

The Love of Christ is for His Bride

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour (Ephesians 5:1-2).....

.....For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body (verse 23).

.....Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it (verse 25).....

The world God so loved is the same world Christ so loved.

That world consists of all those who were and are to be members of Christ's Church.

As proof of His love for the Church, He willingly gave His life a sacrifice to God on its behalf.

He did not give His life for those who were never going to be members of His Church.

Christ is the Savior of the Body only.

Christ knew, from eternity, who would be included in His Church (2 Timothy 2:19).

They are the same ones chosen in Christ by the Father before the foundation of the world, having given Him to be the head over all things to the Church, which is His Body (Ephesians 1).

Christ's loving sacrifice on behalf of His Church is coterminous with the Father's eternal intention that Christ save those He so loved.

Christ's resurrection proves He carried out His mission perfectly.

Christ's blood sacrifice paid in full the sin debt of His Church.

But God's love also contained a great mystery:

.....For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church (verses 31-32).

The Father has chosen a Bride for His Son.

That Bride is the Church of the Firstborn.

He is currently gathering that Bride who He has chosen for His Son before the foundation of the world.

Once that number is complete, and not before, Christ will return (2 Peter 3:8-10; Rev. 19:7).

Frank Sinatra had it right.

Love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage.

Those the Father so loved are the same as those who comprise the Bride of Christ.

It is those alone who Christ will marry.

It is those alone who Christ loves, for He is a faithful Husband who will not commit adultery.

It is those alone for whom Christ willingly died.

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

⁵*Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

⁶*And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

⁷*That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:4-7).*