



## **SAFE HARBOR**

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### **Words of Encouragement**

Too often we tend to forget the imagery of the Bride and Bridegroom relationship as between God and his faithful people. As found in Genesis and affirmed by Jesus this image is one that gives the true picture of faith in our relationship with God. Adam says, *“At last this is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh”*, recalling the previous words of the Creator, *“Let us make man in our likeness”*. And so the Bride of Christ is one flesh with him. Left behind is the old nature and after cleansing is the robing in garments white and pure.

The joining together in marriage is indicative of the new relationship brought about by the new birth. Just as the people were brought out of Egypt and became a new nation in union with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob so too are the ones called to Christ brought out of the world of sin into full communion with their Lord and Savior. It is a relationship that requires the ultimate in intimacy. As Jesus prayed, *“The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”* It stands in marked contrast to the superficiality of the religion who take the name Christ but never allow for the unique joining of God and flesh by faith with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Yet many people who profess faith do not seem to realize the importance of viewing new life in Christ in terms of marriage.

First, marriage is an action of faith by both parties. Each must believe that the other will remain faithful and true to their relationship. This faith then requires action. The marriage vows traditionally spell out the actions that go into making a lasting relationship. Hence is the similarity to the Biblical concept of Covenant.

Secondly it is a matter of intimacy. Literally becoming part of each other, Sharing joys, sorrows, disappointments, triumphs, fears, hopes and dreams. It is going deeper into each other. The hymn words, *“Sweet will of God, Still fold me closer. Until I am fully lost in thee”* is the dynamic of Christian Faith as we revel in being one with God.

Thirdly, it is an everlasting covenant. The traditional wedding vows, “Til death we do part” deal with our human existence. Our spiritual existence as part of the Bride of Christ transcends the physical to the spiritual realm. The dedication of faith to maintain our part in the relationship must persevere and rise above all temptations to wander. Paul writes about Demas saying, “Demas has left us having loved (agape) the world. God does not remove himself from this marriage relationship but there is a danger that we might if not careful.

So when we understand the picture of marriage in relation to the Biblical image of being the Bride of Christ we may grow in faith, hope and love with the coming together with God, finding ourselves being made complete (perfect) in Him.

## *Words to Live By*

### **Ephesians 5:7-13 English Standard Version (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> Therefore do not become partners with them; <sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

## *Just a Thought*

Jerusalem is the city from which peace emanates. In its name Salem is the Hebrew for peace. Jeru might be best translated as sending forth. Hence when we pray for the “peace of Jerusalem”, we are praying that God would send out His peace into the world.

You can follow Cove Fellowship at [www.billlangservices.com](http://www.billlangservices.com) , email to **covefellowship@verizon.net** or on Face Book at **CoveFellowshipMinistries**.

Also a footnote:

My book of poetry, **Midnight Musings: Thoughts from a Restless Mind**, is available on Amazon and also Amazon Kindle. Your patronage and thoughts would be appreciated.