

Church Upward: The Bride in Heaven

(based on Tim Howey's message from The Church series)

Are you upward-focused, **Rev 19:1-9**?

Four phases of marriage = proposal, engagement, wedding, marriage, **Mat 22:30**. Former marriages end when we become the bride of Christ.

Jesus PROPOSES when you hear the Gospel

- Essentials of the gospel = **1Cor 2:2**, Jesus Christ and Him crucified. If you understand that, Jesus has proposed to you.
- Did you receive His proposal, **1Cor 15:1**?

You get ENGAGED to Jesus when you accept Him

- Jesus is preparing a place for you and all believers, **John 14:1-6**.
- Jesus is preparing you along with all His followers for Himself, **Eph 5:25-27**. Christ loves the church and **gave Himself** for the church. He cleanses her with the washing of water by the Word to present her to Himself. She will be holy (*different like Jesus*) and without blemish.
- Are you cooperating with His preparations by allowing the Holy Spirit to work in you as you spend time in His Word?

Jesus and His Bride, the Church will have a WEDDING

- Are you preparing for the wedding by growing more like Him **Rev 19:7-9**?
- God the Father is throwing the party. Jesus is the groom. The Church (*including you if you are a Christ-follower*) is the bride.
- The marriage of the Lamb has come.
- Our white clothing is a gift of God. (*Judgment seat of Christ has already happened.*)

Jesus and the Church will live as HUSBAND and WIFE

- Read **Rev 21:1-12**.
- holy city = New Jerusalem (as big as $\frac{1}{2}$ the continental U.S.),
- As His bride, we won't need to focus on the past, **Isa 65:17**.
- the bride = the Lamb's wife,
- a great and high mountain, the great city, the holy Jerusalem, refers to New Jerusalem as her and she
- We will worship Him and serve with Him in utter joy. We will all live in spiritual intimacy with Him and with one another (*total love and intimacy of the soul*).
- All members will be brothers and sisters in Christ without the former human relationships such as spouses, parents/children.
- the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" **Rev 22:17**

Questions from Jesus

BELIEVER / CHRIST-FOLLOWER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are you preparing for Me or are you cheating on Me, Col 1:15-19?• Am I first in your life?
NON-BELIEVER	Would you marry me/accept me as your Lord and Savior, Rev 3:20 ?

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