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THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

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The Bride of Christ is a chaste Virgin; I Corinthians 11:2, "...that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you." The Bible tells a great deal sometimes in very few words. When Paul declares that the betrothed of Christ is a chaste Virgin, and this language is interpreted in the light of other Scriptures, he goes a long way in telling us who is the Bride of Christ. If the Bride of Christ is chaste, she is not a harlot. If she is a Virgin, she has never been married to somebody else. That eliminates a great many people who are saved, from being a part of the Bride of Christ.

A harlot is not chaste; Revelation 17:1-5, "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither, I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in pur-

ple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." Jesus himself makes very clear and plain whom he means by "chaste Virgin."

A. The Master here gives the marks of a false church or churches and eliminates them from being a part of His Bride. A universal church is not the Bride of Christ, whether visible or invisible. Many waters represent many people and many nations. A universal church including many nations is not His Bride but a whore. That eliminates all who believe in a universal church from being a part of His Bride.

B. A church that believes in, and practices union of church and state, is not His Bride; Revelation 17:2-3; 18:9.

C. A worldly church is not a part of the Bride of Christ; Revelation 17:4.

D. A filthy church is not a part of the Bride of Christ; Revelation 17:4.

E. The mother of harlots is not the Bride of Christ, nor are her harlot daughters. (1) All churches united

with government are harlots. (2) All churches that come out of the Roman Catholic Church are harlot churches. (3) All universal churches are harlots. That includes Catholic, Greek and Roman, Lutherans, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists, Congregationalists, and also includes such religious organizations as the universal in their scope, such as Masonry, Ku-Klux, YMCA, YWCA, etc.

F. A persecuting church is not a church of Christ. All unionists are not chaste, so that eliminates them. (1) Not a VIRGIN. All churches with human heads and founders are married to somebody else besides Christ, and are not Virgins. This eliminates all other churches except Baptist churches, because all others have human heads. (2) The church which is to be the Bride of Christ is a chaste Virgin. (3) There are saved folks in all harlot churches. But these saved in harlot churches will be no part of the Bride of Christ. (4) The Lord Jesus is very particular who composes His Bride. His Bride will be a chaste Virgin.

Every false church has one or more of these marks: A human head; union of church and state; universal church; filthy, both in the sense of Isaiah 64:6, and Philippians 3:8 and also in the sense of I Corinthians 5:6;

worldly; persecuting and powerful.

All of these are brought in Revelation 17:1-7, as the marks of a harlot or church of the devil.

False Churches:

The Holy Catholic Apostolic Church.

The Greek Catholic Church.

The Moravians; John Huss, 1415.
Reorganized by count de Zinzendorf.

The Lutherans; Martin Luther, 1523.
But did not do much until the days of Menno Simon. Probably about 1632.
Their government is by bishops.

The Church of England; Henry the Eighth, 1534. The head of that church is the king of England. In this country it is called the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States.

The Presbyterians; John Calvin, 1526. State church of Scotland. The Presbyterian Church USA or north, which is the largest of all the Presbyterian Churches united with the Cumberland in 1906.

The Reform Presbyterian; 1743.

Southern Presbyterian; 1861.

Cumberland Presbyterian; Finis Ewing, 1810.

Congregational; Robert Brown, 1580.

Quakers or Friends; George Fox, 1547.

Six Principle Baptist; (Based on Hebrews 6:1-2) 1652 in Rhode Island.

Seventh Day Baptist; 1671 in USA; 1696 in England.

Free-Will Baptist; 1729; By Benjamin Randal 1780.

General Baptist; 1824.

Hard-Shell Baptist; Daniel Parker, John Taylor, 1832. The two-seed Baptist also claim to have come from Daniel Parker.

Tunkers and Dunkers. Who were also called German Baptist; Alexander Mack, 1708.

The Plymouth Brethren; J. N. Darby, 1828. Six branches of them.

Adventists; William Miller, 1831.

Seventh Day Adventists; Mrs. White, 1845.

A branch of the Mohamidans founded by Ali Mohamid.

Ewingites; Edward Wing, 1830.

Christidephians; John Thomas, 1850. (Soul Sleepers)

Christian Missionary Alliance; A. B. Simson, 1881.

Christians or O'Kelleyites; James O'Kelley, 1793.

Christians or Campbellites; 1811.

Anti-Organ Campbellities.

Dowieites; John Alexander Dowie, 1896.

Christian Science; Mary Eddie, 1875.

Christian Union; J.V.B. Flack, 1863-1864, Illinois.

Wine Bennerians; John Winebrinner, 1830.

Sweedeborgians; Emanuel Sweedenborgue, 1782.

Shakers; 1747. They deny the Trinity. They say that God is dual. Christ the male. Annilee is the female.

Evangelicals; Jacob Albright, 1790.

Mormons or Latter-Day Saints; Joe

Smith, April 6, 1830.

Methodists; John Wesley, 1739. In England called Wesleyans.

Methodists Episcopal; Coke and Asbery, 1784.

M. E. South; 1846.

Congregational M E; 1852

Free-Methodists; 1860.

African Methodists; 1815.

African Episcopal Methodists Zion; 1796.

Russellites; C. T. Russell, 1866.

Nazarenes; which was a union of a number of Holiness Sects, Chicago, 1907.

Spiritists; Anna Lee and Fox Sisters, 1837.

Theosophists; Helen Petrobna Blavatsky, 1875.

Unitarians; they have virtually been here since the days of Arias, 1553.

United Brethren; Philip William Otterbain, 1752.

Universalists; 1803.

Christ's Bride is a Virgin II Corinthians 11:2.

1. Christ's Bride is only betrothed to him at present; II Corinthians 11:2.

2. The marriage described in Revelation 19:7-8. Christ's marriage does not take place until after the judgment of the great Whore; Revelation 19:2.

3. Christ will be married at the first resurrection. His wife will not be ready until then.

A. Those who compose his bride will not all be there until then.

B. The 'Fine Linen' of the saints will not be there until then; Revela-

tion 19:8.

C. The marriage takes place at the Lord's return according to the parable of the Ten Virgins; Matthew 25:10.

Who is the Bride of Christ?

Negatively:

A. The foolish Virgins are not a part of the Bride of Christ; Matthew 25:10.

B. The non-elect are not a part of the Bride of Christ; Revelation 17:8.

C. No universal church is a part of the Bride of Christ; Revelation 17:1. Many Waters represent many people. This whore is a universal church, composed of people from all countries. They are not a part of the Bride of Christ.

D. No state church is a part of the Bride of Christ; Revelation 17:2-3, that excludes every church that has ever practiced the union of church and state.

E. A rich church is not a part of the Bride of Christ; Revelation 17:4; 2:9; 3:17; 18:3, 11-19; James 2:5.

F. A worldly, showy church is not a part of the Bride of Christ; Revelation 17:4; 18:7-9; I John 2:15.

G. A filthy church is not part of the Bride of Christ; Revelation 17:4. Isaiah 64:6 would shut out the self-righteous. Philippians 3:8, also I Corinthians 5:6 would exclude unclean members of Baptist Churches.

H. A blasphemous church is not a part of the Bride of Christ; Revelation 11:3. That excludes all churches who claim power to forgive sins.

I. No persecuting church will be a part of the Bride of Christ; Revelation 17:6.

J. Nor lordly, powerful, political churches will be a part of the Bride of Christ; Revelation 17:4. Note the 'Purple' also 17:6. Wonder and admiration of her power 18:7.

K. No demon-possessed person is a member of the Bride of Christ; Revelation 18:2. That excludes all persons in any church that like Judas have sold out to the devil.

L. No church that has been mar-

ried, whether a widow or not, has no part of the Bride of Christ; Revelation 18:7. Christ is not yet married, but only betrothed; II Corinthians 11:2.

M. There are saved folks in harlot churches, Revelation 18:4-8. If all saved people are the body of Christ or the Bride of Christ as W. B. Riley, J. F. Norris, C. I. Scofield and all that school of Interpreters say, then all true believers who are members of harlot churches are a part of Christ's Bride and a part of a harlot. If the Bride of Christ is chaste and a Virgin, then no member of a harlot church can be a member of Christ's betrothed Bride.

Affirmatively:

A. Christ's Bride will be composed of the members of Baptist churches who are sound on the Deity, and Lordship of Jesus; Who are sound on the person and work of the Holy Spirit; who are sound on the one Gospel.

B. The Bride of Christ must be chaste; true to Christ as her betrothed. No flirting with any other institution such as lodges, clubs, Ku Klux, masonry, etc. No unionist flirt is chaste in Christ's sight. No concubine belonging to a Baptist church openly and secretly belonging to the some secret order is chaste; John 3:29.

Jesus has his Bride. He knows who is chaste and true to him, and who has secret meetings like a concubine with the lodges or other secret orders. He will not own any such as His Bride, when he comes, because they are not chaste in his sight.

C. The members of Christ's future bride are virgins, waiting for him; I Timothy 5:22. The word translated 'Pure' here is the word translated 'Chaste' in II Corinthians 11:2. When Jesus tells through Paul the apostle, young preachers to keep themselves pure, he means to keep themselves free from all entangling alliances that would mean their chastity in His sight. This applies not only to preachers but to all members of His church. In I John 3:3 where the word translated 'Pure' is the same word translated 'Chaste' in II Corin-

thians 11:2, John here holds the second coming of Christ as a reason for the chastity of the members of His church. In lives of separation elsewhere, Jesus warns us that his second coming will be delayed and those who are members of His betrothed bride will be tempted because of the delay to be untrue to Christ and mix up with worldly institutions. I Thessalonians 1:10 and I Peter 3:20 both emphasize the importance of the members of Christ's church maintaining their chastity and separation from all other institutions, even though the coming of Christ is delayed. The Flood was long delayed; but, in spite of the delay, Noah was true to God and in spite of ridicule and every thing else had nothing to do with the impure and unchaste. In Luke 12:33-36, Jesus warns that his wedding will be unexpected and if we are not ready all the time we will miss it. Jesus had a great deal to say about this phase of the truth. Over and over again he warns his people to be looking for him, and to live in view of his coming. I can not conceive of the necessity for such repeated warnings by the Lord Jesus and all his apostles if all the saved are to be members of his bride.