

The Wedding

Posted by Dr. Gary H. Cote on December 3, 2003

As many of you know, my daughter Sarah was married on November 29th, a blessed event of ceremony and celebration before the eyes of God and man. The participants were ready and they presented themselves at the appropriate hour to bear witness. There was much preparation from many people for the wedding and for the reception banquet that followed. The day came when the vows were executed, the pledges were stated, and the festivities of joy began. Their life as one had now begun.

A wedding is a sacred event as a man and woman commit their life to each other and to God Almighty as one. The marriage covenant is priceless because it reflects the intent, the heart, of God. God created Adam and then Eve to be Adam's helpmate, his partner, his perfect companion. This union ordained by God revealed God's plan. God has implemented a perfect plan to bring forth a perfect union between God and man; He did this, He accomplished this, He completes this, in Christ Jesus.

God revealed that there is a marriage ceremony and celebration that is set for a future day in the heavens when the Bride of Christ shall be one with her husband, i.e., Christ Jesus. There is a marriage supper that is being prepared. There is a great banquet that is to be enjoyed that all are invited, but not all are responding to the invitation. Revelation 19:7-9 records, "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ... Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!...These are true sayings of God."

The Church is the Bride of Christ. The Church that God is bringing forth is perfect and spotless, hence the white dress that is worn by brides everywhere. The veil aptly illustrates the covering that will one day be fully removed, and the kiss of bliss takes place, followed by consummation where the two become as one. This is not mere tradition handed down from past ages. This is not culture at work, i.e., just the way we Americans do weddings. This is Christ at work, and godly men and women of time past understood the eternal marriage union of God and man established in Christ. Marriage is more than two people trying to work things out. Marriages illustrate the plan of God, and our individual marriage relationships usually reflect the way we relate with God. Hence, the admonishment in Ephesians 5 to live out our marriages as unto God.

Many attempt to misconstrue this blessed event. Today, many dismiss marriage as mere formality, or they diminish its importance by ignoring God's presence, or they discredit its sacredness by perversion seeking same gender approval. Many people today treat their marriages

with low-rated importance. This should not be so. Live out your lives under the loving eyes of God, being faithful to the one we are betrothed to, knowing that we are in the times of preparation for a great banquet, a fabulous marriage union that will be filled with eternal and dynamic joy, peace, and love.

May the Lord grant all wisdom and grace to receive this message and live out its purpose!