



SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Friday, 08/13/2021

Scripture: Colossians 1:18a

NC0228

TITLE: Loving the Bride

What’s the most precious part of the wedding. Is it the food? The dancing? Is it the reunion of friends or family? Or is it seeing and honoring the bride? There is nothing like seeing the bride coming down the aisle. She is the object of everyone’s attention. The music is intentional. The hair and gown are special. The makeup is on point. That moment when the bride comes down the aisle is meant to take our breath away. But what would you say if, as the bride came down the aisle, your neighbor said, “She sure looks chunky in that dress”, and the person sitting behind you said, “I heard she’s been dumped so many times, I can’t think why this bozo is marrying her”? What if that bride was your daughter? How would you respond?

Well, what do you think God thinks when we tear down the Bride of Christ? Who is that? Why is this a problem? Paul has the answer at the beginning of Colossians 1:18:

“Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body.” (Col. 1:18a, NLT)

Paul says “Christ is also”. So what is this tacked onto? Well, you may remember that Paul has declared that Jesus is God. He is the Creator of the seen and unseen world. Everything that exists is sustained by Him. But He’s that, and so much more: Christ is head of the Church.

Now, there are many metaphors that the Bible uses to describe the Church. It is called a Family, a Kingdom, a Vineyard, a Flock, a Building, and a Bride. Here, Paul refers to the Church as the Body. The Church is a living organism of Christians, and its head is Christ. If Christ is not at the head of a church, it’s dead. It’s not a church; it’s a corpse. There are many churches today that fit that description. Jesus would refer to this kind of church in Revelation 3 to the Church of Laodicea.

Christ is over the Church. He gives it life. And when He views His Church, He says, “Wow. Look at that Body! That is one beautiful Bride.” This is why we must be careful when badmouthing the Church. Many people today say they are walking away from the Bride of Christ, but still love Jesus. Well, let me tell you something, you cannot insult my wife without insulting me. We are one. Jesus is the Head of the Body. The Church is the Bride of Christ that deserves respect, care, and participation.

So here’s my challenge for you today: add to the beauty of the Bride. Bring life to the Bride of Christ. Don’t badmouth it or leave it. Many people today complain about problems, but fail to offer and implement solutions.

So what is one thing you can do to encourage the Bride? What is that one thing that you will do to show Christ you love His Bride? What is one thing that will inspire others to gaze with awe at this Bride? Share it in the comments below.

Jesus is God, Creator, Sustainer, and the Head of this beautiful Body. To that, I say, “Wow! This is my Savior and my God.”