

Marriage



MARRIAGE PART 2 - THE GREAT MYSTERY

As we looked at in Part 1, we see Paul saying in Ephesians 5:32, that the mystery of marriage is great, but that he was speaking in the context of God and His church firstly.

In no uncertain terms, I have to agree with Paul. Up until 2008 I had no realisation and especially no revelation of the marriage covenant that had been set in place by the Father, before the foundations of the world, between the Son and His people.

Yes, I had heard the bride of Christ mentioned, read the odd Scripture that related to it and was taught every follower is the bride of Christ. I now know this is not the case.

What I have come to know, is that I had zero reference, revelation or reality, for the fact, that there is a Marriage Covenant established between Christ and His followers and just how essential this is to all those who say they are followers.

What I have discovered is the absolute need to be faithful and obedient to this covenant, if one is to become His bride, making herself ready for this marriage in His kingdom, and receiving all that He has graced for us to enter into now.

Matthew 13:11 says we, followers of Jesus, have been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom.

Not mystery but mysteries - plural. Many kingdom mysteries we have been granted to know and testify to, and yet the greatest is the one that very few have any revelation of or testify to. At best, all we have is verbal and mental agreement with a truth, that we have no reality of, hence our lives as a whole are not in alignment to it, which in turn means we are breaking this covenant, proving we are being unfaithful.

Being unfaithful, ranges from loving self and others more than Him, to unbelief, to not doing what He asks us to do when He says, basically living for self and doing the will of self as opposed to the Will of God.

We are in fact a spiritually adulteress people when we live like this, but this isn't something we easily recognise about ourselves, and until He shows us, we really can't. The Father loves us in this state, but this doesn't mean we are to stay in this state.

This brings to life what Paul taught and was warning in 2 Corinthians 11:1-6, which we will unpack line by line.

2 Corinthians 11:1-6

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¹ I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me.

² For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.

Godly jealousy is a healthy jealousy, that we would come into ALL!

I (Paul) betrothed - to join, to fit, to join to oneself, to ONE husband-HIM

Remember Ephesians 5:32 the marriage mystery - Paul wants to see the church presented to Christ, not one another, but Christ.

This shines light into 1 Corinthians 7 where Paul dedicates a whole chapter to marriage.

1 Corinthians 7:25-35 Now concerning virgins I have no command of the Lord, but I give an opinion as one who by the mercy of the Lord is trustworthy. I think then that this is good in view of the present distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you. But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess; and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away. But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and his interests are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.

This leads us beautifully into Verse 3 from 2 Corinthians 11.

³ But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

Once again another warning or an appeal from Paul to the Corinthians.

Paul compares the fall of man with God's people being led astray from what the entire point of the Father's will is, which is the simplicity and purity of being "devoted to Christ" and Christ alone.

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In other words, you have been led astray from the central point of your relationship with Christ. A marriage covenant between Jesus Christ and His church, where He loves us and is faithful to us, as we are to be to Him.

We see Jesus teaching us this in Matthew 10:37

“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”

Q. Have you ever asked yourself why the enemy would want to lead you astray from this?

This is definitely a question we need to know the answer to and be in the life of as a follower of Jesus.

⁴ For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

When this happens and it happens way more than we even believe, we find ourselves in our version of God, which doesn't produce the life of God. We end up being led astray from the Truth that makes us free, and so we fail to be faithful to our marriage covenant with Jesus.

Of course we are completely unaware of any of this and are convinced we are living His way, even though our lives clearly demonstrate another truth and reality.

⁵ For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles.

Many believers called Paul a false apostle and we see Paul having to defend his apostolic ministry a number of times. Why is Paul having to defend his ministry from other believers?

Paul knew who he was and he knew what he preached was of God, and he reemphasises this in vs 6.

⁶ But even if I am unskilled in speech, yet I am not so in knowledge; in fact, in every way we have made this evident to you in all things.

Paul was a man who was constantly growing in his living knowledge of Jesus Christ and it was from this knowledge which he demonstrated a changed life and spoke.

He would go as far as to say that his life was absolute rubbish compared to the surpassing greatness of

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knowing His Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul knew His purpose was to be in labour until the Christ was formed in every follower. He was to present the church complete as a radiant, blameless and spotless bride to the Son. It was for this he lived and gave his life and it was for this he fought the good fight, and wanted to make all of God's people aware, that this was the central point to our relationship with God, and just how many followers had been led astray from it.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is a verbal and mental agreement of the bride of Christ so different to receiving a revelation of the bride of Christ?
2. How much of this great kingdom mystery (Marriage Covenant) have you heard preached and shared?
3. How much of this great mystery have you laid hold of through revelation and are living out being faithful and obedient to Him, having no other lovers in your heart?
4. Would you say that Paul's concerns for God's people being led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ, would be as real today as it was when Paul wrote this letter and why?
5. How easy is it to beautifully receive another Jesus, another spirit and another gospel and be led astray and into a counterfeit version of all these 3 aspects?
6. Why is an undistracted devotion to the Lord so critical in our marriage covenant with Christ?

Watch the accompanying You Tube video here: <https://youtu.be/NxRJYMOyPXM>