\_\_ by God.
8. The New Covenant promises that we will become people who \_\_\_\_\_ God.

Marriage is about identity, vows, companionship, and intimate knowledge. But marriage also has a typical, normal outcome.

And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over [everything that lives on the earth]." (Genesis 1:28)

What do the following women have in common? Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Samson's mother, Samuel's mother, Elizabeth. \_\_\_\_\_

God's covenant to Noah after the flood: Be fruitful and multiply; populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it. (Genesis 9:7)

God's promise to Abraham: And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you." (Genesis 17:6)

**I. The expected outcome of our union with God is**

\_\_\_\_\_.

Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may **belong to another**, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may **bear fruit for God**.  
(Romans 7:4)

So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, **bearing fruit in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God.  
(Colossians 1:10)

**II. \_\_\_\_\_ is the primary fruit promised by the New Covenant. The kingly Groom is changing His bride into beauty and perfection.**

**A. Our bridal beauty begins with our being**  
\_\_\_\_\_.

I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine. Then I bathed you with water and washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil. . . You grew exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty.  
(Ezekiel 16)

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, **having cleansed her** by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, **without spot or wrinkle** or any such thing, that she might be **holy and without blemish**.  
(Ephesians 5:25-27)

**B. Our bridal beauty and perfection is the result of our being \_\_\_\_\_ with the righteousness of Jesus.**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for **he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;**  
**he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,**  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
(Isaiah 61:10)

**III. The \_\_\_\_\_ is to actively participate in fruit bearing:**

**A. By seeking ever-increasing intimacy.**

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

(John 15:4-5)

In marriage fruit is the result of intimacy, also in Christ. John 15 makes it clear that as we dwell in Christ, increasing our knowledge of and intimacy with Him, we will bear fruit.

**B. By \_\_\_\_\_ to His sanctifying work in her life.**

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

(Ephesians 5:22-24)

This wifely submission to Christ's sanctifying work involves the following:

**1. Imitating Him.**

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1-2)

**2. Seeking to live clean, holy lives.**

Since we have these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves** from every defilement of body and spirit, **bringing holiness to completion** in the fear of God.” (II Cor. 7:1)

**3. Putting on the clothes He provides.**

Putting on the righteousness of Jesus is something done both *to us* and *by us*.

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure — for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. (Revelation 19:7-8)

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (Rom. 13:14)

. . . Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:22-24)

#### **4. Walking in the Spirit and thus allowing Him to produce His fruit in us.**

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (Galatians 5:16, 22-25)

#### **5. Abiding in the Word and praying for fruit.**

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. . . If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (John 15:5, 7-8)

### **C. By working to further His interests and build His kingdom**

#### **1. Allowing the Spirit of God to produce His fruit in our lives is the heart of kingdom living!**

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 14:17)

#### **2. Suffering well furthers the kingdom of God.**

Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, **that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering** (II Thess.1:3-5)

#### **3. We are to proclaim the kingdom of God.**

I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God . . . for I was sent for this purpose.” (Luke 4:43)

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” (John 20:21)

## Conclusion

Before the foundation of the world, God in love chose His bride. Of all His creation, she was His most treasured possession. He called her His own and, as soon as she was born, began to tenderly woo and draw her to Himself. He made eternal vows to her, and literally sacrificed Himself to death for her.

In time, He forgave her and cleansed her from all her filthiness. Then He clothed her in perfect righteousness. He already intimately knew her, and He began revealing more and more of Himself to her, so she could more intimately know and trust Him. He became her constant, perfect companion – protecting, comforting, strengthening, and lifting her up.

Their relationship was of such intimacy, that He dwelled, not just *with* her, but *in* her, and she dwelled with and in Him.

Although she was already cleansed and clothed, He began the work of making her His perfect bride and enabling her to bear fruit for His kingdom. As He held her fast to Himself, she held fast to Him. Although she was not always a perfect bride, she clung to His promise that He would someday make her perfectly complete and faithful to Him. Their relationship was secure because of His absolute love, faithfulness, and commitment to her. And they lived in perfect joy and peace eternally.

## Study Questions

### Day 1

After unfolding the New Covenant in chapters 8-10, Hebrews contains only two verses that speak of the fruit we bear in our lives. What is the important teaching in each?

Hebrews 12:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 13:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Several other verses in Hebrews give specific examples of fruit. What is the fruit implied in the following verses in Hebrews?

10:24 \_\_\_\_\_

10:25 \_\_\_\_\_

10:32-33 \_\_\_\_\_

10:34 \_\_\_\_\_

13:1 \_\_\_\_\_

13:2 \_\_\_\_\_

13:3 \_\_\_\_\_

13:4 \_\_\_\_\_

13:5 \_\_\_\_\_

13:16 \_\_\_\_\_

13:17 \_\_\_\_\_

## Day 2

**A.** Read Leviticus 16:1-5, which details the process of the high priest's sacrifice on the Day of Atonement.

1. In verse 4, what two things was Aaron to do and in which order? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What does this process foreshadow in the New Covenant? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B.** What do Romans 13:12 and Ephesians 6:11 instruct us to put on? \_\_\_\_\_

Identify the specifics of this clothing in the following verses in Ephesians 6:

verse 14 \_\_\_\_\_

verse 15 \_\_\_\_\_

verse 16 \_\_\_\_\_

verse 17 \_\_\_\_\_

According to verse 18, what else is to accompanying this putting on? \_\_\_\_\_

What metaphor for the believer is used in Ephesians 6?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Day 3

**A.** What do Ephesians 4:24 and Colossians 3:10 instruct us to put on? \_\_\_\_\_

According to Ephesians 4:24, what does the new self look like? \_\_\_\_\_

According to Colossians 3:10, what does the new self look like? \_\_\_\_\_

List the specific characteristics of the new self, given in the following verses in Colossians 3:

verse 12 \_\_\_\_\_

verse 13 \_\_\_\_\_

verse 14 \_\_\_\_\_

verse 15 \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Read I Peter 3:1-6.**

1. What warning is given in verse 3 about what we put on? \_\_\_\_\_

2. According to verse 4 what characterizes our true beauty? \_\_\_\_\_

According to Matthew 11:28-29, how can we learn to put these qualities on? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Day 4

Proverbs 31:10-31 paints a sweeping (and possibly intimidating) picture of an excellent wife. Read the passage, considering how it might apply to our identity as bride of Christ.

1. According to verses 10, what is the excellent wife's value? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. According to verses 11-12, what is the focus of all her busy activity? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In addition to laboring for her husband's good, who else does she labor for according to verses 15, 20-21, and 27? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. According to verses 17 and 25 what does she dress herself with? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Although she is described as being beautifully clothed in verse 22, where does her true beauty lie according to verse 30? \_\_\_\_\_
6. We know that the mouth speaks out of the heart. What does verse 26 tell us about her heart? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Summarize her fruitfulness as described in this passage. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What lessons can you take away from this passage regarding how you can be a more excellent, praiseworthy bride of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Day 5

Reread the conclusion of this study on page 9. Which of these actions of God on your behalf do you better appreciate as a result of this study?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which actions of God toward you do you most need to grow in understanding better? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In this study we have seen that we are to respond to God's actions on our behalf by

- drawing near to Him
- dwelling with Him
- dwelling in Him
- holding fast to Him
- drawing near and holding fast to the people of God
- keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus
- pressing on to know God more deeply
- bearing fruit for Him
- submitting to Him

Which responses do you most need to cultivate in your life, and what practical steps can you take to do that?

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One of the best ways to ensure that learning becomes a permanent part of you is to share what you have learned with someone else. Find a friend and talk through the most important things you have learned in this study.

## Memory verses

**Review Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Hebrews 10:19, 22-25.**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

<sup>31</sup> Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

<sup>32</sup> not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

<sup>33</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

<sup>34</sup> And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

## Hebrews 10:19, 22-25

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus. . .

<sup>22</sup> Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

<sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.