

Elder Bobby Willis



### Christ and His Bride

There was an article recently that stirred my thinking somewhat on the beauty of Christ and His Bride (the church). In Ephesians chapter 5, the bride of Christ is referred to by Paul in representation as His wife, and in fullness as the Church (Ephesians 5:32).

A scripture that most are familiar with from its usage at weddings is Genesis 2:24, **“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.”** This passage refers to Adam and Eve in their marriage relationship as a beautiful representation of Christ and His Church spoken of by Paul in Ephesians 5:31-32.

Our Lord left His Father (God) and came down on this earth for His bride, to tell her of His love, to suffer and die for her, was resurrected for her, and is now in glory where He is still watching over her by making intercession on her behalf, until such time that He comes back and gathers all those who make up His bride together.

One day soon, Christ will present His bride to Himself on the grand resurrection day, and it will have no spots, or wrinkles, or any such thing; **“but that it should be holy and without blemish”** (Ephesians 5:29). Until that time, let us be a chaste bride, faithful to our husband (Christ). Notice the example given in Ephesians 5:25, **“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;...”** The lesson here is two fold for us today. As Christ so loved the church (his bride) and was willing and did die for her, so should all husbands love their wives. Likewise, we (as the bride of Christ) should be subject unto our Saviour for it says in Ephesians 5:24, **“Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ...”** This is shown not as a suggestion, but as a statement of truth. The church is indeed subject unto Him, so in like manner the children of God should be subject unto our husband, Jesus Christ our Lord. Why? Because **“...we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones...”** (Ephesians 5:30). May we ever be thankful and humbled to be married unto Him, from whom all blessings flow. ***“Think About It!”***

