

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST – THE BODY OF CHRIST (John 15) (part 5)

And He cleanses and repeatedly prunes every branch that continues to bear fruit, to make it bear more and richer and more excellent fruit. (v2)

The true bride of Christ-the body of Christ is a branch connected to the Vine, who is Christ, her Lord. From the Vine she is nourished, she is established, she is secure and she is also cleansed, for the Vine is also the living, powerful Word of God. In the process of her sanctification, she is pruned repeatedly through the work of the Holy Spirit unto her obedience to Him. In that process then she bears fruit continuously. The action of dwelling in her Lord is imperative for her to receive life and blessings. Life, because by dwelling in Christ, He will dwell in her and His life in her will allow her to bear fruit. As He has said, outside of Him she can do nothing that is worth unto eternity.

The bride of Christ- the body of Christ is given the promise of her prayers being answered, **conditionally upon** her abiding in Him, His Words remaining in her heart. It is not an action of only one time, but a continuous life style of obedience to her Christ with the purpose of bearing fruit and more fruit, as long as she lives. By dwelling in Him, she is abiding in His **love**. In this step of obedience she then shall be found stable under the shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91:1). She shall be made perfect in the love of God, reaching the maturity of perfection found only by abiding in His love. (I John 4:18).

And it is in His love that her love will stretch far and beyond to others, including her enemies. It is in His love that she will learn to forgive and this fruit bears eternal value. Christ's desire for His bride is that she produces not just fruit, but richer and more excellent fruit. Understanding the reason for Christ pruning her bride, it should have never been a question of why the Christian suffers. For it is in this pruning that her fruit will be excellent in the sight of God, coming to Him in a suave aroma.

The bride of Christ-the body of Christ is promised the privilege of being hated, persecuted by the world. It is a privilege because her Lord was hated before her; it is a privilege, because she is walking in His steps and expressing the sign of the

true bride of Christ. Jesus said that the world will persecute his bride because she bride is not of this world and the world does not know or understand God (vv.19-20). How shall the bride behave in light of her persecution? **Rejoice!** Because great is her reward in heaven (Matthews 5:12). And that my friend is worth the trip to sanctification. Don't you think?

Think about it!

Light from the Word

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