

# **“The Sacred Bond”**

(Part 1)

**Dr. Richard S. Koole  
Chapel Pointe  
September 19, 2010**

---

## **I. Introduction**

### **A. The first time I saw Carolyn**

1. WOW!
2. Didn't go well at first
3. Following her to work
4. The proposal
  - a. On a hill overlooking Grand Rapids
  - b. Five kids later....

### **B. Interview Annie re: Josh's proposal**

### **C. Just the start of the marriage process**

- 1. The engagement**
  - a. Giving of a ring
  - b. Otherwise....it's just talk
- 2. The wedding**
  - a. The blizzard in Kalamazoo
- 3. The reception**
- 4. The honeymoon**
- 5. The marriage**

## D. Brandon & Marcia's wedding

1. The passage they requested
2. Ephesians 5:25-32

*(25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*

*(31) "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." (32) This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.*

## E. Solving the "profound mystery"

1. Lots of mysteries in the Bible
  - a. But this is the greatest mystery in the Bible
  - b. Amazing number of mentions in the Bible
2. The church (believers) is the Bride of Christ
  - a. Which means there is a wedding coming!
    1. And we are the Bride
  - b. Our wedding is described in Revelation 19:6-9

*(6) Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting" "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. (7) Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. (8) Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) (9) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."*

3. The implications of this fact will rock your world
  - a. We are engaged to the son of God
    1. And, brides need to get ready for their wedding
  - b. And there is more to this profound mystery
    1. We will one day reign with him

2. Being prepared for that role

**Revelation 2:26-29**

*(26) To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—(27) “He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery”—just as I have received authority from my Father. (28) I will also give him the morning star. (29) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

**Revelation 3:21-22**

*(21) To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. (22) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

4. The mystery of what lies ahead for us?
  - a. Your destiny in the great “Hereafter?”
  - b. Movie opening October 22

**F. My goal in this short series**

1. It started when I preached on Pentecost
  - a. Being filled with the full Spirit of God
  - b. Preparing the Bride
    1. To show how God is preparing us as a bride for his son
    2. What it means to be engaged to Christ
    3. How to prepare for what is to come
2. A look at your thousand year honeymoon
3. What will heaven really be like?
  - a. Questions that are asked of me
  - b. What will we do all of that time?
4. But first.... “The Sacred Bond”

**G. The special role of “the Church”**

*(Ephesians 5:31)*

***“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” (32) This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.***

1. What is the “church?”
  - a. Hinted at throughout scripture
  - b. Believers from every race
  - c. Since the resurrection of Christ
  - d. From Pentecost to the Rapture
    1. Don’t worry about the righteous of the OT and others
    2. Will be there...but not the bride
  - e. Remember, this is a profound mystery!
    1. Laid out in Genesis to Revelation
  - f. Is seen in a typical Jewish marriage process

## **H. The Jewish Marriage process**

### **1. The Choosing**

- a. The father of the groom picked the bride for his son

### **2. The Payment**

1. Guys who balked if the price was too high
2. Not my will but the father’s

### **3. The Proposal**

- a. Made by the groom
- b. Had to be accepted by the bride

### **4. The Engagement**

- a. Called the “Betrothal”
- a. A formal contract called a Ketubah
- b. Stated his intent to consecrate himself to his bride-to-be
- c. Gave a gold ring to symbolize his esteem for her and his willingness to sacrifice for her
- d. No physical consummation during this period
- e. Groom would begin building a house for them
- f. Did not call on each other during this period
- g. Long enough to prove the purity of the bride
- h. Could not be broken except under extreme circumstances

#### **5. The Bridal Chamber**

- a. Groom would prepare it for their wedding
  - 1. Attached to his father’s house
  - 2. Would spend 7 days in it
- b. Wouldn’t see her during the time of preparation
- c. Parting words to her
 

*“I go to prepare a place for you”*
- d. Could take a year or more to complete
- e. Father had to approve it
  - 1. Only the father knew when it was ready
  - 2. Then the son could go get his bride

#### **6. The Waiting**

- a. Meanwhile, the bride waited anxiously for her groom

1. Couldn't wait for his return
- b. Didn't know exactly when it would happen
  1. Only a general idea
- c. The groom usually came at night
- d. She had to be constantly ready
- e. Her bridesmaids needed to be ready also

## **7. The Calling**

- a. At the appropriate time, the groom called out to his bride
  1. A trumpet was blown
- b. The surprise arrival of the Groom

As the probable time of the wedding approached, the bride, bridesmaids, family, and friends would wait together each evening in anticipation of the groom's arrival. It was customary for the groom to arrive suddenly, often late at night.

- c. Great jubilation

## **8. The Procession**

- a. Carried the bride to his father's house
- b. Oil lamps burning
  1. Old song, "*Give me oil in my lamp, keep it burning...*"
  2. By the way, oil represented the Holy Spirit
- c. The entire wedding party went

## **9. The Wedding**

- a. The ceremony

At the wedding house, the bride and groom would each be dressed in white wedding garments, the color denoting purity. Then they would meet

under the wedding canopy, which symbolized God's presence blessing their union.

b. Bride and groom in the marriage chamber

1. The wedding night

2. Seven days long

c. The consummation

1. The two became "one flesh"

### **10. The Reception**

a. A week-long feast of celebration

b. The wedding supper

### **11. The New Home**

a. Happily ever after

b. Leave the fathers house to go to their own new one

## **I. Similarity to God's plan laid out in the Bible**

1. I want to show you what that means to you right now

2. And how you should be preparing

## **II. The Sacred Bond**

### **A. Addressing the "why" of marriage**

1. Lots of teaching on "how" to have a healthy marriage

2. Let me show you the "why"

a. It is a sacred union

### **B. Marriage was ordained by God**

1. More than a civil union

2. The sacred vows between one man and one woman

### **C. God's love for his bride (Ephesians 5:25-28)**

*(25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (26) to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, (27) and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. (28) In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

## **III. A Bride for God's Son**

### **A. The Creation**

1. Why did God create us in the first place?
  - a. He knew what we would become
2. Could it be as a bride for his son?
3. The story of creation in Genesis 1
  - a. All that God created
  - b. The diversity of God's creation
    1. The angelic creatures
    2. The animals
    3. Others
  - c. Yet mankind was entirely different
4. The special union
  - a. **Genesis 2:24**

*“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*
5. Why mankind was so special
  - a. **Genesis 1:26**

*Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”*

- b. To rule over all he had created on earth
- 6. And we were created in his image
- 7. What does it mean to be created in his image and likeness?
  - a. Had to be created in the image of God
  - b. The family resemblance

### **I Corinthians 15:49**

*(49) And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.*

- c. More like him in the age to come
- 8. His purpose for creation?
  - a. A bride for his son?
- 9. It couldn't be the angels
  - a. Not created in the image of God
  - b. No angel could ever become a member of the family of God.
  - c. Angels wouldn't do for the Incarnation

God could not become incarnate in angels because they were not created in the full image of God. No other created being approaches the capacity of the human being to “contain God.”

- d. The angels delight in the salvation of a human

#### 1. I Peter 1:12

*It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.*

- e. Your bodies are the Temple of God

1. The dwelling place of God the Holy Spirit
  - f. Why we are not to become “one flesh” with unbelievers
10. We are being transformed into the likeness of the son
  - a. Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
  - b. The fullness of God in you
    1. The series, “Clothed with power from on high”

## **B. The Choosing**

1. God the father chose you

### **a. Ephesians 1:3-6**

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. (4) For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love (5) he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— (6) to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.*

## **C. The Payment**

1. Ephesians 1:7-10

*(7) In him, we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace (8) that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. (9) And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, (10) to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.*

## **D. The Proposal**

1. The courtship
  - a. How the Holy Spirit draws us to Christ
2. The proposal
  - a. Jesus loved you and asked you to be his bride
  - b. And you had to accept or reject his proposal

3. The problem
  - a. You were stained with sin and unacceptable to the father
  - b. So he paid to make you pure
4. The price Jesus paid for his bride (Ephesians 5:25)

*(25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (26) to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, (27) and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

- a. The price God's son paid
- b. We were made spotless
- d. The son paid for our sins
- e. "Not my will but yours" (in the garden)

#### **D. The Ring**

1. The Holy Spirit
2. Ephesians 1:13-14

*(13) And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.*

3. The acceptance

*Having 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.*

3. What that means....Engaged
  - a. He gave you a guarantee...a ring
    1. The fullness of God within you
    2. The dwelling place of God
  - b. Transformed into his image

## **E. Next week, false expectations during the engagement period**

1. Why so many Christians mess up

## **IV. Summary**

### **A. Marriage is more than a civil union**

1. Represents the love of Christ for us
2. A vow to God is sacred
3. When the vows get broken
  - a. Pornography, etc.
4. The greatness of forgiveness
5. The God of “fresh starts”
6. But...take your vows seriously

### **B. Remembering your sacred vows**

#### **Giving of the bride**

*Dearly beloved; we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the face of this company, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony; which is commended to be honorable among all men; and therefore is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate, Ernest and Carmen come now to be joined.*

*Who give this woman to be married to this man?*

#### **Welcome and personal remarks.....Dr. Koole**

#### **Declaration of Intent**

(Groom)

*Do you Ernest take Carmen to be your wedded wife, to live together in holy matrimony? Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?*

(Bride)

*Do you Carmen take Ernest to be your wedded husband, to live together in holy matrimony? Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?*

### **Vows....repeated**

(Groom)

*I Ernest take you Carmen to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part. So help me God.*

(Bride)

*I Carmen take you Ernest to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love cherish, and obey, till death do us part. So help me God.*

### **Exchange of Rings**

(Groom)

*Ernest, by what token do you show your love for Carmen?*

*Ernest; place the ring on Carmen's finger and repeat after me.*

*As a pledge and token of the vows between us made, with this ring I thee wed; In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

(Bride)

*Carmen, by what token do you show your love for Ernest?*

*Carmen; place the ring on Ernest's finger and repeat after me.*

*As a pledge and token, of the vows between us made, with this ring I thee wed; In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

### **Unity Candle**

### **Prayer**

### **Pronouncement**

*Those whom God has joined together, let no man put asunder.*

*Forasmuch as Ernest and Carmen have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and have given and pledged their vows, each to the other and have declared the same by giving and receiving a ring, and by joining hands; I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

*Ernest, you may kiss your bride.*

### **Presentation**

*I now take great pleasure in presenting to you for the very first time, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Tisdale!*