

# KNOWING GOD AS A BRIDEGROOM AND OUR IDENTITY AS A BRIDE

-Erica Ketchum

## A. THE BRIDEGROOM MESSAGE IS:

- 1) A call to intimacy with God
- 2) This intimacy comes through encountering His heart, His thoughts, emotions and commitment to us.
- 3) God desires for us to walk in partnership with Him.
- 4) He is calling us to a spirit of abandonment to God.

## FOR THE MEN:

1. As women are the sons of God, so also men are the Bride of Christ. **Both describe our position of privilege before God rather than pointing to something that is intrinsically male or female.** These privileges are far beyond anything the angels experience. This position of privilege transcends gender. Women are called “sons of God” as men are called the “bride of Christ.”
2. Most Christian women do not struggle with the idea of being sons of God because they do not see it as a call to be less feminine. Often, however, men struggle with being the Bride of Christ because they wrongly conclude that it is a call to become less masculine. They do not understand it as a position of privilege with God that enables us to encounter His heart. It is a call to experience the deep emotions of God’s heart SUPERNATURALLY.

SEEING JESUS AS THE BRIDEGROOM GOD ENABLES US TO SEE OURSELVES AS HIS  
CHERISHED BRIDE- Mike Bickle.

## B. WHAT IS JESUS LIKE AS THE BRIDEGROOM?

1. He loves us with the same intensity that the Father loves him (John 15:9)
2. He is full of Gladness over us. (Zeph. 3:17, SOS 3:11)
3. He is Generous. (Matt. 5:42, Exo. 34:7)
4. He is compassionate toward our weakness (Heb. 4:15, Ps. 103:4)
5. He delights in us. (Isaiah 62:4, Psalms 149:4, Ps. 18:19)
6. He see’s us as clean- “SOS 2:14 SOS. 4:7, Heb. 9:12-14)
7. He Cherishes us- (Eph. 5:29, Ps. 17:8, Zach. 2:8)
8. He is Zealous or passionate toward us (SOS 8:6, SOS. 7:10, Deut. 7:7-8)
9. He is Jealous for us. (Exo. 20:5-6, 34:14, 2 Cor. 11:2)
10. He wants partnership- (Gen. 3:15, Romans 8:17)

## C. WHAT DOES JESUS AS THE BRIDEGROOM DO?

1. He washes the bride and cleanses her of sin
2. He loves and nurtures the bride to bring her into holiness and fullness of love.

*That He might...cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church...For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. (Eph. 5:26-29)*

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- JESUS WILL WASH DEFILEMENT, UNBELIEF, DULLNESS, HEAVINESS, FEAR, AND BOREDOM OFF THE BRIDE BY THE WATER OF THE WORD AS IT IS SPOKEN, SUNG, READ, WRITTEN, AND RECEIVED IN DREAMS AND VISIONS -Mike Bickle
- 3. He provides for us. (Israel often turned to the god named Ba'al meaning "owner" or "Lord" or "Husband". A god of fertility, rain and dew, they were looking for that god to provide what they needed) Hos. 2:8,15, 21-22.
- 4. He makes and keeps covenant with us, even when we are unfaithful to Him.
  - a. God has made several unconditional and conditional Covenants with Man throughout the Bible. Covenants are simply God's way of relating with his people.
  - b. Mosaic covenant- Considered the old Covenant. 10 commandments, Law of Moses and Priestly duties. This is also his Betrothal on Mount Sinai. In this covenant, God promises to make the Israelites his treasured possession among all people and "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exo 19:5-6), if they follow God's commandments. (Exodus 19-24 and Deuteronomy)
  - c. New covenant- Luke 22:20 And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup, which is poured out for you, is the new covenant in My blood.
  - d. Christ and his covenant are so much better! This is exactly what the Law or old covenant was given to help us see. The Holy Spirit designed the old covenant to teach God's people about what they really needed and to point beyond itself to something greater: a solution to sin and greater access to God.

## D. THE GREATER HOSEA

1. Through Hosea's marriage, God shows his great love for his people, comparing himself to a husband whose wife has committed adultery. God commanded Hosea to marry a prostitute named Gomer. The Lord wanted Hosea's pain-filled marriage to be a prophetic picture of the pain that God felt in His relationship with Israel (Hos. 1-3).

*The LORD said... "Take yourself a wife of harlotry and children of harlotry, for the land has committed great harlotry by departing from the Lord." (Hos. 1:2)*
2. She goes back to harlotry. She doesn't recognize all his provision. It breaks God's heart, it infuriates him. He hedges her way with thorns to make it harder to go after her lovers. And this is his response to her harlotry in chapter 2:14-17, 19-20 and chapter 3:1
3. We are in a betrothal season with the Lord until He returns and we become one at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. The Lord has made binding commitments to give us all of His heart and pursue us until the end. SOS 8:6-7

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*“And they shall call them The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; And you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.”*

*Isaiah 62:12*

4. One of the Lord's primary strategies to help motivate us to pursuing holiness is by revealing Jesus as our passionate Bridegroom who beckons us to return to Him. God's answer for correcting spiritual backsliding is by revealing our relationship to Him as a cherished bride. This is the Lord's highest way of empowering people to walk in wholehearted holiness with Jesus. Jeremiah 3... return because I'm married to you...

## THE RESPONSE AS THE BRIDE:

*You have ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; you have ravished my heart with one look of your eyes...10 How fair is your love... How much better than wine is your love.” -SOS 4:9-10*

*Who is this coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? -SOS 8:5*

1. Believe what he says he feels about you is true. Receive His love.
2. Abandonment to God. Be Covenanted to God alone. Let go of all other lovers, and let God's love burn in you like a fire that cannot be quenched.
3. Be washed. Let him wash you in the water of his word. Let his blood cleanse you from all unrighteousness.
4. Build your relational knowledge with him until the day of fullness of intimacy, when we see him fully as he is and we are fully known.
5. Prepare for and long for his return.