

5. FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD

Our fellowship with our Lord and Master is primarily through His gracious work as mediator between the Father and His people. Is not the Lord Christ our great High Priest who intercedes for us with the Father? Born under the law to redeem those who were under the law.

We are called by the Father to this fellowship with His Son our Lord. It is an intimate fellowship where it is said the Lord comes to dine with us. REV 3.20 Coming into our houses (hearts) and sharing our private time. What have we to offer this most gracious and important of guests? Is it a house filled with the riches of a devout heart, or will it be a pauper's offer of a neglected life? The souls of the Saints are the garden of our Lord. What have we to offer?
SONG 4:16

God has complained over the centuries of the lack of fruit in His Vineyard, despite His gracious mercy to His people. ISA 5:2 Clearly sets out how God has done all the preparation for a fruitful harvest - "But it yielded only bad fruit" The same Vineyard is spoken about by Jesus in LUKE 20:9 FF. As Christ dines with us, so we will dine with Him. As we receive wisdom and enlightenment from the Holy Spirit, so we are to tend our Vineyard, that it will yield an abundant of good fruit for the Master.

The Lord Jesus is described in the Song of Solomon, as the rose of Sharon and the lily of the Valleys. These two are of the most beautiful of flowers as well as fragrant. He is the one to be the guest of our hearts. Let us be diligent in our preparations for the "feast" we are to attend.

As our Lord is described as the rose of the Sharon, so too is the Church described as a lily amongst the thorns. Is not the world described as thorns and briars in the parable of the sower? The Church is beset from every side by the efforts of the world to ridicule and obstruct the spread of the gospel. Those who get tired are discouraged and give up to the chocking thorns.

The relationship between Jesus and the Church is described as the relationship between bride and groom. In a Christian marriage this relationship is full of fragrance, sweetness, rest, fullness, confidence, and hope. Jesus as the groom has presented His side of the partnership - love, joy, peace, hope - as fulfilled in the gospel and the ransom for our lives. Once we are able to comprehend our Master's sacrifice for our lives., we are to reject the sinful activities of this world GAL 5:19-21 But convert to the fruit of the Spirit. GAL 5:22-26 The fruits of the Spirit are nurtured in us by the Holy Spirit's work of sanctification. (See our study on The Holy Spirit). The fruits of Christ's life in us is what we live by and grow on. Christ is the tree that produces everything necessary for life.

"He that can find no mercy, pardon, grace, acceptance with God, holiness, sanctification and all the other things necessary for salvation, is an utter stranger to these things, which are prepared for believers only" Does not the saint shelter in the shadow of the wing of the Almighty? This protection we receive from Christ is in His intercessory process with the Father for the Saints.

Our fellowship with our Lord is set out in Song of Solomon where the author describes it as being in the banqueting house. There we find great sweetness and delicious refreshment. But "it is not food and drink that we participate in, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

The fellowship that we enjoy with the Lord Jesus is the fellowship that sustains us in life. It is the Spiritual nourishment that keeps us alive to God. Once we have experienced the closeness and love of our Master, we need to always be aware of the great benefits of this spiritual succor and keep coming back for replenishments.

A full and rightful appreciation of our Lord will overwhelm us with love. "The soul also desires the comforts of the Holy Spirit to revive it and satisfy it until it comes to a full enjoyment of Christ."

This fellowship with Christ also provides us with safe protection against the forces of evil. When we belong to an army, we stand under that army's banner. We to stand under the banner of our Lord Jesus Christ. This identifies who we are, and where our loyalties lie. We could therefore claim the protection of our leader in our trials and distresses. It is the banner of Christ's love for us that is our safeguard. The enemy forces need to get through this banner of love that Christ has for us, to destroy us. But the Lord's promise is "I will never leave you nor forsake you" These promises are for eternity.

It is this banner of love which is our encouragement and assurance that our future in heaven with the Lord is secure. "And Christ comes to the soul with His loving embrace." This banner of love is our strength and comfort.

The book of Song of Solomon is a description of the relationship between bride and groom, between husband and wife, between Christ and His people. The Church is the house which Christ has set up and freely invites all those who will respond to the banquet of everlasting life to be enjoyed by those who would faithfully respond to this invitation, so graciously extend by our Lord and Master.