

Saturday Evening, Nov. 6
Keynote Assembly

6:30 p.m.
Auditorium

Jesus & His Bride Jerry Houston

“That He might present her to Himself a glorious church” (Eph. 5:27). There is no closer human relationship on this earth, and therefore no warmer description of the relationship between Christ and His church, than that of marriage. The church of Christ is the bride of Christ. Jesus loves His bride, so much that He gave Himself for her to sanctify and cleanse her that He might present her to Himself in all her glory. Jesus, the Bridegroom, loves the church, nourishing and cherishing her. We must love His church as much as He does!

Introduction

1. Ephesians is perhaps the most comprehensive and greatest treatise ever written on the relationship between Christ and His church.
 - a. The church was in God’s mind before Creation (Eph. 3:10-11).
 - b. Illustrated in creation of Eve and the first marriage (Ep. 5:22-33).
2. The relationship of the Lord and His church is similar to husband and his wife. Therefore, she is called the bride of Christ (Rev. 21:9). Why?
 - a. Both originated with God.
 - b. There are two Adams:
 - i. The first was the head of the physical family (1 Cor. 15:45).
 - ii. The second is the Head of the spiritual family (Ep. 1:22-23).
 - d. The first Adam slept as God created Eve.
 - e. The second Adam slept the sleep of death, and three days later the bride of Christ was born or created (Eph. 5:25-26).
 - f. The first woman was named after the man (Gen. 5:2).
 - g. And the bride of Christ was named after our Lord (Rom. 16:16).
 - h. Adam and Eve populated the world through the law of procreation (Gen. 1:28).
 - i. Through Christ, the church grows by spiritual procreation through the preaching and obedience of the gospel (Eph. 1:13).

I. The Seriousness of Submission (Eph. 5:23-24)

- A. The wife is to be in subjection to husband (Eph. 5:22-24, 33). Why?
 1. Because Adam was created first then Eve (1 Tim. 2:13).
 2. Women of “old time” are examples of subjection (1 Pet. 3:5-6).
- B. The church is to be in subjection to Christ (Eph. 5:23). Why?
 1. Christ is “the head of the body, the church” (Eph. 1:22-23).
 2. Christ is the “Lord” (Ruler) of His people (Eph. 1:15; Col. 3:17).
- C. The church is in subjection to Christ when she respects, obeys and remains faithful to the word of the Lord (Col. 3:16-17).

1. The church must worship according to the Lord’s will (Jn. 4:24).
 2. The church must do the Lord’s work (1 Cor. 15:58).
 3. The church must live according to the Lord’s will (Ep. 4:20; 5:5).
- D. A congregation that rebels against the Lordship of Christ or a woman who rejects the authority of her husband rejects the word of the God!

II. The Precious Nature of Her Purity (Eph. 5:25-32)

- A. The church has been:
 1. “Sanctified” (Eph. 5:26, “set apart” from this wicked world).
 2. “Cleansed” (Eph. 5:26, received forgiveness of sin).
 3. The sanctification and cleansing are the results of:
 - a. “A washing of water” (Eph. 5:26, baptism).
 - b. “By the word” (Eph. 5:26, obedience to His word).
- B. The purity of the bride of Christ is made possible because of the Lord’s love for His bride (Eph. 5:25).
- C. The church is glorious to the Lord (Eph. 5:27)!
 1. The glory of the church is in the holiness of her life and in her faithfulness to Christ (Eph. 5:27).
 2. Unfaithfulness to Christ is called spiritual adultery (Jas. 4:4).
 3. The bride is to be faithful to her Husband, Christ (Heb. 13:5)!

III. The Consecrated Closeness (Eph. 5:28-32)

- A. The husband-wife bond is closer than the parent-child (Eph. 5:31).
 1. The husband loves his wife as himself (Eph. 5:28-29, 33).
 2. The husband leaves father and mother for his wife (Eph. 5:31).
- B. The Lord Jesus has a closeness to His church.
 1. The close relationship Christ has to the church becomes the idea for the closest of human relationships—husband and wife.
 2. The Lord loves the church (Eph. 5:25).
 3. The love of the Lord has been demonstrated (Eph. 5:26).
- C. The Lord is so close to His bride that when Saul was persecuting the church, the Lord said, “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?”

Conclusion:

1. In Ephesians 5, Paul (1) set forth the ideal for marriage: the Lord’s relationship to the church, and (2) showed the submissiveness, purity and intimacy that must exist between the Lord and His bride.
2. Paul used the marriage relationship to show the relationship of Christ and Christians (Rom. 7:1-4).
3. You can’t be a good husband unless you are a good bride of Christ.
4. You can’t be a good wife unless you are a good bride to Christ.



Jerry Houston has been preaching the gospel for over 20 years. He currently preaches for the East Henrietta Road church of Christ in Rochester, New York. Jerry and his wife, Deborah, have two children.