

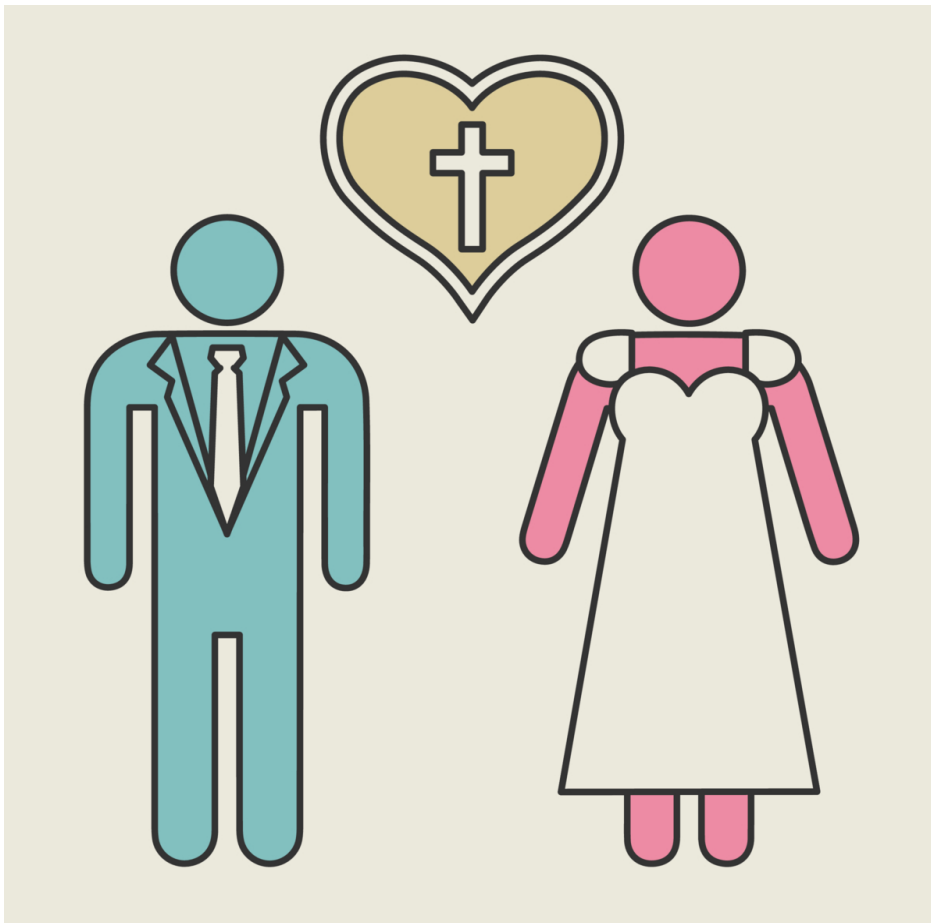
# **Christ And The Church**

**7-30-17**

Eph.5:32 (NIV)

This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about **Christ and the church.**

Here before us we have this glorious mystery presented: Christ and the Church. All of eternity is centered around this single mystery! The glory of it all! We stand in awe of man reconciled to God for eternity. This is hard to imagine so God gives us an earthly physical view so we can grasp the magnitude and intimacy of this relationship. We have to look at the preceding verse to see God's divine design reflecting the intimate eternal relationship of Christ and the church.



Eph.5:31 (NIV)

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.

This divine design of the marriage relationship was proclaimed by God in the very first book of the Bible, Gen.2:24. This intimate relationship was restated by Jesus in Matt.19:5 and Mark 10:7-8.

The Apostle Paul even gives us more human insight into this divine relationship. Christ's heart for the church in this relationship is clearly evident.

2 Corinthians 11:2 (NIV)

I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

We see Jesus Christ's commitment in this picture of the marriage relationship of Christ and the church.

2Cor.5:21 (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

At Jesus' return to fully establish HIS kingdom on earth, we see the culmination of the divine relationship reflected as by this earthly marriage relationship.

Revelation 21:2 (NIV)

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem (metaphor or type of the church), coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.**

Revelation 21:9 (NIV)

Come, I will show you **the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.**

This is the culmination of all things, the eternal intimate relationship of Christ and the church for all eternity.

**THEREFORE, the earthly marriage should reflect the divine.** Now with a divine awe, we look at this sacred marriage relationship.

Eph.5:32 (NIV)

This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about **Christ and the church.**

Men and women are both represented as the bride of Christ. However on this earth, the man, the husband is to portray Christ in the sacred marriage relationship.

Eph.5:25

Husbands, love your wives, **just as Christ loved the church** and gave himself up for her.

This sets the stage! This is where much Christian teaching and counseling fail! They do not establish the Christ like leadership of the husband.

**With Christ like leadership, self-sacrificial love, a miracle occurs.** Here on earth responding to this Christ like love, the woman, the wife responds to the husband like believers respond to Christ. God's design!

Eph.5:21-22

Submit to one another **out of reverence for Christ.**  
Wives, (submit) yourselves to your own husbands **as you do to the Lord.**

The wife finds the self-sacrificing love of the husband irresistible just as all believers found the love of Christ irresistible and responded to it.

1John 4:19

We love because **he first loved us.**

I highly recommend my book! It is based on these facts!

**With proper male leadership the wife is exalted.** It is God's design! The husband will thrive and the wife will blossom. Diminish the husband's role and he will never be the man he God meant him to be and the wife will be neglected and frustrated in the relationship.

Note: I have taught this hundreds of times. **It is not the women who have a problem with what I teach;** most often it is the men who have an issue with it! This proves the point: We need strong Christ like, sacrificial male leadership for strong families and strong churches.

Granted there are bad men and surprisingly a few bad women. Also we all bring baggage into a relationship. All of these issues need to be addressed, **however, not at the expense of undermining God's design.**

Satan hates this relationship and wants to destroy this beautiful picture representing Christ and the church.

Although we often fall short, we still proclaim the perfect truth of Christ and the church. First of all to the world we preach, "Christ Crucified."

When we are asked about our Christian roles in the home, "we confound the world" by male leadership:

- Men say, "I try to love my wife like Christ love the church."
- Women say, "My husband tries to love me like Christ loves the church."
- Men and women say, "This is what we teach our sons and daughters!"

**Jesus is the foundation of the truth in which we trust! Jesus is calling to us; the imperfect Bride!**

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said, "I am **the way**, and **the truth**, and **the life**. No one comes to the Father except through me."

**Prophetic Team**

**Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.**