

## Encouragement for the heart from Whole Families

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This has been another year of blessings to meet so many of you for the first time. The honor is mine every time I get to set in God's presence as we humble ourselves and seek His best in our lives. Notice that I say we because it is I at times that comes under conviction as I am in counseling. This is important because I must also keep a clean heart before God.

### Insights

God continues to bring more insights on the picture of marriage, the Groom, and the Bride that he calls a mystery of the Church. It is fun to see the types and shadows from scripture and also the principle of first the natural and then the spiritual as set forth in 1Corinthians 15:46. I would encourage every Christian to start to think in this way as they read and study scripture.

### The Bride of Christ Type

We read in Genesis about this type. God created Adam from the dust of the ground

and then he breathed into him the breath of life and he became a living soul. We see that it was just God and Adam with the animals before sin. God and Adam had perfect relationship and yet God said "it is not good that Man should be alone". God then put Adam to sleep and took a rib from his side and created a bride for him and then brought the bride to Adam. Notice that Adam was created from the dust but the bride was created from Adam.

### Shadow

God created all of mankind as a type of Adam and then put the second Adam (which is a type of Christ) to sleep (or death) and then from the second Adam (Christ) created a bride for his son. We know this bride as the church. Then he raised up His Son and at the second coming of Christ, Jesus will be married to His Bride. Notice that the true bride can only come from the second Adam (Christ) not the dust.

### Second Type

Scripture says that God is love. Now love by itself without any subject to love, has nothing for love to do. Then comes this second type from marriage, God created all of mankind and uses all of the trials, hardships, and furnaces of affliction of this earthly walk to perfect the Bride and test the voluntary love of that bride so that His Sons Bride can be the object of His love

when time is no more, or throughout all eternity. The whole purpose of creating mankind, the world, and everything in it was so that he could lavish His love throughout all eternity on the ones that are chosen, tried on the earth, and proven to be true voluntary lovers. What a perfect plan!

### Biblical Thinking

Just because we think something to be true about God or the Bible does not make it true. It is very important for us to know and think the written word of God. When Jesus was tempted He said it is written and then quoted it word for word, we must learn to do the same thing. That is what God tells us to do when He tells us to take every thought captive and make it obey Christ. If we are lazy in doing this or are unaware in the beginning of learning to do so, we will see that the results are a heavy heart or emotional sadness from our uncontrolled thoughts.

### Seeing what Christ sees

Once we have received Christ as our savior we must understand our worth in light of what He had to pay to redeem each of us. Because Jesus gave His life for you and me we are now worth the same as He, thus making us a son/child of God. It is not about self worth or self-esteem, it is about the confidence that the Father has in the work of His Son in us. It is about Him not

me anymore, without Him I can do nothing but I am not without Him and never will be again so I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me. We must see that it is His finished work, not mine.

### *The Cross*

Each and every one of us has to come to the Cross at some time in our lives. We must understand that before the Cross in our life the wages of sin is death, and that we are responsible to pay that debt. We will suffer guilt, condemnation, and the penalty for rejecting Jesus unless we receive by faith the work that Jesus finished on the Cross for each and every one of us. Once we have received Jesus' work by faith through repentance (agreeing with God about our sin) and believing this work as the complete work needed to pay our debt then we must understand that all guilt, all condemnation, and all penalties for our sin past, present, and future were nailed to the Cross when Jesus was nailed to the cross. Now on this side of the cross the only thing that will remain when we sin is conviction (hiding from God and He wants us back) and consequence of sin (not penalty). One example of a consequence of sin is that as a Christian if I drink alcohol my witness for Christ can be destroyed or I can go to the grave early because of the excess. We must not let the enemy guilt us or condemn us on this side of the Cross.

Now by our faith and our love for God He is able to be Lord of our complete life, and do His work through us.

### *More Personal*

Thank you for all of the generous gifts we have received this past year and the prayers for protection, wisdom, safety that have been lifted up for our ministry and family, YOU are much appreciate. When our leadership put us into this ministry 5 years ago we had just come out of the process of adopting the 5 blessings that are God's children He trusts us with. Through that process and some mistakes on my part, we are still burdened with \$40,000 debt that causes us hardship. I have thought of leaving the ministry part time and finding work or trying to find a night job so as not to interfere with a very full ministry schedule and my family responsibility. After prayer and counsel I felt that I was to open this personal matter to you. I love my wife, family, and counseling very much and intend to do this the rest of my life, God willing. I still do not want to turn anyone away because they cannot afford counseling. I pray that my bringing this subject up is not offensive to anyone that reads this letter. If God prompts any to help with these expenses please make checks payable to L.B.C.F. (Little Blue Christian Fellowship) for Reinke adoption expense. Thank you for allowing me to

open this matter to you. My son Zachary and I are also working on a manufacturing project that we hope will allow us to be more self supporting as we continue in fulltime ministry.

### *Testimony*

Jon and Tammy both grew up in dysfunctional homes and had been hurt deeply by neglect and abuse from events and people close to them. They married after they were Christian but still struggled in relationship to each other. Their pain of the past still shaped them and their responses. To cover his pain Jon used sex and exercise and had been arrested many times for window peeping and convicted in many of those arrests. After biblical counsel he felt the freedom from the slavery to sin by admitting and taking ownership of that sin and not blaming a disease, but he could not maintain that freedom. Jon was being taught in a program to call himself something over and over that was no longer true "a sexaholic". After he learned that Christ became his sin for him at salvation and that he is now a new creation in Christ Jesus, God gave both of them the grace to forgive each other for their past failures. They now enjoy each other and their children in the freedom that only Christ can give.

It is about Christ.

Sincerely, Brad and family