

Ephesians 5:25-32: The Song of Solomon shows unto us the greatest marriage union ever, it is between one Man and one woman.

Men, although Paul sets forth how we ought to love and cherish our own wives, Paul, in this 5th chapter of Ephesians is teaching about the great love of Christ for His church!

The Song of Solomon is one of the poetic books that underscores this relationship between Christ and His church.

You will note that Christ's love to her is never defective or wanting, but her view of herself and her sinful infirmities often move her to see herself as unworthy of His great love.

You will also note that there are times when Christ is very near and intimate with the bride, but at other times, He is hidden from her, and though she can't see Him, He is never very far from her.

Last week: The bride EXCLAIMED "The voice of my beloved!"

She heard His voice as He came to her leaping upon the mountains and skipping upon the hills. Song 2:8-14

Twice in this passage (V10~V13): He calls to her to arise and come away with Him: "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away"

It is you, child of God, whom He calls, "my love, my fair one" ... I pray that you know THIS intimacy with your Lord!

Come away with me, saith the bridegroom:

The cold winter storms of death are past, the pleasantness of spring and of life has come! In Christ, we have passed from death unto life!

Now in Song 2:14, He calls to her: "O my dove".

This is not the first time He has referred to her as a dove... if you recall, in Song 1:15, He told her, "Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes". Also, Song 4:1, 5:2

Why does He refer to her as a dove? BUT NOT just any dove, MY DOVE. Doves are quiet, innocent, harmless, meek, and submissive, they're not like hawks or predators.

If you recall, when the waters of the great flood of Genesis were abating from off the earth, Noah opened the window, and sent forth a raven out of the ark. The raven never returned; she was out of the ark, in the world, where she wanted to be.

But when Noah sent forth the dove from the ark, she returned, because she found no place of rest outside of the ark! Children of God, we are like this dove, whose only PLACE OF REST WAS IN THE ARK, in Christ!

We are to be like doves in this world, as we rise each day to go into the world to our work, we must be ever so careful NOT TO

SETTLE in the world; our refuge, our fortress, and our only place of rest is to be in Christ!

When Jesus sent His apostles into the world, He commanded them to be wise as serpents AND HARMLESS AS DOVES.

Tomorrow, when you go out to your business, ask the Lord to SHOW YOU IF YOU are wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove.

(Serpents BTW are very careful as they travel upon the ground, they are able to quickly escape danger and to hide themselves).

Christian, you are mine saith Christ, you are "my dove". This should be very comforting to you child of God! Take hold of these truths and embrace them by faith, because Christ is speaking TO YOU!

Christ says of you: You are MY love, My fair one, You are all fair, My love, MY dove, My undefiled, My sister, My spouse, My church, My sheep!

You are safe with Me, the winter of death is past, the springtime of life in Christ has come.

But now, she has hidden herself in the clefts of the rock and in the secret places of the stairs:

Like harmless and vulnerable doves, so as believers, we are (at times) full of anxieties and fears, and oftentimes, we find ourselves running away from dangers and trying to hide ourselves from them. Psalm 55:4-8

Sometimes our hiding is good, and we feel comforted and safe in the Lord, but at other times, we run to the Lord for comfort and safety, and we are still full of fear. Psalm 27:5, 64:1-2, 143:9, Proverbs 18:10

But now, here is the most beautiful part of this passage!

Song 2:14B: "Let me see thy countenance, (my fearful and anxious one), let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely"

So often, when we are in the midst of sore trials and afflictions, or when we are full of anxiety, our countenances fall.

Remember back to (V9): The bride exclaimed that she heard the voice of her beloved; BUT NOW, she was hiding like a fearful dove...so the bridegroom spoke softly to her and said to her, "LET ME SEE THY COUNTENANCE; LET ME HEAR THY VOICE"

Psalm 42:5: "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him for the help of HIS COUNTENANCE"

Psalm 42:13: "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of MY COUNTENANCE, and my God"

Dear child of God, your Lord DESIRES to see your countenance lifted, that you would ALWAYS and EVERY WHEN look to Him by faith, for He delights to see your sweet countenance, but ALSO TO HEAR YOUR VOICE, your Words, your supplications, and your intimate prayers to Him

In these words, we hear the desire of the bridegroom to hear the voice of His bride, and for her to call upon Him in all her fears and troubles:

Psalm 5:1-3, 55:17, 28:1-2

Child of God, if this doesn't move you to pray, I don't know what will: The Lord Jesus says of you: "Thy voice is sweet and thy countenance is comely"