

A Stunning Bride

19 - 2 Peter: A Blazing Faith
Sunday, 24 August 2013 | Church on the Park

Text: 2 Peter 3:11-12

Theme: Throughout history the church has been the most persecuted and criticized group on earth, but God has not forsaken her because she is his bride.

Intro: Last week we discovered that Jesus is **returning** to take his bride and **establish** his Kingdom on earth. This week we will study what it means to be God's **people** in this **present** age—a people that “**look** forward to the day of God and **speed** its coming” (2 Pet. 3:12).

Testimony: I woke up early **Monday morning** at about 3am with a burden to **pray** for our **church** as well as the coming **birth** of our daughter (God even led me to pray for Egypt). Regarding the birth, I was quite **anxious** about how everything would come **together**, especially if Anna went into labour at the **midnight** hour. Through everything that happened God gave me this **message** about his church.

This week I saw the church in **action** and God **stirred** my heart with this message. I want to answer the question of **who** God's people are, **what** they do, **why** God has chosen them and **how** they accomplish God's will.

First, I'd like to say I'm **not** talking about the church as a **building, institution** or **corporation**. I'm meaning the **church** as **God's people**, transcending time, building, institutions and denominations. I want to lay down a healthy **doctrine** of the church and provide **four solid foundational stones** of who we are.

What is the church?

The church is a people **called** by God in order to **call** on the Father and **call** the world to come to his Son, Jesus. We are **called** out of darkness into light in order to be a **caring** family that has a **commission** to make disciples of our Master, Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our purpose is to be a witness of the coming age of righteousness in this present age of darkness.

How is this possible? Paul said, “Who is sufficient for these things?” (2 Cor. 2:16)

Four Solid Foundational Stones of the Church

Bride ---> Home ---> Family ---> Army

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Royal Bride</u></p> <p>Jesus the kingly Bridegroom desired us, sought us, purchased us and called us to be his bride.</p> <p>1 Pet. 2:9-10; Rev. 1:5b-6; John 3:29, Rev. 19:7; Rev. 21:2, 9; Rev. 22:17; Psa. 45</p> <p>When we see and embrace Christ as our Bridegroom (who is passionately in love with us and is coming to save us from this present evil world) we will live as his bride—godly, holy and longing for him.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>A Holy House</u></p> <p>Jesus is our Great High Priest who sacrificed his life so that we could be his holy temple where his presence resides. We are a house of prayer, calling on our heavenly Father and calling all nations to his Son.</p> <p>Heb. 3:6, 10:21; Rev. 1:5b-6; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; Matt. 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-48; Rev. 21:1-4</p> <p>A revelation of Jesus as our Great High Priest who sacrificed his life for us will cause us to pour our lives to serve him and his house.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>A Caring Family</u></p> <p>Our loving Father puts the lonely into his family so that we can care for one another.</p> <p>Ps. 68:5-6; 1 Pet. 1:22; 1 Cor. 12:24-25; 1 Pet. 4:7-11; Rom. 12:10; 1 Pet. 2:17</p> <p>Knowing the Father’s heart and love enables us to care for his family. We see that we are part of a family with fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>A Commissioned Army</u></p> <p>Jesus is our Lord and Commander and he has commissioned us to preach and make disciples of all nations.</p> <p>Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:45-49; Acts 1:7-8; 2 Tim. 2:1-4</p> <p>God is not just our Father but the King of kings who is on a mission to bring and raise up spiritual warriors for his Kingdom. When you have a revelation of Christ as a warrior you will join him on his mission.</p>

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