

The phrase, the concept, "the Bride of Christ," how it's used, and applied:

The "Bride of Christ," is a metaphor, as scripture says, "the Lamb's wife." Through scriptures we see that Israel was God's, and later the church (*body of Christ*), was thought of as His bride, and then we see in the book of Revelation, the Lamb's wife as being the Holy Jerusalem (*New Jerusalem*).

Many individuals apply this phrase to themselves as being Christ's bride, however, I am not sure it applies as we think. Scripture tells us that we are one with Christ and the Father, even as Christ is one with the Father.

That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou has sent Me, John 17:21.

Israel was first called God's son, only to later loose their covenant.

And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel *is* My son, *even* My firstborn: **Exodus 4:22.**

And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; **Jeremiah 3:8.**

The church body can be pictured as being a bride

Scripture uses examples of a marriage between a husband and wife as being compared to Christ's bride, His church. Also Jesus spoke in the Gospels of the bridegroom being taken away from them, (*the children of the bridechamber*), **Matthew 9:15, Mark 2:19 & Luke 5:34.**

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; ²⁶ That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, ²⁷ That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish, **Ephesians 5:22-33.**

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife has made herself ready. ⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints, **Revelation 19:7-8.**

Lastly we see that the Holy city Jerusalem as being the Lamb's wife.

And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, **Revelation 21:9-10.**

New Jerusalem is the Lamb's wife, this would also include all that God created, the earth, grass and trees, the fish and birds, and the cattle. Whereby mankind being God's master creation is one within Him, creation was not given this privilege of being one with and in the God of the universe, nor could they, for they were not made in His own image and likeness. When scripture says that mankind is to be one in Christ, many use the analogy (*the two have become one*), still thinking of an earthly marriage. I believe it to be much more literal than that. Whereby, we will have our own incorruptible and unique body, we will be one in the Spirit, to the point where the spirit is literally inseparable and indiscernible from Christ's Spirit.

Therefore, mankind is one in Christ, and the Holy city, New Jerusalem is the Lamb's wife, *the bride of Christ*.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT IN WORD BUT IN POWER
1st Corinthians 4:20

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