

"MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY FACE"
The Love of Christ for His Bride
Song of Solomon 4: 1 - 7
June 21, 2020

"You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you" (Song of Solomon 4: 7)

To fully understand the love of Christ for His Church is reflected in Her beauty before Her Lord.

*"Father," said a little boy, "had Solomon seven hundred wives?" "I believe so, my son," said the father.
"Well, father, was he the man who said, 'Give me liberty or give me death?'"*

1. Many times, we overlook the beauty that Christ has created in His Church. *(The Problem)*

He **Behold, you are beautiful, my love, behold, you are beautiful!**

Contrast with the bride's state by nature (Is 1:6) her state by grace (So 4:1-7), "perfect through His beauty put upon her" The praise of Jesus Christ, unlike that of the world, hurts not, but edifies; as His, not ours, is the glory ~ Jamieson, Fausset and Brown

2. Christ has produced a stunning beauty in His Church that is pure and noble. *(The Correction)*

~~~ 8 Fold Chiasmas ~~~

- a. In Christ, the Church is pure – **Your eyes are doves behind your veil.**

*<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, (Philippians 2:3-5; ESV)*

- b. In Christ, the Church is joyfully submissive – **Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead.**

*<sup>5</sup> but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven. <sup>6</sup> For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short. But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head. <sup>7</sup> For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. <sup>8</sup> For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. <sup>9</sup> Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. <sup>10</sup> That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. <sup>11</sup> Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; (1 Corinthians 11:5-11; ESV)*

- c. In Christ, the Church speaks with beauty and order – **Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes that have come up from the washing, all of which bear twins, and not one among them has lost its young.**

*<sup>4</sup> since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup> because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, <sup>6</sup> which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing – as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, (Colossians 1:4-6; ESV)*

- d. In Christ, the Church is not deceptive in Her message – **Your lips are like a scarlet thread, and your mouth is lovely.**

*<sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. <sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:17-18; ESV)*

- e. In Christ, the Church is undeniably attractive *(because of the change she undergoes)* – **Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil.**

*There is probably a special respect to the speech of the saints in prayer, which is dyed in the blood of Christ, and by this means becomes pleasant, and acceptable, and of an attractive influence, like a scarlet cord, to draw down blessings. The prayers of saints are lovely and prevalent only through the incense of Christ's merits. ~ Jonathan Edwards*

- f. In Christ, the Church is strong and resolute *(because of the message she carries)* – **Your neck is like the tower of David, built in rows of stone; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors.**

- g. In Christ, the Church is nurturing and protective *(because she is protected)* – **Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, that graze among the lilies.**

- h. In Christ, the Church is purposeful *(because she is called to the eternal)* – **Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, I will go away to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense.**

*Until the day of grace breaks on every elect sinner, and the shadows of darkness, ignorance, and unbelief, are in a great measure fled and gone; or until the everlasting day breaks, and there will be no more night, nor any darkness of affliction, nor any more desertion, doubts, and fears; ~ John Gill*

3. We MUST see that Christ has removed every imperfection in His Church. *(The Follow Through)*

***<sup>7</sup>You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you.***

*The word husband literally means the bands of the house, the person who keeps it together as the band keeps a sheaf of grain together.*

*May we never be satisfied till we know and feel that we have come to Christ by faith for rest, and do still come to Him for fresh supplies of grace every day! If we have come to him already, lest us learn to cleave to Him more closely. If we have never come to him yet, let us begin to come today. His word shall never be broken: 'The one that comes to me, I will never cast out.' (John 6: 37) ~ J.C. Ryle*