

Who or what is the Bride of Christ?

Who we are in God's eyes

Exodus 4:22 And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, **Israel is my son, even my firstborn:**

Deuteronomy 14:1 Ye **are the children of the LORD your God:** ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead.

Deuteronomy 32:6 Do ye thus requite the LORD, O foolish people and unwise? **is not he thy father** that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?

1 Chronicles 22:10 He shall build an house for my name; **and he shall be my son, and I will be his father;** and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.

Hosea 1:10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, **Ye are the sons of the living God.**

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called **the children of God.**

Matthew 5:45 That **ye may be the children of your Father** which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

John 1:12 **But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:**

John 11:52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the **children of God** that were scattered abroad.

Romans 8:14 **For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.** 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but **ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.**

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that **we are the children of God:** 17 And if children, then heirs; **heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;** if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the **firstborn among many brethren.**

Romans 9:8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the **children of God:** but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

2 Corinthians 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and **ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all **the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.**

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, **and heirs according to the promise.**

Galatians 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive **the adoption of sons.** 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, **Abba, Father.** 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but **a son;** and if a son, then **an heir** of God through Christ.

Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto **the adoption of children** by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Ephesians 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but **fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;**

Ephesians 3:6 That the Gentiles should **be fellowheirs,** and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Hebrews 2:10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, **in bringing many sons unto glory,** to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called **the sons of God:** therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 2 Beloved, now are we the **sons of God,** and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him;** for we shall see him as he is.

Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and **he shall be my son.**

Who we are in Christ's eyes

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the **Spirit of adoption,** whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, **and joint-heirs with Christ;** if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto **the adoption of children** by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Matthew 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two **brethren,** Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

Matthew 4:21 And going on from thence, he saw **other two brethren**, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

Matthew 12:46 While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. 47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. 48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and **who are my brethren?** 49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, **Behold my mother and my brethren!** 50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, **the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.**

Matthew 23:8 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and **all ye are brethren.**

Matthew 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of **these my brethren**, ye have done it unto me.

Mark 3:31 There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. 32 And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. 33 And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or **my brethren?** 34 And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, **Behold my mother and my brethren!** 35 For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

Luke 8:19 Then came to him his mother and his brethren, and could not come at him for the press. 20 And it was told him by certain which said, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee. 21 And he answered and said unto them, **My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.**

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: **but go to my brethren**, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

Christ sees us as his brothers and sisters (bretheren) Joint heirs with him in the Kingdom to come.

Who the Bible says is the bridegroom

John 3:27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. 28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. :29 **He that hath the bride is the bridegroom:** but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

Matthew 9:15 And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the **bridegroom is with them?** but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.

Mark 2:19 And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber fast, **while the bridegroom is with them?** as long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. 20 But the days will come, when **the bridegroom** shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

Luke 5:34 And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the **bridegroom is with them?** 35 But the days will come, when **the bridegroom** shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

Who the bible says is the bride

Revelation 21:2 **And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

Revelation 21:9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, **Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.** 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, **and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem,** descending out of heaven from God, 11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. 16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. 17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. 18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. 19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; 20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. 22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. 24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. 25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. 26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. 27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 22:17 And the **Spirit and the bride say**, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And **whosoever will**, let **him** take the water of life freely.

The "bride is described as a thing not a person or persons. No where in the Biblical description is a person or group of people described.

Why we can't be the bride

Probably the most powerful and definitive are these statements by Jesus to the Sadducees.

Matthew 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, **Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures**, nor the power of God. 30 **For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.**

Mark 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because **ye know not the scriptures**, neither the power of God? 25 **For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage**; but are as the angels which are in heaven.

Luke 20:34 And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: 35 **But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage**: 36 **Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.**

Who does the Bible say we are at the wedding supper.

Revelation 19:7 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. 8 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**.

arrayed (4016 periballo {per-ee-bal'-lo}) The definition of this word in the Strong's Concordance is

1) to throw around, to put around

1a) to surround a city with a bank (palisade)

At the wedding supper the "Bride" (the Holy City) is surrounded by the righteousness of the saints, the invited guests and witnesses in their wedding attire.

Revelation 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed **are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb**. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Matthew 22:2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, 3 And sent forth his servants to call **them that were bidden** to the wedding: and they would not come. 4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. 5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: 6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. 7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. 9 **Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.** 10 So those servants went out into the highways, and **gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.** 11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in **hither not having a wedding garment?** And he was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

In these scriptures we are the guests invited at the last minute to the wedding feast and we come attired in the appropriate garments.

Matthew 9:15 And Jesus said unto them, Can the **children of the bridechamber mourn**, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.

Mark 2:19 And Jesus said unto them, Can the **children of the bridechamber** fast, while the bridegroom is with them? as long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.

In these scriptures those who were with Christ while he was still on Earth or the Jews are called the "children of the bridechamber" and not the bride.

This leaves us with only one scripture that could possibly be a contradiction. This scripture only seems contradictory because of the way it has been taught.

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 **This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.** 33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

As it is taught the emphasis is on "31-32 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. **This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.** " these two verses are pulled out of context and are used as "proof" that we are the "Bride of Christ" . The emphasis should be on the concept of submission, love and respect; Christ being our example. The same example is used by Christ " **love your neighbor as yourself**", not in any context of marriage but as an understanding of how we should act one towards another. Paul uses it to show husbands and wives how they should act. What it doesn't say is that we are the "Bride". The relationship described **between us and Christ is not a future relationship. We are not going to be members of his body (in the future), we are members already. We are not now his wife if there has not yet been a wedding, Christ did not die for his wife. A husband can not die for his wife unless he is already married. If a husband died for his wife before he was married he would not be married or a husband.**

John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Here again is the same teaching, should Christ have said bride instead if friend? I say no. The teaching is about submission (to God's plan), love (for your neighbor as yourself) and mutual respect (one for another).

In Ephesians Paul is just applying these principles to the marriage relationship in a teaching to the Ephesians.