

A close-up photograph of a dark brown branch with several white blossoms. The blossoms have five petals and prominent stamens with yellowish-orange tips. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color, possibly more blossoms or a bright sky. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

WHEN MARRIAGE IS ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD

*There is only one Way, Truth, and Life. **John 14**. May we have one heart and one way established in the Truth of God. **Jeremiah 32**.*

Studied for the blessing of both the
sons and daughters of God.

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Only One Way for the Christian

God has **one Way** and **one Truth** and **one Life**.

"JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM, I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE: NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME."

JOHN 14:6

"AND I WILL GIVE THEM ONE HEART, AND ONE WAY, THAT THEY MAY FEAR ME FOR EVER, FOR THE GOOD OF THEM, AND OF THEIR CHILDREN AFTER THEM..."

JEREMIAH 32:39

Many individuals believe, regarding various aspects of life, that there are many ways which can be acceptable before Jehovah. This is a doctrine which is contrary to everything God has given us in His Word; we must prove this against Scripture in order to test it and show whether it is from God or not. This study is to prove the way in which our Father in Heaven has established for **marriage** between His sons and daughters.

Christ is Our First Love + Spouse

As we shall see in the following verses, the first step towards a God-fearing marriage is realizing that *we already have a Spouse* to give our love and faithfulness too.

"HEREIN IS LOVE, NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED US, AND SENT HIS SON TO BE THE PROPITIATION

FOR OUR SINS. ...WE LOVE HIM, BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US."

1 JOHN 4:10, 19

The love of Christ condescends all others. Nothing can be compared, nothing can outshine. And what a joy that we are made the *special* focus of such love. Our Lord in His Word explains just how He desires to set His love upon us.

"FOR THE LORD'S PORTION IS HIS PEOPLE; JACOB IS THE LOT OF HIS INHERITANCE. HE FOUND HIM IN A DESERT LAND, AND IN THE WASTE HOWLING WILDERNESS; HE LED HIM ABOUT, HE INSTRUCTED HIM, HE KEPT HIM AS THE APPLE OF HIS EYE."

DEUTERONOMY 32:9-10

The word 'portion' in **verse 9** refers to an inheritance and belonging. What is so beautiful about this is that it describes how Father made *Jacob* the lot of His inheritance. Jacob represents the state of God's people when He first finds **us**.

Jacob was a **deceiver**, according to both his character and name, and he was spiritually in 'the waste howling wilderness'. He had sinned greatly before God, and what's worse, he had sinned *knowingly* as he stole the birthright blessing by deception (**Genesis 27**). Yet Father set his love upon us while we still had these old things within us (**2 Corinthians 5:17**), and then He brought us out of these waste places, renewed us, strengthened us, taught us, and tenderly watched us at the forefront of His eyes. Now we are called by His new name for us—Israel, meaning *he will rule as God*, fitting for none other than a royal priesthood (**1 Peter 2:9; Genesis 32:28; Genesis 35:10**).

"FOR THY MAKER IS THINE HUSBAND; THE LORD OF HOSTS IS HIS NAME; AND THY REDEEMER THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL; THE GOD OF THE WHOLE EARTH SHALL HE BE CALLED."

ISAIAH 54:5

In the last verse we saw how God in Christ reveals the character of a husband toward us by searching for us and patiently giving us His ways and life, preparing us for Himself. Now Christ—as our Maker, our Holy One, and our Redeemer—declares Himself to be our **Husband**, and compares us (children of the true church, Zion) to a beautiful woman in His eyes.

"I HAVE LIKENED THE DAUGHTER OF ZION TO A COMELY AND DELICATE WOMAN."

JEREMIAH 6:2

Looking in the book of Isaiah again we see another demonstration of Christ's love for His bride (people).

"FOR ZION'S SAKE WILL I NOT HOLD MY PEACE, AND FOR JERUSALEM'S SAKE I WILL NOT REST, UNTIL THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THEREOF GO FORTH AS BRIGHTNESS, AND THE SALVATION THEREOF AS A LAMP THAT BURNETH. AND THE GENTILES SHALL SEE THY RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL KINGS THY GLORY: AND THOU SHALT BE CALLED BY A NEW NAME, WHICH THE MOUTH OF THE LORD SHALL NAME. THOU SHALT ALSO BE A CROWN OF GLORY IN THE HAND OF THE LORD, AND A ROYAL DIADEM IN THE HAND OF THY GOD. THOU SHALT NO MORE BE TERMED FORSAKEN; NEITHER SHALL THY LAND ANY MORE BE TERMED DESOLATE: BUT THOU SHALT BE CALLED HEPHZIBAH, AND THY LAND BEULAH: FOR THE LORD DELIGHTETH IN THEE, AND THY LAND SHALL BE MARRIED. FOR AS A YOUNG MAN MARRIETH A VIRGIN, SO SHALL THY

SONS MARRY THEE: AND AS THE BRIDEGROOM REJOICETH OVER THE BRIDE, SO SHALL THY GOD REJOICE OVER THEE.

ISAIAH 62:1-5

We have an assurance that, for our sakes, our Husband will not hold His peace until His righteousness in us becomes a light to the world (Gentiles). He will not rest until we are fully renewed and given His name, just as a bride goes on to take her new husband's name, so will we go on to take the name He is preparing us to receive. Our Husband is ever waiting as a bridegroom to rejoice over us as His perfected bride.

In the verse below, God through Paul expresses how we will only be presented before our Husband as *pure virgins*. A pure virgin has a heart (mind) that has been reserved to give to **one beloved**, a heart that has never given or experienced it's first love with anyone other than her beloved.

"FOR I AM JEALOUS OVER YOU WITH GODLY JEALOUSY: FOR I HAVE ESPOUSED YOU TO ONE HUSBAND, THAT I MAY PRESENT YOU AS A PURE VIRGIN TO CHRIST."

2 CORINTHIANS 11:2

"LET US BE GLAD AND REJOICE, AND GIVE HONOUR TO HIM: FOR THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB IS COME, AND HIS WIFE HATH MADE HERSELF READY. AND TO HER WAS GRANTED THAT SHE SHOULD BE ARRAYED IN FINE LINEN, CLEAN AND WHITE: FOR THE FINE LINEN IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF SAINTS. AND HE SAITH UNTO ME, WRITE, BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH ARE CALLED UNTO THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB. AND HE SAITH UNTO ME, THESE ARE THE TRUE SAYINGS OF GOD.

REVELATION 19:7-9

***"AND I JOHN SAW THE HOLY CITY, NEW JERUSALEM,
COMING DOWN FROM GOD OUT OF HEAVEN, PREPARED
AS A BRIDE ADORNED FOR HER HUSBAND."***

REVELATION 21:2

As God showed John so much in the Revelation of His Son, He placed emphasis on the marriage of Christ. A city is made of people, so the Bride called New Jerusalem is made up of the redeemed saints mentioned in **chapter 19**. We will be prepared as His bride by putting on the raiment of the righteousness of our Husband, which is both His character and name that we will take on as our own after our marriage. Right after the marriage is depicted in **chapter 19**, it closes with our Husband represented to us as Faithful and True, the Word of God—riding on a white horse in majesty to come and claim us.

***"AND I SAW HEAVEN OPENED, AND BEHOLD A WHITE
HORSE; AND HE THAT SAT UPON HIM WAS CALLED
FAITHFUL AND TRUE, AND IN RIGHTEOUSNESS HE DOTHS
JUDGE AND MAKE WAR. ...AND HE WAS CLOTHED WITH A
VESTURE DIPPED IN BLOOD: AND HIS NAME IS CALLED THE
WORD OF GOD.***

REVELATION 19:11, 13

Are We Satisfied with Christ?

The love of the Lamb for His wife and their wedding in Revelation is both the purest benevolence and the monumental finale to the redemption of the Lamb's wife. Unfortunately for our affectionate Husband, all this is scarcely dwelt upon by the professedly 'elect' sons and daughters of God, and sits in stark contrast to the energy we put into earthly marriages. Our first

love is often given to the *pursuit* of something more tangible to our sin-weakened senses, something that we can experience now and not later. And even if we are convinced that the person is good, godly, and only a blessing to be around, a void to inspire a pursuit like this will never bring glory to God or His Son.

**“ACCORDING TO THEIR PASTURE, SO WERE THEY FILLED;
THEY WERE FILLED, AND THEIR HEART WAS EXALTED;
THEREFORE HAVE THEY FORGOTTEN ME. ...O ISRAEL, THOU
HAST DESTROYED THYSELF; BUT IN ME IS THINE HELP.”**
HOSEA 13:6, 9

What is your pasture? That is, what do you continually feed on? Ancient literal Israel—which represents modern spiritual Israel—led themselves to forget God and destroy themselves. Do you think they knew it? Most likely not, as often times prophets like Hosea were sent to *awaken* people out of their sin. Sadly history repeats, for we know that there is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

The word ‘exalted’ in **verse 6** means ‘to lift up,’ ‘to give,’ and ‘to be presumptuous’. Whenever we choose ourselves we lift ourselves up by esteeming ourselves worthy of first choice. Israel gave their hearts/minds presumptuously—in direct opposition to acting in the faith of Christ—and by doing so they removed Him so far that they forgot Him. He told them this and reminded them that in Him is their true help, very fitting as that describes His role as our ultimate Helpmeet (**Genesis 2:18**). Beware of feelings and desires, which abide in the mind, as nothing else compares (**Jeremiah 17:9**).

**“CAN A MAID FORGET HER ORNAMENTS, OR A BRIDE HER
ATTIRE? YET MY PEOPLE HAVE FORGOTTEN ME DAYS
WITHOUT NUMBER. WHY TRIMMEST THOU THY WAY TO**

***SEEK LOVE? THEREFORE HAST THOU ALSO TAUGHT THE
WICKED ONES THY WAYS.”
JEREMIAH 2:32–33***

The declared people of God forgot Him against all odds. What’s worse is the reason why they forgot Him: **they made themselves happy and contented with their own way to pursue love.** This would be enough if it ended there, but the worse in God’s eyes is that the godless, onlooking world around His people learned these ways as ways coming from God. There is no lower rebuke to the love that He has set upon us.

We can’t forget that we—modern, ‘elect’ Israel—are not exempted from this by mere placement in the grand scheme of time. There are voids present in many hearts which redeemed ones should never even be tempted with.

The Word of God declares that He is the one who satisfies the desolate waste and causes the bud to spring forth (**Job 38:27**). Has His love satisfied you? Has it caused a bud of peace and contentment to come alive within you and drive out emptiness and waste?

When God Approves of Marriage

Nothing above is to say that desiring love is unnatural or ungodly, because it isn’t. **But our desire for marital love should be completely filled the moment we realize our first and heavenly Love.** In the following verses we are going to look at examples of earthly love that God Himself establishes and approves of—that’s the difference, a marriage that God approves

of is one that He Himself establishes, not one that we ourselves pursue.

“AND THE LORD GOD SAID, IT IS NOT GOOD THAT THE MAN SHOULD BE ALONE; I WILL MAKE HIM AN HELP MEET FOR HIM.”
GENESIS 2:18

God established an earthly marriage for Adam to fulfill *His* purposes: (1) He did not want Adam to be alone without an earthly companion, (2) He did not want Adam to be without the *help* of an earthly companion, and (3) He wanted Adam to be fruitful and multiply. Where was Adam pursuing in this? He wasn't; Adam was fully absorbed in the pleasant work and world that he had just been freshly created to occupy, and he was fully satisfied with companionship and love in His God. ***It was for God's purposes alone that He united with Eve***, and whether united with her or not he was at peace, resting in the will of his Creator.

“THE LORD GOD OF HEAVEN, WHICH TOOK ME FROM MY FATHER'S HOUSE, AND FROM THE LAND OF MY KINDRED, AND WHICH SPAKE UNTO ME, AND THAT SWARE UNTO ME, SAYING, UNTO THY SEED WILL I GIVE THIS LAND; HE SHALL SEND HIS ANGEL BEFORE THEE, AND THOU SHALT TAKE A WIFE UNTO MY SON FROM THENCE. ...REBEKAH CAME OUT...AND SHE WENT DOWN TO THE WELL, AND FILLED HER PITCHER, AND CAME UP. ...AND ISAAC WENT OUT TO MEDITATE IN THE FIELD AT THE EVENTIDE: AND HE LIFTED UP HIS EYES, AND SAW, AND, BEHOLD, THE CAMELS WERE COMING.”
GENESIS 24:7, 15–16, 63

What were Isaac and Rebekah doing? Living separately and not found in their own pursuits of love when God called them to join

together. Rebekah was found faithfully accomplishing her regular tasks; Isaac was found in peaceful thought in the fields. When God brought Rebekah to Isaac, they both embraced each other in obedience to God's calling.

In **verses 5-8 of Genesis 24**, Abraham's servant—who was led by the Spirit of God in his quest—asks what he should do if the wife-to-be did not want to leave her country for Isaac. His answer was that he would be loosed from the completion of his quest if that were to be the case. God brought Isaac, through bringing Abraham, *out* of that land, and under no circumstance does God ever want His sons or daughters going back to where He brought them out.

God honors those who honor Him. Isaac and Rebekah let God lead and establish everything, totally at peace in His will for their lives and following wherever He lead them next. In return, He gave the blessing of love and comfort in abundance to this couple.

“AND ISAAC BROUGHT HER INTO HIS MOTHER SARAH'S TENT, AND TOOK REBEKAH, AND SHE BECAME HIS WIFE; AND HE LOVED HER: AND ISAAC WAS COMFORTED AFTER HIS MOTHER'S DEATH.”
GENESIS 24:67

Christ's love for us is perfect and above any other person's love, no matter how sweet and true it may feel. Having this perfect love and holding it dear as a first love by default casts away all fear—no loneliness or desire to be with someone will sway it.

“THERE IS NO FEAR IN LOVE; BUT PERFECT LOVE CASTETH OUT FEAR: BECAUSE FEAR HATH TORMENT. HE THAT FEARETH IS NOT MADE PERFECT IN LOVE.”

1 JOHN 4:18

We must unceasingly allow God to examine our hearts and minds closely, always confirming that there is no fear in us and that we are in love first, last, and forever with Christ.

"I THE LORD SEARCH THE HEART, I TRY THE MIND, EVEN TO GIVE EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS WAYS, AND ACCORDING TO THE FRUIT OF HIS DOINGS."

JEREMIAH 17:10

You want the LORD to search and try your thoughts, and find you so filled and happy in Him, that He makes you into a more perfect image of Himself. You don't want Him to find you hungering for earthly love, and then give it to you without being complete in Him first. Many evils come out of this—from completing your heart with another person and relying heavily on them for self-fulfillment, to unhappiness and being dissatisfied because your true need is Christ.

Be Contented and God Will Bless

No person aside from Christ should ever complete our hearts. The world teaches us that a spouse or lover completes us and our feelings—no such doctrine comes from Christ. This is because the world has a gaping void that only He can fill, hence why God's dismay is so great when His own people seek fulfillment outside or along side of His Son, as if Christ's love can not satisfy alone.

If you are seeking matrimonial love, let yourself be fulfilled in marriage to the Lamb. Put away the old man within you, with all

your desires, fears, and voids. Do not be numbered with those who are not made in Christ's perfect love because they fear for themselves. **Let God give you a *fresh heart*, instead of you trying to fit Him in as a new desire into a heart still holding on to some old desires.**

"AND I WILL GIVE THEM AN HEART TO KNOW ME, THAT I AM THE LORD: AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE, AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD: FOR THEY SHALL RETURN UNTO ME WITH THEIR WHOLE HEART."
JEREMIAH 24:7

There is only one marriage that the sons and daughters of God should pursue: the marriage of the Lamb. If you are pursuing an earthly marriage—even to be with a godly spouse—stop. **Remember that no amount of godly qualities in a prospective spouse gives you good enough reason to pursue them. Only God establishing and bringing you together gives you a good enough reason to let Him pursue marriage for you.** If you are hungry to be with someone, come before God and plead with Him that *He* may fill this desire in you.

Happy are they who are contented in Christ. God very well may hold an earthly marriage within His purposes for you, and He also very well may not. Our job is not to wait patiently until we find someone that we think He can approve of. Our job is to be fixed on Christ—that's it. Rest easy and don't worry about whether or not you can make it with or without someone. Look at the example of Paul the apostle. His greatest love was fulfilled the moment he realized that his first love was in Christ, and all his desires were wrapped up in leading others to be filled with Him as well.

"BUT THE LORD SAID UNTO [ANANIAS], GO THY WAY: FOR [PAUL] IS A CHOSEN VESSEL UNTO ME, TO BEAR MY NAME BEFORE THE GENTILES, AND KINGS, AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL... AND IMMEDIATELY THERE FELL FROM HIS EYES AS IT HAD BEEN SCALES: AND HE RECEIVED SIGHT FORTHWITH, AND AROSE, AND WAS BAPTIZED. AND WHEN HE HAD RECEIVED MEAT, HE WAS STRENGTHENED. THEN WAS SAUL CERTAIN DAYS WITH THE DISCIPLES WHICH WERE AT DAMASCUS. AND STRAIGHTWAY HE PREACHED CHRIST IN THE SYNAGOGUES, THAT HE IS THE SON OF GOD."

ACTS 9:15, 18-20

If, however, our Heavenly Father intends for you to be joined to an earthly as well as to an heavenly spouse, then let Him bring you to that individual, and take the step toward them as a step of obedience toward God. God takes great joy in giving blessing to His sons and daughters (**Deuteronomy 5:29; Psalm 5:12; Psalm 29:11**). Like Adam, Isaac, Eve, and Rebekah, God will make you more than happy in what He provides.

When you take this route, you will never be in danger of letting your heart become too focused on your earthly love and losing sight of your heavenly Love. Why? Because you never took earthly marriage as a desire that He finally allowed you to fulfill for yourself; **you took marriage merely as a step of obedience in faith**. Praise and glory be to God Almighty, and what joy fills His own dear heart at this!

Scriptures Used + More to Study

- John 14:6
- Revelation 21
- Jeremiah 32:37-44
- Hosea 13
- 1 John 4:10, 14-19
- Jeremiah 17:9
- Deuteronomy 32
- Job 38
- Isaiah 54
- Genesis 2
- Jeremiah 6:2
- Genesis 24
- Isaiah 62
- Jeremiah 17:9-10
- 2 Corinthians 11:2
- Acts 9
- Revelation 19
- Isaiah 51



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