

The Bride Who Still Turns Heads

2 Corinthians 11:1-4

God gives us several word pictures to explain his relationship with us through the church: branch (Jn 15), stone (1 Pet 2), and body (1 Cor. 12). Perhaps the most used on is the church as the bride of Christ. This is the world's most beautiful love story.

Illustration of bride on her wedding day—most beautiful woman in the world. But what does she look like after a few years? After children? After aging? To her husband she's the most beautiful woman in the world. Here are five concepts about the beautiful bride of Christ.

1. Husband and wife are made to be one body

2 Cor. 11:2 For I have betrothed you to one husband

Matthew 19:4-6 ***and the two shall become one flesh?***

Both are different but made to be one (hard to see one w/o other)

Can't have church without Christ: he is the point!

2. Our home is with Jesus (Residence)

Hut or mansion, there is no place I'd rather be than with you

John 14:1-6, Rev. 21:2, 9

What makes heaven beautiful is who will be there

3. Jesus radically loves the church (Intimacy)

Jewish marriage custom: agree to marriage/dowry/wait

John 3:29, Eph. 5:22-33. Submission, cherishes, nurtures, protects

More than obligation (beloved in Song of Songs)

4. Spiritual purity matters (Defend)

Affairs start innocently, talk, listen, share

2 Corinthians 11:2. Revelation 19:7

Old Testament is full of spiritual adultery (Hosea)

James 4:4

5. Our righteous acts are adornments (Elegance)

Revelation 19:8

Our lives show our appreciation to Jesus