

## Jesus, His church and the marriage covenant

Ps Karl Holz


### Quotes on marriage

*"By all means marry; if you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher."*

– Socrates

*"Men marry women with the hope they will never change. Women marry men with the hope they will change. Invariably they are both disappointed."*

– Albert Einstein




*When a man opens a car door for his wife...it's either a new car or a new wife*


- Prince Phillip

*The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once*


- anonymous



*"I pray that this book might be used by God to set you free from small, worldly, culturally contaminated, self-centred, Christ-ignoring, God neglecting, romance-intoxicated, unbiblical views of marriage"* John Piper



*There never has been a generation whose general view of marriage is high enough. The chasm between the biblical vision of marriage and the common human vision is now, and has always been, gargantuan. John Piper*



<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."<sup>19</sup> Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.<sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. Genesis 2:18-21 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup> Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." <sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

<sup>3</sup> And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" <sup>4</sup> He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,<sup>5</sup> and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? Matthew 19:3-5 (ESV)

<sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:32 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. Matthew 9:15 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:2

<sup>20</sup> And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. Luke 22:20 (ESV)

*Marriage is patterned after Christ's covenant relationship to his redeemed people, the church.*

✓ *The most important implication of this conclusion is that keeping covenant with our spouse is as important as telling the truth about God's covenant with us in Jesus Christ*

*This intensive teaching about Christology in a passage about the role relationships between husbands and wives underlines how important it is to look to Christ and his relationship to the church as the model for healthy Christian marriages (ZECNT) Ephesians*

Covenant: Jesus will never leave His bride:

<sup>20</sup> And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Heb 13:5 (ESV)

#### About submitting and loving

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. Ephesians 5:22 (ESV)

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, Ephesians 5:25 (ESV)

Christ is the head of the church	1:22-23; 4:15; 5:23
Christ is the cornerstone of the church	2:20
Christ is the Saviour and sanctifier of the church	5:23, 26-27
Christ gives the church ministry workers	4:11-16
Christ loved and sacrificed for the church	5:25
Christ nourishes and cherishes the church	5:29
The church and her members dwell and grow in Christ	2:21-22; 4:15
The church is a means through which God manifests his manifold wisdom	3:10
The church submits to Christ	5:24
The church is Christ's body, and individual believers are members of his body	1:22-23; 3:6; 4:4

<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:4-7 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

