

Eph 5:24-27

Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Marriage, what a wonderful gift from God. But God never said that marriage would be easy, and those of you who are married know that it's not. But here's something to think about next time you are upset with your spouse.

Imagine the setting. You and your spouse are before the Throne of God and as a husband, you would present your wife to the Lord. How would you present her?

"God, here is that woman you gave me, she never cooked or cleaned or did anything for me, all she did was lie around eating bon-bon's and watching soap operas, go ahead and take her back."

Or

"Lord, here is my bride who I have washed with the water of your word, I present her before you as a spotless bride, thank you for her."

Ok women, now it's your turn.

"Here he is God, that man who didn't hold down a job or take care of us and was more interested in football than me or the children. Please take him back."

Or

"Father thank you for my husband who was a hard worker and good provider for his family, and one that made sure that he not only took us to church, but sat there with us praising you. Thank you for him God."

So which one were you? Maybe you wouldn't think of standing before the Throne of God and putting your spouse down. But every time you go to prayer and complain about your spouse, that's just what you are doing, you are presenting your spouse before the Lord as an awful horrible gift from God.

I know things are not always easy in a marriage and things do come up. But the question is, did you really marry for better or for worse, or did you just marry until someone better comes along?

Jesus will come back for His bride, the Church, and He won't just hold on to us until something better comes along. No, Jesus is in it for the long haul, which is eternity, even though we are not perfect. Just like your spouse is not perfect. And neither are you!

† **2 Corinthians 11:2** *For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

† **Revelation 21:9** *Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."*