

The Church as the Bride of Christ
“Here Comes the Bridegroom!”
Selected Scriptures

On this fifth and final Sunday in our series on the church, our focus is to see the church as the Bride of Christ. This metaphor is more eschatological than the others in that the church is anticipating the return of the Bridegroom for His bride to consummate the marriage and celebrate what Scripture refers to as the “Marriage Supper of the Lamb.” (Revelation 19:9) While this is a vast subject, my prayer is that God will open our eyes and our hearts, enabling us to see as never before these magnificent truths God has revealed to us in his Word.

**PROGRESSIVE REVELATION IN THE
OLD TESTAMENT**

- God initiated an unconditional _____ relationship with Abraham and his descendants. (Genesis 12:1-4)
- God chose _____ to model the unconditional qualities He brings to His _____ with His people. (Hosea 2:19-20)
- God rejoices over His people the way a _____ rejoices over his bride. (Isaiah 62:5; Zephaniah 3:17)

INSTRUCTIVE INSIGHTS FROM THE GOSPELS

- John the Baptist identified Jesus as the Bridegroom and rejoiced that he was simply the Bridegroom’s _____ (John 3:27-30)
- Jesus _____ Himself as the Bridegroom in answering a question by John the Baptist’s _____ disciples. (Matthew 9:14-15)
- Jesus’ parable of the ten virgins teaches us that while the Bridegroom may _____, we are to be ready and faithfully watch for His return. (Matthew 25:1-13; II Peter 3:3-4, 8-10)

UNDERSTANDING OUR CURRENT SITUATION

- As the betrothed Bride of Christ, the church is to maintain an unadulterated devotion to Him as we _____ for His return. (II Corinthians 11:2-3)
- The “Marriage Supper of the Lamb” will indeed come and usher in a time of unparalleled _____ for the Bridegroom as He returns for and rejoices over His blood-bought bride. (Revelation 19:6-9; Hebrews 12:2; I Thessalonians 4:16-18)

- As the Bride of Christ, we will see as never before the grandeur of the Gospel and forever delight in the eternal, immeasurable love our Bridegroom has for us in choosing us as His _____ bride. (Romans 5:18-20; II Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 5:25-27; Isaiah 61:10)