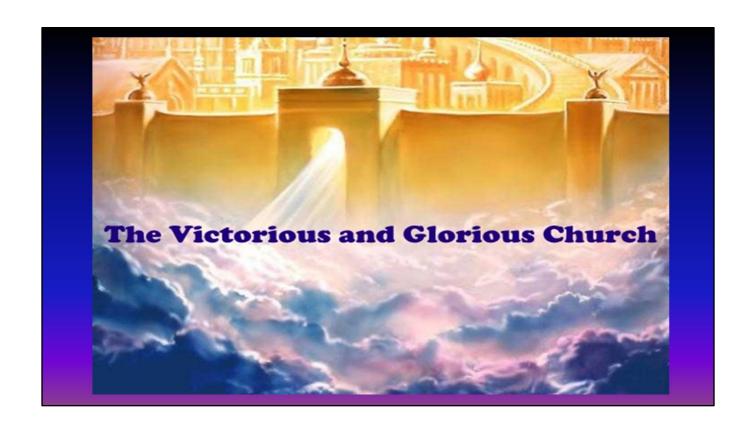


LIFE Group ...

6:30 pm at the Thomas' home on Wed. evenings Bring your Bibles, your Notebook, an Expectant heart and a prayerful-thankful attitude to Experience the Presence, the Power and the Purpose of Jesus Christ, together







The Victorious and Glorious Church, Part 3

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

Picture of the church is of a beautiful, spotless, Glorious, Holy Bride - with Christ as her Husband (she is Queen)
 The Church 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

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.

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

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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 1 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" Phesians 1:20-22; Colossians 1:18)

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[This is why the Perversion of "marriage" today is such an important subject – as it MALIGNS the Image of God (Genesis 1 & 2) and picture of Christ with His Bride, the church]

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Three Facts regarding the Church being the Bride of Christ

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.

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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.

Three Facts regarding the Church being the Bride of Christ

- 2. Christ has a Goal for her ... (a love story . . . →)

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 Kingdom with Him. (see Isaiah 53 → he was like a normal person)
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Three Facts regarding the Church being the Bride of Christ

- 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)
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 - **b**. He, by His WORD (in the Power of His Spirit) cleanses and transforms her (vv 26-27)
 - c. Presentation 2 Holy, Blameless, no Spot or Wrinkle for her Wedding Day (see Rev. 21-22 2 the New Jerusalem the ultimate Picture of His Bride)

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a BRIDE adorned for her HUSBAND. (Revelation 21:1-2)

⁹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the BRIDE, the Lamb's WIFE." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the GLORY of God. (Revelation 21:9-11)

¹⁷ And the **Spirit** and the **BRIDE** say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the WATER of LIFE freely. (Revelation 22:17)

We, the BRIDE, by His Spirit are to be His Voice in Urging Lost Sinners to COME to CHRIST (our Head and Husband)
Our Goal is bring more with us to Heaven ...
His Goal is make us Victorious and Glorious ...





