

# Marriage Pictures Christ and His Church

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## **I. Marriage is an institution of God**

**Gen 2:18** And the LORD God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

**Gen 2:21** And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

**Gen 2:22** And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man..

**Gen 2:24** Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

**Mat 19:6** ...What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

## **II. Paul commended the unmarried—They are able to be more focused on Jesus**

**1Co 7:8** I say...to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.

**1Co 7:32** But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

**1Co 7:33** But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please *his* wife.

**1Co 7:34** There is difference *also* between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please *her* husband.

**1Co 7:35** And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that

which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.

### III. God's cause for marriage—It pictures Jesus & His church—(Over and over)

**Eph 5:31** For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

**Eph 5:32** This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

**Gen 2:18** And the LORD God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

**Eze 16:4** ...in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple *thee*; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all.

**Eze 16:5** None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born.

**Eze 16:6** And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee *when thou wast* in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee *when thou wast* in thy blood, Live.

**Eze 16:7** I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: *thy* breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou *wast* naked and bare.

**Eze 16:8** Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time *was* the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.

**Son 2:13** (*He said to her*) ...Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

**Son 3:4** (*She said to him*) ...I held him, and would not let him go...

**Mat 22:2** The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

**Hos 2:16** And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, *that* thou shalt call me Ishi (*Husband*); and shalt call me no more Baali (*Master*)...

**Hos 2:18** And in that day will I make a covenant for them...

**Hos 2:19** And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

**Hos 2:20** I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.

**Rev 19:7** Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come...

**Rev 21:2** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**Rev 21:9** ...Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

#### **IV. Ephesians 5 describes marriage as a picture of Christ and His church**

##### **A. Submission the key to Christianity—And the key to a Christian marriage**

Eph 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Eph 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Eph 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Eph 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

##### **B. The submissive wife**

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Eph 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing.

Gen 3:16 Unto the woman he said...thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

1Co 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman *is* the man; and the head of Christ *is* God.

Col 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

Tit 2:5 *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

##### **C. Husbands: It is your responsibility to make it work**

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Eph 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Eph 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Eph 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

Eph 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us...

Joh 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

##### **D. The basic purpose for the whole thing is to picture Jesus and His church**

Eph 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Eph 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife *see* that she reverence *her* husband.

## V. Bible teachings on how to do a good marriage

### A. 'Friendship' —Marriage is a covenant of companionship

Mal 2:14 ...yet *is* she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

Son 5:16 ...he *is* altogether lovely. This *is* my beloved, and this *is* my friend...

Pro 17:17 A friend loveth at all times...

### B. 'Forgiveness' —The best spouse is still an imperfect sinner

Eph 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Eph 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

### C. 'Fidelity' —“Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery”

Pro 5:15 Drink waters out of thine own cistern...

Pro 5:18 ...rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

Pro 5:19 ...let her breasts satisfy thee at all times...be thou ravished always with her love.

Job 31:1 I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

Pro 31:10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price *is* far above rubies.

Pro 31:11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her...

1Co 7:2 Nevertheless, *to avoid* fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

1Co 7:3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

1Co 7:4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

1Co 7:5 Defraud ye not one the other, except *it be* with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

**D. 'Faithfulness' —To God and His house—Will sustain you and your house**

Ecc 4:9 Two *are* better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

Ecc 4:10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him *that is* alone when he falleth; for *he hath* not another to help him up.

Ecc 4:11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm *alone*?

Ecc 4:12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*...

Jos 24:15 ...as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.