



SESSION

11

THE GREAT MYSTERY AND DESTINY

*A MARRIAGE
MADE IN HEAVEN*

INTRODUCTION

In this present age, maintaining or growing relationships is a constant struggle. Friendships falter, many marriages crumble, and all of us have difficulty listening to God or “abiding” in Jesus every day. But it will not always be so. The time is coming when we will enjoy being close to one another (without sin) and breathtakingly close to God—eternally! We begin today by reading about the wedding that’s in store for us.

NOTES

Watch the DVD
and record your
thoughts here.

THE BACKSTORY

Let's turn to the ultimate authority, the Bible, for our starting point. Read individually or as a group:

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

—*Revelation 19:6-9*

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

—*Ephesians 5:31-32*

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. . . . Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

—1 Peter 4:7-8, 12-13

You might also want to read:
Matthew 22:1-4; 2 Corinthians 11:2.

Use the blank lines below the discussion questions to record your initial thoughts, questions, and whatever God might be saying to you through the video, so you can review and reflect on all of this later.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. In what ways does human marriage reflect the church's present and future relationship with Christ? How does this affect your thoughts or feelings toward marriage?

2. What does this "marriage" of Christ and His people say about how close He wants to be to us? By what means are you and your family pursuing such a relationship with Him here and now?

3. How would you describe our responsibility to join with other believers throughout time and space in preparing the bride for the marriage supper?

4. What are you willing to do to defend your family (and families in general) in an increasingly hostile culture? Tell us what you expect Christians to possibly face in your lifetime. How can you help persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ in other countries?

5. How might Christians' living more intentionally by God's design in their marriages and as parents affect the society around them? Can you share any examples of this, either personally or from families you've observed?

ONE STEP

Think of and write down at least one practical thing you can do tomorrow as a result of today's session.

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WRAP-UP

Good things are coming for the people of God. No wedding or wedding reception you ever attended, including your own, can measure up to that happy day when we will celebrate ultimate victory with Jesus and sit down for an unimaginable feast. In the meantime, we have to stay faithful and endure much hostility on behalf of Christ, which may even affect our own families.