

The Mystery of the Church

Scripture

“So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord [does] the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife [see] that she respects [her] husband.” (Eph 5:28-33 NKJV)

Devotion

Yesterday we looked at submission and the roles of husbands and wives. Today let’s look briefly at the mystery of the church as spoken of in the above passage.

God uses the one-flesh relationship between husband and wife to illustrate His relationship to the church, a former mystery. The term mystery refers to some truth formerly unknown not something incomprehensible. It speaks to the intimate relationship God has with us, how He loves, nourishes, and cherishes us. My dear friends this is something to celebrate.

O’ that we could comprehend the wonders of His grace. Let us stop today and ponder the depth of His love for us.

“ . . . God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised [us] up together, and made [us] sit together in the heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in [His] kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God” (Eph 2:4-8 NKJV).

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.” (1Jo 4:18 NKJV)

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit” (1Jo 4:10-13 NKJV).

Do you have that intimate relationship with God that causes you to cry out Abba Father (Gal 4:6)? If you do, the Scriptures say, “Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ” (Gal 4:7 NKJV).

Surely such grace deserves our loyalty. Like a wife who lovingly submits to her husband’s leadership, let us submit to Christ for He has loved us with a perfect love.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky

—*The Love of God*, Frederick Martin Lehman