

# The Church: The Bride of Jesus

Eph 5:23-32

The Bridegroom says...

The Bride responds...

I long for all of you.

*We will engage Him in prayer.*

I will die for you.

*We will adore Him in worship.*

I will beautify you.

*We will battle for purity.*

I will care for you.

*We will trust in all things.*

I am coming for you.

*We will do the good deeds of  
eager expectation.*

**Getting Started:** What is your favorite part of a wedding?

**Digging In and Living It Out:** Read Eph 5:22-32. Make a list of how Jesus relates to the church in light of the marriage imagery (see also Rev 19:7-10). Read these verses about God's desire to have intimacy with His people: Rev 2:1-4; 3:20. Do you expect to engage with God in the presence of other believers? Think of 3 meetings this week you will have with other friends and engage God with them in prayer. How do these verses (Jn 3:29-31; Php 2:7-11; Rev 7:9-12) speak to the worthiness of Jesus for our worship? How might Sunday mornings look, sound, or feel differently if all of us more freely showed our adoration to Jesus? Read these verses (Eph 5:26-27; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet 2:9-12) and make a list of the ways the church could seek for greater purity in our individual lives and in our corporate life? How can you spur others on to purity in our corporate life together? In vs 25-27 it says that Jesus will beautify His church. How can knowing this and believing this effect your attitudes, words, and actions when people fail in the church (2 Cor 11:2; 1 Jn 3:3)? Eph 5:29 speaks of Jesus' care for the church. How can knowing this and believing this effect your attitudes, words and actions when things are not going how you think they should in the church? Read (Mt 5:16; 22:2-14; 25:1-13; Mk 2:19; Jude 1:21; 1 Jn 3:1-3) How do people who are eagerly expecting the return of Christ live? What good deeds will you do this week for the glory of God?