

## 1st John 4: 7-8 Love is of God and God is Love

(a) Fraternal love the necessary product of the true knowledge of God, because God is love (1John 4:7-8).

(b) The grand recent historical exhibition of God's love (1John 4:9-10).

(c) Our consequent duty (1John 4:11) duty- service- friendship- Agape Love (self sacrificing)

(d) God's abode in us, the perfecting of His love in us, and the proof of His presence through the Spirit, are the equivalent for seeing Him (1John 4:12-13).

The First Institution God creates - Marriage - Would God create an institution that could function without his very essence. Love (therefore it is a progression)

God gives the first fraternal example of the future church in the creation of marriage. Love must be expressed and demonstrated in order to be validated.

So when you get married you must have God at the center for without it you're missing the key ingredient. It is secured by a vow invoking God and including him to remain faithful till death do you part.

Since God is Love the sole purpose cannot be procreation or our own pleasure which will result if we understand its first and foremost purpose to demonstrate and be an expression of love.

### **Christ is the Groom and we are the Bride of Christ a Demonstration of His Love For Us.**

Ephesians 5 uses the example of Christ's relationship to the church as instructive for marriage. Ephesians talks about the husband being head of the wife (leader of the family) and compares that to Christ being the head of the church. Similarly, verse 24 notes that the church is to submit to Christ; the comparison here involves the submission of a godly woman to her loving husband.

Ephesians 5:25-27 describes how Christ loved the church and gave His

life for it. Likewise, a husband is to love His wife unconditionally and without limit. Christ loves the church as He loves Himself ([Ephesians 5:28-30](#)). Likewise, a husband is to love his wife as himself, considering their marriage as "one body."

The Ephesians 5 passage on marriage summarizes, "let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband" (v. 33). Mutual love and respect form the basis for a God-honoring marriage. Likewise, Christ's love for the church and the church's love and respect for Christ form the basis for a God-honoring church.

[II Corinthians 11:2](#) offers a similar look at Christ as the groom and the church as the bride of Christ. Here Paul writes, "For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ." Paul uses this analogy to show his love for the Corinthian believers, serving in the role as a spiritual father, offering the church at Corinth to Christ as the groom.

In addition, the New Jerusalem described in Revelation 21 is called "a bride." It is the place where all of God's people will dwell here with Him for all eternity. The beauty of this "bride" is stunning.