

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Church as Bride”

Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:7-8

Sermon Series Title: “The Church of God”

Sermon Series Summary: The Church of God is the people of God throughout the ages, redeemed by Jesus Christ. We’re going to take a look at who we are and who we are called to be as the church of God. More specifically, we see that who we are is directly connected to whose we are in Christ.

Passage Setting: Ephesians is Paul’s letter to the beloved church there, whom he entrusted his disciple, Timothy, to pastor. The first three chapters are about the theology of salvation, while the last three chapters are about the application of salvation. In Ephesians 5-6, we see Paul addressing marriage, parenting, and work.

Revelation is a letter of prophecy regarding the last days, written by the apostle, John, near the end of his life, being exiled to the prison island of Patmos. We see the defeat of sin/Satan and the glorification of God’s people in the end times. The simple theme of Revelation is Jesus wins.

Summary: The New Testament refers to the church as the bride of Jesus. We are married to Him. He loves us in our brokenness and shame, and He will sanctify us, clothing us in honor and glory on the Last Day. This is all through His sacrificial death and victorious resurrection.

Central Truth: *“Let us live and see one another as the Bride of Christ.”*

Sermon Points:

1. The Mystery
2. The Beauty
3. The Glory
4. The Story

Opening Question:

1. What comes to mind when you think of marriage?

(Answers may vary.)

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Some may feel loneliness, longing, bitterness, fatigue, joy, gratitude, beauty- thinking of our parents, others' marriages, our marriage, our singleness)

As we've looked at Church as Building, Body, City, and Family, we are going to look at Church as Bride.

Read Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:7-8.

1. What does it mean for you that we are married to Christ?

(Answers may vary.)

Jesus is the Groom, and we are the bride. We are covenanted together, and we are called to be faithful to Him, as He will be to us. We are united to Him. There is a personal, mystical, and spiritual union we have with Christ as our Bridegroom. He must become our first love.)

2. How does this affect our view of one another?

(Answers may vary.)

We are married to one another. This calls us to love one another with the love that Christ has for us. We are to walk with one another as we walk with Christ and enjoy one another. We keep one another accountable in Christ. We should see one another with the eyes of future glory instead of past shame.)

3. How do we grow in this identity?

(Answers may vary.)

We come to the Bridegroom who has come for us. We look to Him who gave up His life for us. We meditate on His words, person, life, and work. In John 15, as the True Vine, Jesus calls us to abide in Him by abiding in His word. We grow in our love for Him. We trust in His love for us, and that changes the way we see ourselves. That love empowers our obedience, sanctification, and walk with Him. It grows us in our love for one another, and it ties us deeper together as Christ's Bride.)

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Final Thoughts: In wedding ceremonies during biblical times, all attention was given to the bridegroom. In the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, all the glory goes to the Bridegroom. All the Hallelujahs in our Revelation chapter is for Jesus. We glorify Him for His sovereignty and victory. Most of all, we glorify Christ for His redemption of us, marrying us, sinners, to Himself and making us holy and beautiful on the Last Day. This is not an if. It's a when. May that encourage and bless you today.