DEFINING THE RELATIONSHIP: GROOM AND BRIDE

Brad Driedger - November 22, 2026

Genesis 2:24 (NLT)
This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

Ephesians 5:31–32 (NLT)
As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” [32] This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.

MARRIAGE IS DESIGNED BY GOD TO BE AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP LIKE NO OTHER!
THIS IS THE KIND OF RELATIONSHIP HE WANTS WITH US!

Matthew 22:30 (NLT)
For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage.

1. **THE GROOM HAS CHOSEN US**

Exodus 19:5–8 (NLT)
Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. [6] And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.’ This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.”

Exodus 23:25 (NLT)
“You must serve only the Lord your God.

Exodus 24:5–8 (NLT)
Then he sent some of the young Israelite men to present burnt offerings and to sacrifice bulls as peace offerings to the LORD. [6] Moses drained half the blood from these animals into basins. The other half he splattered against the altar. [7] Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it aloud to the people. Again they all responded, “We will do everything the LORD has commanded. We will obey.” [8] Then Moses took the blood from the basins and splattered it over the people, declaring, “Look, this blood confirms the covenant the LORD has made with you in giving you these instructions.”

GOD’S CHOSE HIS PEOPLE AND WANTED THIS TO BE AN EXCLUSIVE AND LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP!
But Israel broke the covenant.

Psalm 106:39 (NLT)
They defiled themselves by their evil deeds, and their love of idols was adultery in the LORD’s sight.

Hosea 2:14 (NLT)
“But then I will win her back once again. I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her there.

Hosea 2:16 (NLT)
When that day comes,” says the LORD, “you will call me ‘my husband’ instead of ‘my master.’

Hosea 2:19–20 (NLT)
I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion. [20] I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as the LORD.

Even though Israel had been unfaithful - God was still committed!

Hosea 3:1–2 (NLT)
Then the LORD said to me, “Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover. This will illustrate that the LORD still loves Israel, even though the people have turned to other gods and love to worship them.” [2] So I bought her back for fifteen pieces of silver and five bushels of barley and a measure of wine.

He still paid the price so we could be his once again!

1 Peter 1:18–19 (NIV)
For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, [19] but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

THROUGH HIS DEATH - THE NEW COVENANT SEALED BY HIS BLOOD - HE SHOWS YOU THAT YOU ARE WORTH THE HIGHEST PRICE!

2. **THE GROOM IS PREPARING FOR US, SO WE PREPARE FOR HIM**

Matthew 26:27–29 (NIV)
Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. [28] This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. [29] I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

Jesus is preparing a place for us

John 14:2–3 (NKJV)
In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
[3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NIV)
And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

Revelation 19:7–8 (NLT)
Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself. [8] She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear.” For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God’s holy people.

We don't earn the garment, but we do prepare by putting it on and walking in it.

- Are you living like you're engaged? Are you <u>actively</u> preparing yourself for the groom's return?
- Is there an area of your life that you are living like you're single?

3. THE GROOM IS COMING BACK FOR US

1 Thessalonians 4:16–18 (NLT)
For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. [17] Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. [18] So encourage each other with these words.

We will have a wedding feast celebration and live together for eternity!

Revelation 22:17 (NIV)
The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

Revelation 22:20–21 (NIV)
He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. [21] The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.