

THE BRIDE

Hello I'm Jim Fuller. I'd like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures with you about our relationship with God.

First thing I'd like to clarify is that having a relationship with God is God's idea.

Isaiah 46.9+10 says to

Remember the former things long past, for I am God and there is no other, I am God and there is no one like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all my good pleasure.

God seems to be quite adamant about fulfilling His plans and His purposes. His plan to have a relationship with us it's no different.

The gospel is God's plan. It's not a religion. It's God's supernatural work to redeem all of mankind back to Himself.

He has declared, that this oneness with you is what He wants. This is what He paid everything that He has to get. He has Held nothing back to accomplish it.

Let's look at the scriptures.

Deuteronomy 7.6

For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

As I said earlier, it's God's idea to have a relationship with us. Let's look at some scriptures that show the kind of relationship He wants to have with us.

Isaiah 54.5

For your husband is your Maker, Whose name is the Lord of hosts;
And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth.

Hosea 2.19 + 20

"I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice,
In lovingkindness and in compassion, And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness.
Then you will know the Lord.

He said three times in this scripture that He wants to marry us and have an eternal, intimate relationship with us.

Here is the result of God's choosing.

Verse 16 says,

"It will come about in that day," declares the Lord, "That you will call Me Ishi, and will no longer call Me Baali.

Ishi means - my husband

Baali means - my master

Look at Isaiah 62.3

The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory;
and you will be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord will designate.

Let me ask you a question.

When do women have their names changed? When they get married. They lose the name of their parents, and they become one with and take on the name of their husband.

This covenant relationship with His people was in God's heart from the very beginning.

Jeremiah 31.31

“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord.

God assumed His relationship with His chosen people as their husband. But His chosen people were unfaithful to Him and broke His covenant.

Christians today rejoice and revel in the promise that Christ is coming back again for His bride at the end of the age.

Revelation 19.7

Let us rejoice and be glad and give glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. And it was given to her to clothe yourself in fine linen, bright and clean, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

As exciting as His return will be, let's not forget, as this scripture states, He's returning for His righteous bride who has made herself ready for Him.

Revelation 21.2

I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21.9

Come here, and I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great in high-mountain, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God, having the glory of God.

Christ's bride will be filled with the glory of God.

Do you remember in the Exodus 33.18 when Moses asked God to show me Your glory?

Do you remember how God responded?

He said I'll make all my goodness pass before you and I will speak my name to you.

God's glory is his goodness.

Do you remember what God said when He passed over him? It wasn't, I am the God of all authority, the all-powerful, and the all-knowing One.

In chapter 34 Verse 6, God proclaimed His name.

The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in loving kindness and truth, who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sins..

God never intended a master-slave relationship or some form of religious homage. His heart from the beginning was to make us one with Him. He recreated us from our fallen condition. He made us one with Him. He gave us His Holy Spirit to fill us with His eternal, supernatural nature.

Now the previous Covenant was binding upon all marriage relationships.

Paul states in Romans 7.1 that

The law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives. For the married woman is bound by the law to her husband while he is living, but if her husband dies she is released from the law concerning her husband. So then if, while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress, but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man.

Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead that we might bear fruit for God.

When they were Jews, the early Christians were bound by the law.

When they accepted their death and resurrection with Christ, they were set free from the obligation of the law. This allowed them to be joined to Christ in an eternal covenant relationship.

This new relationship was not a new restrictive law, but a liberating spiritual relationship with God.

Verse 6.

But now we have been released from the law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in the newness of the spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.

God gave the Jews the law to hem them in. So that they wouldn't be like the rest of the tribes on the Earth. So they could be God's possession, receive their Messiah and manifest His life to the entire Earth.

Everything about the old covenant pictured God establishing this relationship with his people. It was like the picture of the husband to come. Christ actually came to be that husband. So that we could be one with God and bear fruit from that union with Him.

His chosen people didn't receive Him.

God said, about his chosen people, they are a rebellious and stiff-necked people.

Jealousy is the flip side of love. If someone gets between a man and his wife, jealousy is the reaction. It's a very strong reaction. The man who comes between them, often gets his teeth knocked out.

In James 4.4 Amp,

You are like unfaithful wives, having illicit love affairs with the world and breaking your marriage vow to God. Do you not know that being the world's friend is being God's enemy? So whoever chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God.

God does not want this world to come between our relationship with him.

Verse 5.

Or do you suppose that the scripture is speaking to no purpose that says, the spirit whom He has caused to dwell in us yearns over us and yearns for the spirit to be welcomed with a jealous love?

God's spirit yearns for us with a jealous love of a husband.

Jesus said in John 15.16,

You did not choose me, but I chose you....

Let's look at 1 Corinthians 6.13

It says food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.

Verse 17.

The one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Verse 19

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

For you have been bought with a price therefore glorify God in your body.

In the very beginning of his relationship with His people, God show them how this Covenant relationship was to be.

Deuteronomy 6.5

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

In a covenant relationship, everything that one person has and everything they are is available to the other person.

God wants our heart, our soul, and all of our strength. It's a complete and total giving of ourselves to Him. It's our spirit, our soul, and our body given to Him.

God's not looking for us to work for Him. He's not after our religious activities.

He wants to love us like a loving husband, and have an eternal spiritual relationship with Him.

He just wants us, but the rub is, that He wants all of us.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

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