The Bride of Christ

Marriage was design by God to ultimately be a picture of Christ's relationship to His bride (His people)

> Eph.5:31-32: 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.

In ancient Jewish culture there would be:

The Father's Arrangement (Election)
The Bride agreement (a willingness to accept the groom)
The Groom's preparation
The Groom's return for his bride
The Wedding
The Marriage Supper
The Rest of their lives together

Basic teachings of the metaphor - the "Bride of Christ":

Jesus is the groom: John 3:28,29 (John called himself "the friend of the bridegroom")

1) Election:
The Father chose a Bride for His Son
Jn. 6:37 - All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out
v. 44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.,
v. 65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.)

2) Engagement:
The downpayment of the Holy Spirit has been given to all believers with a promise of Christ's return to receive His purchased possession
Eph. 1:13-14 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory

3) Preparations:
John 14:2 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.

4) Rapture:
The Son is coming back to receive only His Bride unto Himself
Jesus said in John 14:3 - *I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* (cp.Mt. 25:1-13).

5) Wedding:
Eternity with Christ (Rev. 19:7-9, 21:9).

Many stories (ex. Cinderella) have been told of a Prince rescuing a fair young maiden and marrying such a common peasant girl whereby she shares in all of his riches and glory and the two living happily ever after.

Christ is more than a prince; “He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords” (Rev.19:16)

Picture yourself as a “bride” and Christ as your “groom”

What does Christ (the groom) do for His people (the bride)?

1. He lovingly **gave His life for her** (you) so that her (your) sins might be paid for and cleansed away

2. He **draws upon her heart** and woos her to himself.

3. Upon her trust in Him, He **spiritually joins Himself to His bride** forming an eternal unity.

4. He **shares his righteousness** with His bride so she now has her identity in Him.

5. He **erases the sins of her past** (and never brings them up against her).

6. She becomes a **joint heir with Him** and shares all of His blessings

7. He **prepares a place in Heaven** for her and will one day **return for her**.

8. He imparts to her a **Wedding garment** (which will reflect the purity in her life)

9. He will give her a **Wedding Supper**

10. He gives her **a home forever with Him** in Heaven

* Today, you can belong to Jesus Christ and become part of His bride (by simple, sincere faith)!

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