

# ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

## SECTION 5 – Intimacy With God

### Lesson 18 - The Bride of Christ Part 1

There is an eternal purpose that God has. An eternal plan that God has set in motion. A plan not just to get you saved. A plan not just to get you out of hell. Jesus didn't come just to get you saved. Jesus didn't come just to get you out of hell. He didn't come just so you could walk on streets of gold. He didn't come just so you could be free from sickness and disease. He didn't come just so you could live forever. He didn't come just so you could have a mansion in heaven or sit on the throne. Jesus came for a much greater purpose.

Many people think that the main reason Jesus came was to die on the cross so that we could be forgiven our sins, but that was only a small part of the purpose of why Jesus came. He came for a much greater purpose than simply the forgiveness of your sins. The forgiveness of your and my sins was a necessary part, was an integral part. But He had to do that in order to get what He really wanted.

**Ephesians 1:9 AMP** *Making known to us the mystery (secret) of His will (of His plan, of His purpose). [And it is this:] In accordance with His good pleasure (His merciful intention) which He had previously purposed and set forth in Him*

God is a God of plan. God is a God of purpose. It is God's intention to reveal to us His secrets, making known to us the secret of His will. Jesus came for a much greater purpose than to simply get you out of hell and forgive you of your sins. Even a much greater purpose than simply to give you eternal life.

**Ephesians 1:10 AMP** *[He planned] for the maturity of the times and the climax of the ages to unify all things and head them up and consummate them in Christ, [both] things in heaven and things on the earth..*

**When has God planned for His divine purpose to take place?**

*This plan that God has set in motion, this supernatural divine purpose that God has set in motion, He planned for it to take place at what He called the maturity of the times and the climax of the ages. He's speaking of the end-times.*

He's speaking of the final stage when all things are going to be consummated. Those final moments when evil will rise and the kingdom of heaven will arise and the final clash of the

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powers of the ages will take place. He had planned and purposed in His heart for this mystery, this secret to be revealed.

Jesus has an eternal purpose. Jesus has an eternal plan that is much greater than us simply getting saved. It is much greater than us just going to heaven. It is much greater than us just living for eternity. It is much greater than us getting out of hell. He had an eternal plan and purpose, and He planned and purposed that at the maturity of the times and the climax of the ages that this plan would begin to come into fruition. He planned to bring about a unity, a oneness.

This is not a plan He came up with 2,000 years ago. This is a plan that started back in the beginning when God created man. God created man for a supernatural purpose. God did not create man to be a servant class. He wasn't creating for Himself just another group of beings. He had all the creatures. He could have just been satisfied with all the beasts of the field and the creatures and the birds and all of creation. He had a very unique plan just for mankind; a very specific unique plan.

God began to reveal this plan from the very beginning when He created man. He turned to Adam and He said it is not good that man should be alone. Adam had no complaints. Adam didn't know anything different. Adam walked with God and talked with God. He was anything but alone in that sense. But God was beginning to reveal a plan. And He took out of Adam's side a rib and He created woman. He said it is not good for man to be alone. Man needs to have another to share himself with for his whole existence. Man needs to have another.

**When God created man, what eternal plan was He revealing?**

[God was creating for Himself someone to share Himself with for eternity.](#)

In that very act God was beginning to reveal to us His eternal plan. God was beginning to reveal to us what He was all about. He said it's not good for man to be alone. God said to Himself it's not good for God to be alone. God created Himself a being who has a totally free moral will. A free-will agent that will freely love Him, freely wants to be with Him, freely worship Him that He can share Himself with for all of eternity.

**Ephesians 5:25-30** *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her; 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 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. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.*

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God created Adam and Eve. He told Adam that it was not good for him to be alone so He created another that Adam could share everything with, and that he can spend eternity with. “I will create another from you, out of you. I will take it out of your flesh and out of your bone.”

We are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.

**Ephesians 5:31** *For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.*

He said man is to leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife, and the two shall become one. When a man and woman come together in the marriage bed and they consummate that union, that physical union of marital relations, it's not just a physical intercourse. It's not just an emotional connection. It is a spiritual connection. When they come together their spirits become one. That's why the Bible warns and says that if a man has relations with a prostitute that he becomes one flesh with that prostitute.

God established that upon the marriage bed, upon that union, there is a connection that in that act of intercourse there is a spiritual connection and spiritual joining together. And the two become one flesh. The two become one. But contextually Paul is not talking about just marriage. He is talking about something greater. He is talking about us, the members of the Church

**Ephesians 5:32** *This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

**What great mystery is being revealed regarding Christ and the Church?**

The mystery is that Jesus left His Father and is being joined to His bride. We are the bride of Christ. Jesus left His father and is joined unto His bride, the Church; and Christ and the Church shall become one flesh.

Jesus didn't come just to save you of your sin. Jesus didn't come just to get you out of hell. Jesus didn't come just to get you into heaven. Jesus didn't come just to bring you eternal life. Jesus came so that He could be joined together with you and me; and you and I and Jesus shall become one flesh. No difference, no separation that we shall become one.

**Ephesians 2:14-18** *For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were*

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*afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.*

Jesus made between the Jews and Gentiles in Himself one new man. Jesus came to take you and me and to join us with Himself that there would no longer be man and Jesus separate, but there would be one new man. One new creation.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

Jesus is making in Himself one new man, one new being for all of eternity in Himself. He is taking man and He is bringing man into the Godhead. He is making in Himself one new man.

He planned for the maturity of the times and the climax of the ages to unify. We think of unity as just being in agreement. That is not the unity Jesus is talking about. He's talking about a unity where everything is in Him, where man is in Him.

**Colossians 1:27** *To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

*The mystery that He planned for the maturity of the times and the climax of the ages is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

**Colossians 2:9 AMP** *For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature].*

He is making in Himself one new man. And here He says the whole fullness of the Godhead continues to dwell in bodily form. The Bible says that He is the head and we are the body. (Colossians 1:18) We use this phrase, the body of Christ, so loosely. But Jesus said it's not a loose thing, it's literal.

He planned to take man and to join man to Himself. He left His Father and is cleaving unto His wife, His bride, and the two shall become one flesh that the whole fullness of the deity, the whole fullness of the Godhead continues to dwell in bodily form. We are that bodily form that the whole fullness of the deity continues to dwell in. All that God is and all that God has, the whole fullness of deity continues to dwell in this bodily form. Giving, it says, complete expression of the divine nature.

God has a much greater plan. He wants much more than just to get you saved, because your sins have been forgiven. He wants much more than to get you out of hell. He wants much more than to get you into heaven. He wants much more than to give you mansions in heaven, to seat you

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on a throne, and for you to live for eternity. He has a great plan. His plan is that He created man so He could join man into Himself for all of eternity and share Himself with another.

*The mystery of the Gospel is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

#### **For Further Study:**

John 17:20-21 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

**Revelation 21:9** One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

**Revelation 22:17** The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.