How We Relate to Jesus Christ

In our relationship with the Lord Jesus, Scripture sees us in several roles. We are seen as His disciples, as His servants, as His brothers and as His betrothed. He is our Bridegroom-to-be, and we are His betrothed! Let us ask ourselves: what kind of relationship should there be between two people who are engaged to be married? ("For I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." 2 Corinthians 11:2)

It is clear that our relationship with the Lord must be one of admiration and love. The Word of the Lord often speaks of the Lord Jesus as our Bridegroom and of us as His bride (His wife). ("Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife." Revelation 21:9) The Lord loves me, and in His love He calls me to enter into a relationship of love with Him.

Only when love awakens in us for the One who is more beautiful than anything in heaven or on earth, only then does the Lord enter into a relationship with us. ("I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, until he please." Song of Solomon 8:4)

The New Covenant

He comes to me and shows me His beauty, the beauty of His ways, and He is patient with me for a long time, until love for Him and for His ways awakens in me. When that happens on my side, He will enter into a relationship with me by making a covenant, so that I may be His.

It is not a covenant like those made in business dealings; it is a covenant of marriage, a covenant of love. ("Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine." Ezekiel 16:8; "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3)

God knows the human heart. He knows when we are drawn by His beauty, He knows when there is admiration, when love comes with all our mind, and when my heart is ready to follow Him. Only then is the covenant made between Him and me. ("If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15)

The beauty of the Lord Jesus' heart must awaken in us what the beauty of her beloved awakened in the Shulamite, so that a burning desire is born in us to love Him with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength and with all our mind. ("What is thy beloved more than another beloved, that thou dost so charge us? My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand. His head is as the most fine gold… This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem." Song of Solomon 5:9-16)

How We Relate to Him

It is like the engagement between a young man and a young woman, a relationship one can enter only through mutual admiration, through wholehearted love. Fear of hell or the rewards of heaven have no place in it. He will not enter into this relationship of love with us if our time of love has not yet come, if we do not love Him more than mother or father, if we do not love Him more than anyone in this world. ("He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." Matthew 10:37)

This must be the one aim of our life: to live out this relationship of love and, as His betrothed, to prepare ourselves for our wedding with the Bridegroom. ("For the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready." Revelation 19:7)

We have been called to dwell together with our Bridegroom and with His Father! Because He obeyed the Father in all things, His wife must also obey Him in all things. Only then will the Father and the Son make their home with me. ("If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, **and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him**." John 14:23)

His wife has made herself ready; she has become like Him. That is, she has been in His school, she has walked in His righteous ways and has learned to be godly, to obey Him just as He obeyed the Father. Through the trials she has gone through, she has reached the measure of her husband's stature. She has been made perfect, just as her Bridegroom was made perfect. If He is perfect, she must be perfect too!

Let us ask ourselves: could there be harmony in the Kingdom of God if the Son obeyed the Father completely, but His wife did not obey in the same way? Would that be possible?

This article is taken from the booklet Transformed into the Image of Christ, available free of charge online in .pdf format.

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Source: *How We Relate to Jesus Christ* — Unmodified Word
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