

Romans 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. -

- Remember context... Remember the question that Paul had posed: Shall we continue in sin? What fruit had ye then in these things whereof ye are now ashamed?
- Paul wants to help us.

Romans 1:11 "For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established... - - -

- He said to "Reckon yourselves to be dead unto sin but alive unto God through Jesus Christ,"
- He said to "Yield your members as instruments of righteousness!"
- He's one more thing that can help us.
- And that's to know ~~ye should be married to another~~ that ye should be married to another. Ye are become dead to the law; that ye should be married to another...

- MARRIED TO ANOTHER... married to Christ..

- remember I told you that Kenen was an doctrinal hot head...
- All your major doctrine come from the book of Romans...
- This concept that we are the bride of Christ is very much one of these doctrines...
- Curiously, you're not going to find a direct reference to the church as the "bride of Christ"
- Not even in Revelation... the word "bride" is mentioned 4X... 3 of which is not talking about the church... and the 4th... It's debatable...

- And the end of Revelation + says, "And the Spirit and the bride say Come. And let him that heareth say Come. And him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely ^{John 22:17} draw

- Preachers always say that the bride in that scripture is the church and I've always thought that...

- The problem is in Chapter 21 the bride is also mentioned ZX And it's not the church, it's the New Jerusalem...

- So we'd have to assume that John is changing his meaning midstream to uphold that assertion. Unlikely...

* So I find that the church being the "bride of Christ," is Pauline... It's from Romans... Chapter 7

You also find in Chapt 19 of Revelation, John talks about the marriage of the Lamb and his wife hath made herself ready...

"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..." Here you can say that the wife is the church. I can see that...

But you'll have to reconcile that with Chapt 21 where the bride is the New Jerusalem... Easily reconcilable in my mind...

However, this is all imagery in Revelation, not necessarily doctrine...

* And then from Ephesians, Paul expands on this...

[Read Eph 5:18-33]

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the church...

- Let this mystery be unveiled in you... Let ~~the~~ this marriage come to fruition... vs 4 that we should bring forth fruit unto God..
- = I know some people will tell you.. You'll know them by their fruit!! No fruit No Root!!!!
- Well, I'm here to tell you it's not that simple... A lot of things have to go right for fruit to come forth...
- The soil has to be plowed
- There's got to be water... then has to be flowers... ^{pollination} pruning
- There's bugs, there's weather, there's rabbits
- Big number of things that can determine the outcome of fruit... You can't judge a book by its cover... No sir...
- I remember how devastated I was when the weather/rain storm leveled ~~my~~ my corn patch... Brought it all down to the ground...
- I was really bummed out & upset... → and that was just for fun...
- I can't imagine how it is for people that do it for a living...
- Their whole livelihood depends on that crop and in one night the whole thing be knocked down...
- Great grief... Great despair... totally out of their hands...

- How does God feel when he sees all the little seedlings he planted grow and mature and to be so close to heavy fruit - get knocked down in the storm...
- Are the beautiful flavors that will become fruit to be chewed off by some ^{rascally} rabbit - Those rabbits are cute - but they ain't so cute when they're chewing on your tomato plants...
- Oh how God wants fruit - Jesus layed his life down suffered & died on the cross... for fruit...
- "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God..."
- "For the joy that was set before him"
- What's that? That's Roman 7:4
- That we should bring forth fruit unto God...
- It's the fruit that brings joy... That's what Fall Festivals were about & Thanksgiving... It was a celebration that the harvest was in... The crops had yielded their fruit... and now is the time to celebrate to be joyful and merry... It's the fruit that brings joy...
- And it's joy for the husbandman... It's joy for the farmer...

- Jesus is the husbandman... Bringing fruit is joy for the husbandmen...
- But what about the plant? Well the plant dies...
- And this gives us a clue how to please God..
- To give God fruit, to give God our heart, means to give God our lives...
- Our lives must be spent in order to bring forth fruit unto God...
- Now that doesn't mean there's no joy in it for us..
- No, that's how it is being married.....
- It's not about your joy.. but ~~what~~ you can rejoice when your spouse rejoices..... It makes me happy when I can make my wife happy... If I can fix something or do some housework that'll make my wife happy, then that makes me happy...
- " If mama ain't happy, Aint nobody happy." EXPRESSION

It's like Ephesians or Genesis. "For this cause shall a man leave his father & mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and ~~that~~ they two shall be one flesh..."

There's a message right there: "Two shall be one!"

- I've always said that the world will tell you that

$1+1=2$

- But with God, Two shall be one --- To be married to Christ ---

What a mystery? --- The mystery of Love is what it is ---

- I really believe that Love is a mystery -- It cannot be contained, cannot be defined, cannot be fully understood ---

- But when a man & a woman fall in love and are married

- What God has joined together, let no man put asunder ---

^{Ecc.} 3:14 - Whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever.

- Nothing can be put to it ---

- Nor anything taken from it.

- And God doeth it, that men should fear before him ---

- You know --- The grace of God --- (EXPLAN)

- Sometimes I think -- it's by the fear of God --

- When I see the evidence of the unseen things of God ---

I fear God ---

- Because I'm reminded of how much I don't know. ---

And how much I'm am unaware of that's going on around me ---

I need help from someone that can see all these things and

knows the way from the end ---

- What do I know? All I know is that $1+1=2$. But

God ~~has~~ ~~said~~ said that Two Shall be One

- When a man & woman fall in love & are married
- I don't know if it happens in our hearts or if it happens in heaven... but a divine transaction is made and it's just as real as ^{the} angels and just as ~~real~~ invisible heaven & hell, yet unseen ---
- It's a mystery ---
- But in this mystery --- there can be joy unspeakable and full of glory!
- Likewise, when you fall in love with Christ & married to him, Two shall be one. Not that we loved Christ, but Christ loved us first... and gave himself for us ---
- There's a confidence in knowing that you're espoused to Christ ---
- One thing that bothers me is 2 people acting like they're married when they're not ---
- They'll live together, buy a house together, buy cars together... share things as if they're married ---
- But when you ARE married. You can confidently with all peace of mind & a clear conscience you do the things that married people do ---
- CONTEXT? You are married to Christ

Red Rev 7:4 Agmt

FRUIT?

- You talk about a new kingdom. Christ can give you that---

Purpose of fruit in crops

- Feed
- Multiply - etc

Pur. of fruit in man

- Multiply
- Be fruitful

CHILDREN!
what a word

Purpose of fruit in school

That ye should be married to one then, That ye should bring forth fruit---

Mother's Day