

We are the Bride of Christ

We might not find the exact phrase “bride of Christ” in the New Testament, but Paul does use the metaphor of marriage to Christ as a description of the Church. By examining the image and studying the scripture passages that inform it: we gain a deeper understanding of the intimate nature of our relationship with God, learn how God sees us, witness his great faithfulness, and discover the implications of what it means to be united with Christ.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What are some defining characteristics of a bride, groom, and their relationship?
- What do you want most in life? If you were granted three wishes, what would you wish for?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [We are the Bride of Christ](#)

READ [Deuteronomy 7:6-8](#), [Ephesians 5:25-27](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Why is it so meaningful to be chosen? Read [Romans 5:7-8](#). What do these verses tell us about God's remarkable love for us and his decision to choose us?
- How do the concepts of marriage and adultery help us to better understand our relationship with God and what God desires from us in it?
- In [1 Corinthians 6:12-20](#), the Apostle Paul reminded the Corinthian Christians that because they were in fact united with Christ, they could not go on behaving in ways commonly accepted in their culture at the time. Reflect on your own life. How does your unity with Christ affect the choices you make in an average day? How does it influence the way you react to the people around you? How can you honor God with your body and words in the situations you currently face?
- In segment 3, host Dave Bast reflects on [Ephesians 5:25-27](#) and says, “So, this idea of purity, that is why Jesus died. Not just to save us from sin or not just to keep us from going to hell, but to turn us into something really, really beautiful and radiant like a bride—the most beautiful bride.” How have you seen this to be true in your own life? In what ways has your relationship with God in Christ made you more beautiful?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Ezekiel 16:9-15](#), [Isaiah 62:3-5](#), [Revelation 19:6-8](#), [Galatians 2:20](#), [1 Corinthians 6:12-20](#), [Philippians 3:7-11](#), [Psalm 17:15](#), [Revelation 22:17-20](#)

CONCLUSION

Spend some time reflecting on this quote from Jonathan Edwards that Dave Bast paraphrased in segment 3 and consider: What might you be substituting for intimacy with God?

“God is the highest good of the reasonable creature. The enjoyment of him is...the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Better than fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of any, or all earthly friends. These are but shadows; but the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams; but God is the sun. These are but streams; but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean.”

~ Jonathan Edwards, *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, Vol. 17: Sermons and Discourses, 1730-1733

Close your time of reflection with this prayer from *Canyon Road: A Book of Prayer* by Kari Kristina Reeves (p. 185).

Do not let me settle, God,
for less than walking by your Spirit:

When my heart is drawn by the world,
Father, give me grace.

Do not let me settle, Jesus,
for less than your presence:

When my mind is distracted by the worries of life,
Holy Spirit, give me peace.

Do not let me settle, Lord,
for less than unity in your love:

When I am lost, Jesus, be my Way.

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