

Don't Touch My Bride

By Dan Jenkins

Imagine that moment in a wedding when the doors in the back of the wedding chapel open and the bride appears. The song chosen especially for this moment begins to play and the mother of the bride stands. When she does, the audience stands and turns to see the bride. She has never been more radiant, and who could ever forget this moment?

As she begins to take her steps to be joined in holy matrimony, someone steps forward and begins changing her hairstyle. This changes her appearance and neither the bride nor groom likes her new look. Another person comes and changes her jewelry by removing her beautiful earrings and necklace and replacing them with those of far less beauty and value. It does not end there. To the dismay of all present, others change her makeup, her shoes and even the veil.

Your first reaction as you read this account would be that such could never happen. Who could have such disrespect to a bride and groom? Who could ever presume that they were so important that they could ignore what was planned? **But, it actually has happened!**

God has revealed to us that the church is the bride of Jesus. Paul said to the Corinthians, "I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (2 Cor. 11:2). When he wrote to Ephesus, he had spoken about the respect a wife should have for her husband and the sacrificial love the husband must have toward his wife. However, when he got to the end of this discussion he said, "This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Eph. 5:32). The church is truly the bride of Jesus.

Now consider this. Before the world began, the beautiful bride of Jesus was known. God worked for thousands of years to prepare for that time when the doors of heaven would be opened and the bride would appear. Then, the bride came.

God's plan was for the bride to retain her eternal beauty. All authority in heaven and on earth is His and that leaves no room for any mortal to change the adornment of the bride (Matt. 28:18; Gal. 1:6-9). There was no provision for any mortal to change in any way the beauty of His bride. Even angels could not change it.

The denominational nature of modern Christendom is overwhelming evidence that mankind presumptuously altered the bride of Jesus after she was revealed. Every person should soberly consider if they have in their religious life followed those who alter His bride. God help every person in every denomination to think about this and return to His plan for His beautiful bride.

Things you should know about...

We are sending donations to the Disaster Relief Fund quarterly. If you'd like to contribute, mark it as "DRF" or give the money to Jason. The next donation will be sent after the end of September.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Anna Wilson 7/30 | Cole Durst 7/30 | Waylon Allen 8/15 |
| Stephanie Bang 7/30 | Lisa Miller 8/9 | Jason Bang 8/19 |
| Jason Schaffer 7/30 | Shandar Thompson 8/13 | |

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Happy Anniversary!

Chris & Lisa Miller 8/10
Reed & Alexa Rohr 8/17

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

It's almost time for the Great Darke County Fair!

Please plan to join us at the fairgrounds on Sunday, August 20th to hand out waters and talk to the fairgoers in the Spiritual Life building. We will also hold our evening service here.

If you would like to donate water, please bring it to the building between now and August 20th.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Ladies Bible Study - The God of All Comfort
Tentatively, Thursday 8/24 @ 6:45pm

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Serving AM & PM today and next Sunday AM:

| Sunday Rotation | July 30, 2023 AM | July 30, 2023 PM | August 6, 2023 AM |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Greeter | Dustin Desarro | | Dustin Desarro |
| Announcements | Jason Bang | Tom Muter | Jason Bang |
| Song Leading | Doug Hoff | John McGiffin | Bryan Allen |
| Opening Prayer/Usher Left | Seth Arrell | Chris McGiffin | Seth Arrell |
| Lord's Supper Comments | Duane Kemp | Jason Bang | Tom Muter |
| Scripture Reading | | Judah Gasper | Duane Kemp |
| Sermon | Tom Muter | | John McGiffin |
| Closing Prayer/Usher Right | Tim Bang | Duane Kemp | Tim Bang |

This week's Bible Verse

“But Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With men it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible’”. Mark 10:27

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Lord's Supper Reflection

To Make His Cross the Ground of Our Boasting

“But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” Galatians 6:14

Offering Meditation

Continue giving back to God and you will receive your reward

“But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.” 2 Chronicles 15:7

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Remember in Prayer:

- *Our Country & leaders
- *Phyllis Caldwell - recovering from a fall
- *Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- *Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- *Larry Bey - dealing with Parkinson's
- *Orville Thompson (Jerry Thompson's dad) - health
- *Maxine Jones (Laura McGiffin's mom) - issues with her dementia, health
- *Debby Braefield (Alena Brown's Aunt) - health
- *Caroline Stine - health
- *Pamela Illnick (Amie Allen's mom) - struggling with her health and faith
- *Terry McGiffin (John McGiffin's dad) - health & stability/balance issues
- *Jeanette Leugers (Carol Kemp's Sister-in-law) - recently diagnosed with cancer
- *Karen Oyler (friend of Stephanie Bang) - dealing with back pain and cancer treatments

- *Nellie Hoff - having back & leg pain from a fall
- *Lynne Thompson (Jerry Thompson's sister) - health
- *Flo Lawson (sister at Tipp City Church of Christ) - has pneumonia, not eating much, in Hospice care
- *Bill Wallace (brother at Tipp City Church of Christ) - having cancer treatments and an upcoming procedure for additional cancer related treatments
- *Family and friends of Sheila Daniels (Sharon Desarro's aunt) grieving her loss
- *Steve Anderson (Michelle Buckingham's dad) - health
- *Seth Arrell - recent job interview
- *Michelle Buckingham, Rick and Lois Ferris and Phyllis Caldwell are all traveling
- *Nichole Thorpe (Amie Allen's friend) - recovering from complications with gall bladder surgery

How can we be praying for YOU?

Please call or email John (jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you have for the congregation.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Attendance and Contribution Record

Sunday, July 23

Bible Classes 35
AM Attendance 51
PM Attendance 29

Wednesday, July 26

Bible Classes 20
Contribution \$2,210.00

Welcome to the Greenville Church of Christ



July 30, 2023

Worship Times:

- Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am
- Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am
- Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd
Greenville, OH 45331

www.greenvillecoc.org

We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us!
If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.