

DOES
CHRIST
HAVE A WIFE
OR IS THE
WIFE OF CHRIST
A MISNOMER?

Ben Howard

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Misnomer is a Word that Counts

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DOES CHRIST HAVE A WIFE, OR IS THE WIFE OF CHRIST A MISNOMER?

Misnomer is a Word that Counts

Today I am going to be reading in several places in the Word of God; but I want to bring in a few things first in leading up to my main text scripture, which is in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12. There are so many good things in this one chapter that are so wonderful and refreshing—and it deals with us, the body of Christ. So I want to take a thought that may sound a little strange and entitle it, *Does Christ Have a Wife, Or is the Wife of Christ a Misnomer?* This message will be very profitable to us; because it shows the revelation of what God is doing as He shapes our mentality here at the time of the resurrection and the physical translation of our mortal bodies, just before the rapture. Now let's pray before beginning our message.

Heavenly Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we come to you with praise, thanking you for your love, goodness, and mercy upon us. And we praise you for the mighty work that you are doing in this hour in 'the Word whose time has come and is being fulfilled,' where we are expecting miracles every day, expecting the moving of your Spirit, and expecting leadership in a vivid way. And, Lord, you haven't disappointed us. And we praise you and thank you for leading us and guiding us by thy Spirit. Lord, we pray, that you will take this Word and use it for your glory. Amen.

Many times I don't have a thought on what I am going to preach until I step out and start preaching; and then a thought will come and it will begin to grow. But occasionally a thought will come to me ahead of time. That is what happened when this word *misnomer* came to my mind. I immediately knew what it meant; even though I don't believe I have ever heard it used before. A thought began to form in my mind, and I said to my wife, "I plan to preach on, *Does Christ have a Wife, Or is the Wife of Christ a Misnomer?*" She looked at me rather strangely and asked, "Who is Miss Nomer?" She thought I was talking about someone named Miss Nomer. I said, "No, it's not the name of a person; it is a word, and it means, 'a wrong or inaccurate use of a name when referring to a person, a thing, or a term.'" In other words

misnaming. She looked up the word to see for herself what it meant; and sure enough it meant exactly what came to me. Then she got a good laugh out of asking me, "Who is Miss Nomer?"

Now this word *misnomer* is a word that really counts; especially when speaking of who we are here at the end time. And the reason I'm using this word *misnomer* is because many times it is said, "We are the wife of Christ," when in fact, we are Christ the wife. And now, more than ever, we realize the statement of 'we are the wife of Christ' is a misnomer. This means if we say, "We are the wife of Christ," while identifying our position as Christ the wife, we are actually using the wrong wording or terminology. While on the other hand, if we say, 'we are the wife of the Lamb,' or 'the Lamb's wife,' or 'the wife of the Son of God,' then we are one hundred percent correct in our statement in identifying who we are as the wife.

In the Book of Acts, Chapter 9, Paul was struck down by a bright light; and by revelation he knew that this bright light was Christ the anointing, which had become part of the man Jesus, who was the Word made flesh. So when Paul accepted Jesus, the Son of God, through Christ the Mighty Light, he began to call Him *Christ*, or *Christ Jesus*, which was the revelational new name of the anointed Savior. It was soon after this great event that Paul began to speak of those that accepted his very own God-given message as 'the virgin who was to become the wife of the Lamb.'

Here, I want to say that this Christ anointing contained both the masculine and feminine attributes, as does God in His nature as the creator of both male and female. The Lord Jesus Christ had the same attributes in Him, also. God put these attributes in Adam, His created Son. Later, upon creating Adam's wife, God removed the feminine attributes from Adam and placed them within Eve. Thus leaving Adam with all the male attributes and Eve with the feminine attributes. So God then had a son with a wife, and they could come together in the intimate love-making way that made the female the flesh and bones of the male. This is the same with the body of Christ as we have become flesh and bone with our Husband as we are the feminine part of Jesus, the Lamb of God. When we received the baptism into the spiritual body of Christ, this trumpet message caused us to become bone of His bone, and flesh of His flesh, in our marriage to the Lamb.

The revelation of the mystery of marriage began to shine through in Paul's writing in the Book of 2 Corinthians 11:2-3 as he spoke of the virgin that he had espoused to our Lord Jesus Christ. But it wasn't until he wrote the Book of Ephesians, Chapter 5, Verses 30-32, that he began to project (or prophesy) about the virgin becoming the married wife of God's Son. And it is here that we begin to see what God had in His mind for the joy of His only begotten Son, and His Son's wife.

After Paul's prophecy about this, some thirty years down the road, God used John to write the Book of Revelation; and he began to show a furtherance of the mystery of marriage, starting in Revelation 10:1, as Christ the Mighty Angel came down from heaven in the fullness of His Spirit and brought to His espoused virgin the little book for the marriage. Then in Verses 8-10 of this same chapter, God spoke from heaven with the Voice of Authorization and told us to go to the angel and ask for the little book. We did; and we were given the little book, and we ate it up. And the marriage was on, as we were baptized into the fullness of the body of Christ as the wife. And we took our place in God's plan and began to speak (prophecy) for our Husband as seen in Revelation 10:11 and Ephesians 4:13-16, thus our joy is complete. The same Christ that had become one with Jesus, anointing Him as the Lamb of God, has now anointed us, which made for this high calling, the wife of the Lamb. (Revelation 19:7-8)

The Apostle Paul was looking at this through a glass darkly (or in part) and he began to write about it. And one of the outstanding chapters that he wrote is 2 Corinthians, Chapter 3, where he said, "*Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.*" He started this process by the Word for the espoused virgin, which was the body of Christ that had begun to form in his day, by showing that this Word was to be written in their hearts. This was foreshadowing the little book of Revelation, Chapter 10, which could not be written in their hearts, because it is only for *we which are alive and remain* to be changed—although they did get to eat of it during the seven church ages, by God sending a messenger to each age to give them the Word for that age in order to give them resurrection power to come forth. But we which are alive and remain ate the little book up, showing that we took possession of it by

becoming one with it, and we are now sounding forth the last trumpet of 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.

Now let's read our text scripture in the Book of 1 Corinthians 12:12-13. It says, *"For as the body is one,"* This is not talking about all the different religious groups that say, "We believe in Christ;" not knowing that in order to believe in Christ, they have to recognize who Christ is first, and that there is only one faith when dealing with the wife of the Lamb. Again, Verse 12, *"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ."* We want to take this literally, 'so also is Christ.' Verse 13, *"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."* Now watch. Paul is introducing something here that is so different from what Peter, James, John, and the other apostles to Israel brought; although all who are born again have their place in the eternal Kingdom of God. But we see what Peter, James, and John said to Paul in Galatians 2:9, *"And when James, Cephas (Peter), and John, who seemed to be pillars (of the Jewish church), perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen (the Gentiles), and they unto the circumcision (the Jews)."* In other words, they were saying, "Paul, what you have is a work of God; but it's not for us, because it is a different message, a different working of God." God sent Paul outside the realm of the twelve Jewish apostles, because his work was different. That is why Paul was not at Jerusalem with the twelve apostles on the day of Pentecost. It was later that Christ struck him down on the way to Damascus. And Paul even had a different mentality when speaking of Christ and the Kingdom of God than what Peter, James, and John had.

In Acts, Chapter 3, we find Peter speaking about the coming of the Lord. Notice, he is telling them about His coming as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, to reign on this earth. (John shows this same coming of the Lord in Revelation 19:16.) So Peter said, in Verses 20-21, *"And he (God) shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive (hold) until the times of restitution of all of things (this is the starting of the millennium), which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."* Well, that is one hundred percent truth. Paul also spoke about this coming of the Lord Jesus; but prior to the Lord's coming as the King, he spoke about a

spiritual coming, a mystery (a secret), a catching away, in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-57, where the wife goes up to meet her Husband at the throne—which is the rapture. And we see that neither Peter nor any of the other eleven apostles speak about this secret spiritual coming as Paul did.

Let's continue our reading in 1 Corinthians 12:27. It says, "*Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*" Notice that what he is saying here is different than what he says in Ephesians 5:30-33. Here, Paul takes 'ye are the body of Christ' further by saying, '*ye are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.*' Now this is different from just being born again; even though one has to be born again to be this. This revelation takes us beyond espousal unto marriage—and the Word calls us *the wife of the Lamb*, who is taken up to the throne of God before the onset of the great tribulation.

So does Christ have a wife? No, Christ *is* the wife. So it is a misnomer to say, "We are the wife of Christ;" but it is not when we say, "We are the wife of the Lamb." That is the right wording in describing who we are. This puts a new light on our position in God's plan. Now we can see why I am using the word *misnomer*. I thought it would be good to help us to appreciate who we are as the wife of God's own Son, now that we have come more into the perfect knowledge of being the Lamb's wife.

Now with this perfect knowledge, by revelation we know that John was a 'type only' of the wife of the Lamb until we came through the Tenth Chapter of the Book of Revelation and that part of God's plan was fulfilled. (That is where the Mighty Angel came down and brought us the little book. And the Mighty Angel showed us Christ in the fullness of His anointing that was just waiting to take on flesh and bones by our baptism into the Spirit of this message of the trump of God; thus making us the wife of the Son of God.) So John was still a type of the wife for a short season, until the eating up of the little book had taken place, which completed our marriage. But after we ate the little book, that type ends; and now there is no need for someone to represent us. Because if we stay with the type, and we keep saying, "John is a representative for us,"—then that certainly is a misnomer. There is no way that can be; because now we are the *wife of the Lamb*. We are not John, because John fades out of the picture as a representative of the wife, which shows that part of John's work is

finished. And now there is no further need for John to be a representative for us, because now it is just Husband and wife.

So now the wife is here, and we will never again need anyone except our Husband to represent us, because of our marriage to the Lamb. When the little book was given to us, we knew that it was the Word sent from heaven—that special part of the Word that Jesus was created from; and it caused us to become members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones, thus making us perfect in one. No longer are we twain, but one Spirit and one flesh. This is what happened when we ate that little book—we became one, just as the Father and His Son are one. Thus we are part of the glorified man Jesus our Lord, who now glorifies our flesh and bones. After this, we no longer see John as being a type of us, the wife of the Lamb. We are the original, and here we are today. So there is no need for anyone, except our Husband whom we have become one with as the perfect man, to stand beside us.

Now let's read in the Book of Ephesians, Chapter 5, starting with Verse 30. It says, *"For we (the Christ wife) are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones."* Now I want you to watch a truth here. Here in Verse 30, Paul doesn't say that 'we are members of the body of Christ;' but he says, 'we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones'—which is the perfect man of Ephesians 4:13. Let's compare this with what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 12:12-13. It says, *"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."* And in doing so, we see that the Word has grown from being just members of the body of Christ (the Spirit and the anointing from the Lord Jesus) to being members of the perfect man. This means we are now perfectly one with the Lord Jesus our Husband. Take special note, for this scripture says, *"For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones."* In other words, the body of Christ took on another form—of His flesh and of His bones. And once we became His flesh and bones, we recognized that we were a part of the same Word that Jesus Christ was created from. Verse 31, *"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife (He begins to call her wife.), and they two shall be one flesh."* That means we are the same flesh and bones of our Lord

Jesus, making us His Christ. (Ephesians 4:13-16, Revelation 11:15, and Revelation 19:7-8)

In the Book of Matthew 1:21, and Luke 1:31-33, it shows the Word being spoken to a virgin named Mary, which began the process of forming the Word child in Mary's womb, and nine months later she brought forth a Son, just as the angel Gabriel said unto her, "*Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*" Then in the Book of John 1:1-2, here is John giving witness of Jesus Christ, saying, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.*" John takes us further in the Word in Verse 14 of this same chapter, showing the Word going from the Spirit into the flesh and bones, saying, "*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*" Notice, *the Word was made flesh* (And we, as part of that same Word, became bone of His bone, and flesh of His flesh.) Paul is speaking about the *same Word made flesh* here in Ephesians 5:30-31; and he is speaking of the wife, using Adam and Eve as an example to show us what God had in His mind at the beginning.

Verse 30 again, "*For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.*" Now it is very important for us to understand this before we move on in this message. Do we believe that we are bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh? Then that makes us part of the *same flesh and bones* of the Lord Jesus Christ. Meaning that we are both the spiritual Christ with the added flesh and bones, as members of His body.

As was said earlier, Paul was getting a little glimpse of this when he said, "You are the epistles of Christ, written and read of all men; not written with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. The letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life." Paul was planting a seed that would grow into the Word that we now have, which becomes flesh and bones in our marriage to the King, the Lord Jesus Christ, our Husband. This all happened because we ate the little book up; and by revelation, we can affirmatively say, "We are now bone of His bone, and flesh of His flesh." And that denotes one thing and one thing only—that is wife. God used those words in the beginning. When Adam saw Eve, he said,

"This is *now* bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh;" for her spirit was in Adam from the beginning, showing that we were a part of Christ when God created this anointing at the beginning. And this anointing took on flesh and bones. This makes us one with the Lord, and makes us His Christ, as we see in Revelation 11:15 and Revelation 19:7-8. Praise be to God for His love for us!

Continuing with Ephesians 5:32; it says, "*This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*" Now the espoused virgin had to develop into this place of being members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. At first, when she heard Paul's message and received the Holy Ghost by the Word that Paul brought, she was engaged or espoused to the Lord Jesus Christ and received many mighty blessings. But it is only when the espoused virgin is baptized into the fullness of the body of Christ that she is recognized as Christ the wife. And this did not take place until we ate up the little book—because the little book of Revelation, Chapter 10, was the Word for the creating of the wife of the Lamb, as both legs of Christ's spiritual coming took place.

As we have received the revelation of these things about the wife, our thoughts are turned to our Husband, the man Jesus the Christ, who walked up to the tomb of a dead man and raised him. We find this great miracle in the Book of John, Chapter 11, of a resurrection that took place as Jesus went to the tomb of Lazarus, and He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" That was the Christ in the man Jesus Christ calling for a resurrection; and it took place. It was the Christ in Him that did this miracle. And now it is the same Christ that brings on the resurrection for the dead members of the wife through us here at the end time, as Christ the wife speaks the Word and says unto them, "Come forth!" And they will do exactly like Lazarus, as Christ speaks the Word once again and a resurrection takes place in our very day and in our very hour. Our faith, which is the faith of the Son of God, will call them forth from the grave.

We all talk about Peter and Paul raising the dead; but no, they didn't, because they couldn't raise the dead, but it was the Christ in them doing the work. Likewise, we (the Christ wife) speak the Word, and a resurrection takes place. That is why we are seeing healing and many other miracles. Remember the leaves of the tree of life, which now has taken on (or has become) flesh and bones as the wife of the Lamb, is producing this healing as we are bearing our fruits. We see that in

Ezekiel 47:12, where the prophet of God speaks about the leaves of this tree being used for medicine. Then in Revelation 22:2, we see that John points all the way over into eternity with the Word that says the leaves are for the healing of the nations.

Again, let me say that being born again (or being saved, as some people call it), or being filled with the Holy Ghost, doesn't make someone the wife of the Lamb; because there are two legs (two parts) of the spiritual coming of the Lord. The first leg of the coming showed Christ coming as the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, and that gave part of God's own life and connected the believers to the very eternal life that has always been. But that doesn't make someone the wife. For it took a different message for the wife, which was only the espoused virgin at the time that Paul preached. Paul came with a message to espouse (engage) a virgin to the Lord Jesus Christ by the Word for that day, just as we are married to Him here at the second leg of His coming in His fullness in this day by this trumpet message. Now the marriage has taken place in our day. Paul also wrote about this in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, saying, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, at the last trump, for the trumpet of God shall sound, and the dead shall rise, and we shall be changed."

Someone said to me recently, "Are you saying that we don't have to die?" I answered simply by asking this question, "Do you believe in a rapture?" And the answer was, "Oh, yes, I believe in a rapture." Then I said, "Do you believe it is near?" Again, the answer was, "I believe it is so near that one can almost taste it." I said, "Then what is going to happen to the living saints?" And I was told, "Well, naturally, they will be changed." And then I asked, "Are you saying that they don't have to die?" He paused for a moment, then answered, "Now I see what you are saying." Yes, we are that group that is living, that is alive and has remained till His coming. And we are rejoicing and shouting the victory!

Now in order to see the perfect man, the Lord Jesus Christ, then just look at the wife, just look at His Christ; because we have all His attributes and gifts. And Christ the wife is going to call the other predestinated members of His wife from their graves, just like Jesus Christ did Lazarus. And as said earlier, it wasn't Jesus the man that did that. Jesus was thirty years old and had never done one single miracle that we are aware of. He knew the Word; because He was the

Word. He went into the temple when He was about twelve years old and the Pharisees and the Sadducees asked Him questions, and He confounded them by answering them, and then asking them questions they couldn't answer. How? Because He was the Word. But that Word didn't come alive in the sense of producing the purpose of God until God anointed that seed; then that life blossomed forth. So it was Christ in Him when He walked up to the tomb and said, "Lazarus, come forth!" And Lazarus came forth alive again. And now that same Christ is in the earth today as the wife of the Lamb.

So the trumpet of God is sounding, and only the wife of the Lamb is hearing this sound, because the wife is the only one that can hear this trumpet by revelation. Glory to God! What is the trumpet? It is this message. This trumpet that you are hearing is sounding out right now, and through it Christ will raise the dead. Who is Christ? Christ is the wife of the Lamb, and will call forth from the dead the other members, which are members of His flesh and of His bones through marriage.

Let's go to Revelation, Chapter 11, Verse 15; it says, "*And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ* (The kingdom is ours; for we are fellow heirs with the one that owns it. We are co-owners of the whole kingdom. He redeemed it and He shares it with us.); and he shall reign for ever and ever." Notice, it says, "The Lord, and His Christ." Now who is Christ? We know who the Lord is. There is no question. Jesus said, "If you call me Lord, then do what I say." He is the Lord. And while He walked here, He was the Lord Jesus Christ. But here in Revelation, Chapter 11, we see by the scripture the Lord coming with His Christ (His anointed), which had been raptured before the great tribulation period took place. He is the Lord; and God gave Him a wife, and that is His Christ wife.

Now before closing, I want to say again, there is one faith. All the members of the wife have one faith, as we are one and have one mind. Yes, we are baptized into the fullness of the body of Christ, thereby making us members of His flesh and of His bones, moving us (from glory to glory) from just being spiritual members of the body of Christ to the glorified flesh and bones. That is why we are not tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, because we are one in Him.

Since we are here in the Book of Revelation, let's go to Chapter 19, Verses 7-8 (while keeping in mind Revelation 11:15, 'the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord, and His Christ'). It says, *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."* Now watch—"And His wife hath made herself ready. And to her it was granted that she (and only her; nobody else) should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." So we can say that we are the wife of the Son of God.

So does Christ have a wife, or is the wife of Christ a misnomer? If we say, 'we are the body of Christ, married to Christ;' well, that is a misnomer. We are Christ the wife, married to the Lamb. So in Revelation 11:15, it says, "The Lord, and His Christ," and that settles it. We are the wife of the Lamb and are rejoicing in Him! God bless you. Amen

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