

# FATHER of the BRIDE



*Living Faith*



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# *The Bride of Christ*



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**“You shall have no  
other gods before me”**

**Exodus 20:3**



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**Israel was called the  
unfaithful wife too  
many times to count in  
the Old Testament**



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**Jesus used this picture  
in several parables**



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# *The Church*

**I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.**



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**2 Corinthians 11:2-3**

# *The Church*

**Paul clearly had a concern for  
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**He desired they live in a spiritually  
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# *The Church*

**Paul clearly had a concern for  
the church in Corinth**

**He desired they live in a spiritually  
monogamous relationship with Christ**

**But was concerned their lifestyle  
would lead them astray**



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# *The Bride of Christ*

**Finally the image resurfaces in  
the back part of the book  
Revelation**



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# *The Bride of Christ*

**Instead we are targeting gain  
an understanding of  
the love relationship  
between God and us**



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# *The Bride of Christ*

**It's the relationship that drove  
God to create humanity  
in the first place**



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# *The Bride of Christ*

**It's the relationship that God  
was willing to allow Jesus  
to be sacrificed for  
the sins of humanity**



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## *Ephesians 5:25-30*

**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— for we are members of his body.**



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*The Relationship  
Begins with Love*



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# *What is Love?*

**An intense feeling of deep affection**



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**Like or enjoy very much**



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*Love is NOT a  
FEELING!*



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*The Goals are  
WRONG!*



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# *Commitment*

- **The state or quality of being dedicated to a cause, activity or person**
- **A pledge or undertaking**
- **An engagement or obligation that restricts freedom of action**



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# *Practical Statements*

**Love is when you choose to be at your best when the other person is not at their best**

**Love is when what you want is never important. But what the other person needs and wants is always paramount**



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## *1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

**Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.**



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# *The Bride of Christ*

**True love, real love is always  
about that which you love not  
yourself being loved**



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*God's Love*



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# *In Creation* *Genesis 1:26-28*

**Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So, God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”**



# *Hard Choices*

## *Genesis 1:21-24*

**The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever.” So, the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.**



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# *Demonstrated Love*

**You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**



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**Romans 5:6-8**



# *What is Love?*

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**God understands our greatest need**



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# *What is Love?*

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**God understands our greatest need**

**God sacrificed for us**

**While we were still sinners**

**For a marriage to work Love must be  
a two-way street**

**As much as God loves me, that is not enough  
to fix the situation**



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*How do I  
Love God?*



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# *Loving God!*

**Before the wedding let's make sure  
we understand marriage**

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**Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart and with all your soul  
and with all your mind. This is the first  
and greatest commandment”**



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**Matthew 22:37-38**



# *The Marriage Relationship*

**It will change your priorities**



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**It will change your priorities**

**It will change your actions**



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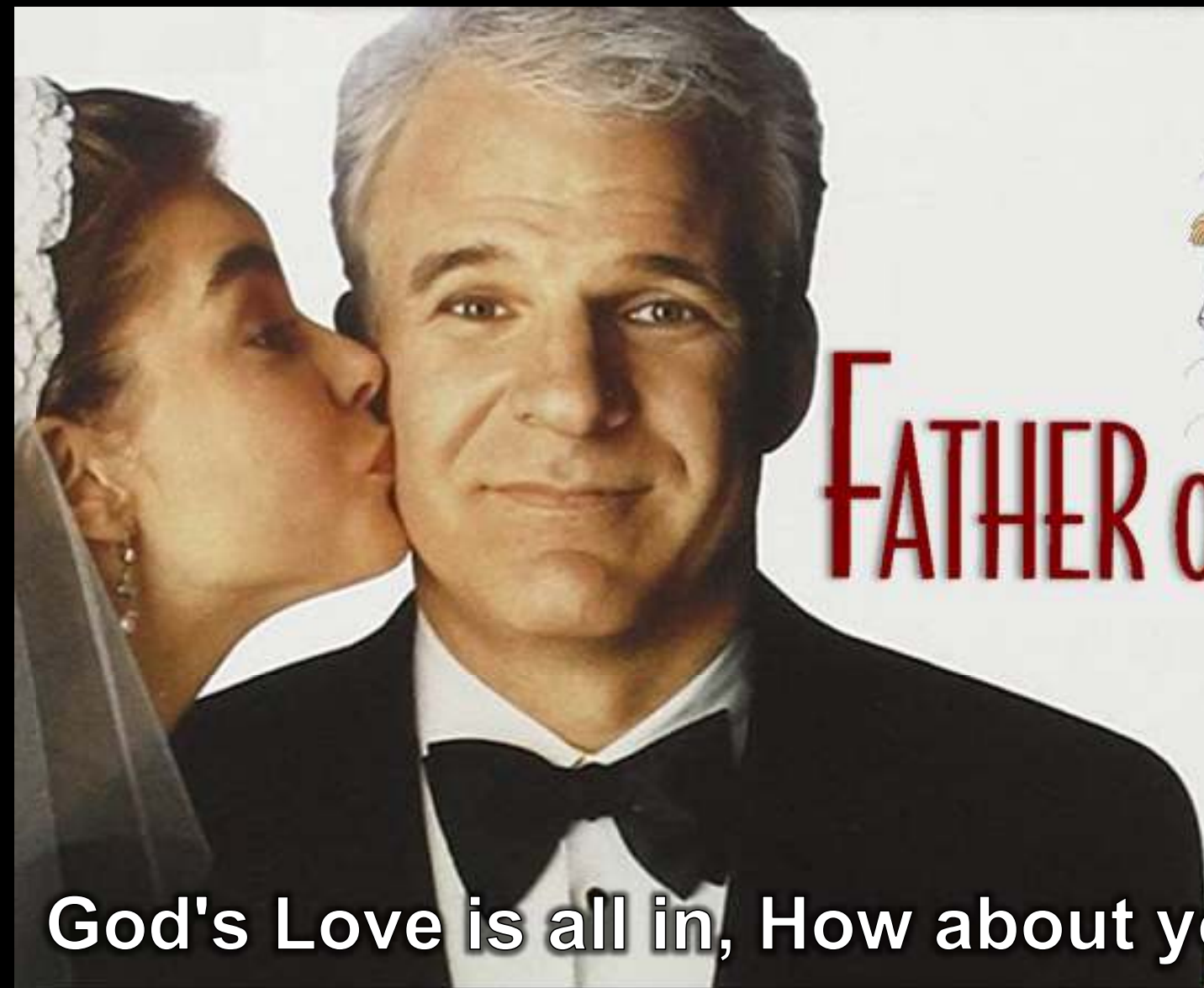
**It will change your actions**

**It will change your thoughts**

**If nothing changes you had a  
wedding, but you don't have a  
marriage**



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God's Love is all in, How about yours?