

7. HOW BELIEVERS HOLD COMMUNION WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IN GRACE

Our communion with the Lord Jesus is in Grace. By a marriage relationship, Christ is married to us, and we to Him. This is a relationship of mutual love. In a human marriage, the husband and wife build their relationship on love for each other, on trust, caring for each other and supporting and nurturing each other.

But in our Spiritual marriage, it is the Lord who sought us out. **ISA 54:5** "For your maker is husband - the Lord Almighty is His name" The Lord is our redeemer. **ISA 61:10** "... For the Lord has clothed me with the garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and a bride adorns herself with her jewels". So, it is with the bride of Christ - the Church.

We also read of our betrothal to the Lord in **HOS 2:19-20** Hosea of course opens with the Lord instructing him to take on an adulterous wife as a lesson to Israel that the Lord is their husband. **vs 19** "I will betroth you to me forever, I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion". This same theme is addressed by Paul to the Corinthians in **2 COR 11:2**

Believers are an honour to Christ. The Lord Jesus is crowned with the Church at His coronation. We as believers, what is our individual contribution to the Glory of the crown that our Master will wear? Have we made the most of our opportunities through the enabling and wisdom granted us in this life, to honour Christ?

Believers are a great delight to Christ. **ZEPH 3:17** "The Lord your God is with you He will rejoice over you with singing" A faithful bridegroom would delight with honour to his bride. And so, it is with our Lord in welcoming His bride into their eternal marriage. "It is the gladness of the heart of Christ, the joy of His soul, to take poor sinners into this relationship with Himself" It has cost Him a great price, but He was found obedient and faithful to the end. The fellowship that Christ has with the saints is likened to a marriage of husband and wife in a human relationship. The use of the analogy of a human marriage to our relationship with Christ, is one of the predominant themes in scripture. This is no coincidence, for it is the exact pattern that God has set out as an example for us to follow. It is the basic building block of society, and it will be our ultimate future with our Lord and Saviour.

How are we to have communion with Christ in this marriage relationship with Him? There are things which are common to both parties, and there are things that are particular to each partner.

What is common to both partners is the committing of each to the other in this marriage union. Christ commits Himself to the soul, to love care for and show kindness as a husband to his wife. The soul in response gives up wholly to the Lord Jesus to be loving, tender and obedient, as a wife to her husband. Christ loves the souls of the redeemed, He sees them as fair and beautiful, because He has made them. He desires to have fellowship with them as He continually invites them to this most beneficial of unions with their souls. **MATT 11:28** "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest". **Verses 29 and 30** are a continuation of that invitation.

The Lord is saying that He is willing and able to fulfill all that we need from a loving Saviour, who is husband to us. This He has done at a great price. This He has done without reserve.

What does the Lord expect from us, and what are we able to do in response to the Love of our Saviour and husband? "All that is required is their free, willing agreement to receive, embrace and submit to the Lord Jesus as Husband, Lord and Saviour, to abide with Him, subject their souls to Him to be ruled by Him forever"

This is an ongoing process which is made possible by the acts of renewing grace by our Lord and Master. We remember in **JOHN 5:5**, Jesus said, "without me you can do nothing" However, the gift of the new life has come to us with a new understanding of the Triune God, and what He has done for us. Let us examine these wonderful truths in the light of our "saved knowledge", combining it with the wisdom of God - **JAM 1:5**, to nurture our marriage relationship and fellowship with our Lord and Saviour.

The soul now has a better understanding as it sees the world as the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. This is vanity, as Solomon described it. Through grace we now have a desire to serve our Lord, as we come to understand and realise that we are but pilgrims passing through this land of trials and tribulations.

The soul willingly accepts the Lord as its only Husband and Saviour. As we walk the road of salvation, we see more clearly with time and progress, the beauty and graciousness of our Lord. As we compare Him to the other "beauties" of the world of sin and legal righteousness, so we learn to appreciate our Masters sacrifice for us.

Every so often, I haul out the Prayer book which contains the vows we made to God on our wedding day, to remind myself of my promises to God. Let us do this continuously, to remind ourselves of our duties to the Lord Jesus Christ as our Husband and Saviour, as we read, study, and commit our way to God in prayer.