

The Victorious and Glorious Church, Part 3

The Church → The BRIDE of CHRIST

Ephesians 5:25-27 -- 01/10/2016

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

<http://NLFJI.org/teachings>

Main Text for Today (01/10/2016)

Ephesians 5:25-27 - Husbands, **LOVE** your wives, just **AS** Christ also **LOVED** the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might **SANCTIFY** and **CLEANSE** her with the **WASHING** of water by the **WORD**, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a **GLORIOUS** church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be **HOLY** and **WITHOUT BLEMISH**.

Three Facts regarding the Church being the Bride of Christ

1. **Picture of the church is of a beautiful, spotless, Glorious Bride with Christ as her Husband**

She is the **wife** of Christ, **in the same way** as a human bride is supposed to love, submit, and respect her own human husband → **Ephesians 5:22-24**

²² **Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the LORD.** ²³ **For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is HEAD of the church; and He is the SAVIOR of the body.** ²⁴ **Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.**

Christ is the **HEAD** of the church, of each local church family, and of the world-wide, global church of the living God, overall. (not the Pope, BTW, only **CHRIST** is the **HEAD**).

Head → Leadership, Protector, **Loving-Caring Covering**, Provider . . . “the buck stops here”
... ultimate responsibility and accountability falls on the “**HEAD**”, **not** on the wife, etc.
In that same way **CHRIST** is the **HEAD OF** and **OVER** the church

The Bride/Wife **owes** her Husband Love, Submission, and Respect (honor), etc.

In that same way, the Church **must** Love, Obey, and Honor/Respect her Head (Christ)
(regarding “**Christ is the Head of the church**” → Ephesians 1:20-22; Colossians 1:18)

2. **Christ has a Goal for her** ... to become **Glorious**, Spotless, no wrinkles – to be **HOLY** as He is Holy . . . He does this Sanctifying (making Holy) and Cleansing **ONLY by the Written Word of God** – in the Power of God’s Spirit – in the Name of Christ.

He has Goals, Dreams, Aims, Objectives for her, the church, to become glorious as He is.

It is a picture of a glorious King going down into His Kingdom, disguising Himself as a commoner, a peasant and finding a peasant girl who will just love Him for Him, not for all His glory and wealth that He has. She falls in love with the “real” King, who is just Himself. She loves Him for Him. She did not fall in love with Him for all His stuff or what could make her rich and wealthy. **She fell in Love with Him.** Once that takes place, the King reveals Himself in all His glory and helps her become Glorious as He is, so that she can Rule and Reign with Him. He helps her become the Wife, the Queen, over His Kingdom **with** Him.

3. **Christ LOVES her** → His Love is **Action**, Loving Caring Action that is the **BEST** for her . . . His Loves is shown by how he cares for her, and seeks to **elevate** her to be as He is
 - a. He **died** for her as **proof** of His **Love** for her (Eph. 5:25; Romans 5:8)
 - b. He, by His **WORD** (in the Power of His Spirit) cleanses and transforms her (vv 26-27)
 - c. **Presentation** → Holy, Blameless, no Spot or Wrinkle – for her Wedding Day
(see Rev. 21-22 → **the New Jerusalem** – the ultimate Picture of His Bride)