

The Blood Dowry

Introduction:

1. Paul by the Holy Spirit makes it clear that we are the marital bride of Jesus Christ (Eph 5:25-32).
2. This theme is throughout the Bible, especially the idea of spiritual adultery (Is 54:5; 62:4-5; Jer 3:1-25; Ezek 16:1-63; Matt 9:15; 25:1-13; John 3:29; II Cor 11:2; Jas 4:4; Rev 19:7-8; 21:2,9; 22:17).
3. Recent consideration of this fact from Psalm 45 and Song of Solomon 5:9-16 might discomfort you.
4. Most any other consideration of men being a bride or wife should discomfort you, but not this one.
5. Rather than unease – being Christ's bride should excite you with joy unspeakable and full of glory.
6. In preparation for communion, let us hone in on the fact that a metaphorical dowry was paid for us.
7. While a dowry is not mentioned in the N.T., the marriage of Christ and His church most definitely is.
8. While a dowry is not mentioned in the N.T., a redemption payment and buying purchase most surely is (Matt 20:28; Acts 20:28; I Pet 1:18; I Cor 6:20; Eph 1:14; I Tim 2:6; Titus 2:14; Rev 5:9; etc.).
9. Recall, a bondmaid could be redeemed by another and married to him instead (Ex 21:8; Lev 19:20).
10. For much more about redemption in both testaments ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/redemption.pdf>.

What is a dowry?

- A. In the Old Testament a dowry transaction was necessary to bring about a marriage.
- B. It is the payment a man makes to the family of the woman he wants for his wife.
 1. Jacob worked seven years, very much like a dowry, to get Rachel (Gen 29:18-20).
 2. Shechem loved Jacob's daughter Dinah enough to offer any payment (Ex 34:12).
 3. David paid 200 Philistine foreskins to King Saul to get Michal (I Sam 18:20-27).
 4. Israel's price for a virgin was 50 shekels of silver (Ex 22:16-17; Deut 22:28-29).
 5. This price compares to 30 shekels for a servant (Ex 21:32), as the case of Jesus.
 6. This price compares to the redemption price of a man in his prime (Lev 27:3).
 7. This price is only one-half the fine for falsely accusing a virgin (Deut 22:13-19).
- C. A dowry had much wisdom to qualify young men and to compensate girls' families.
 1. If a young man did not have this money, he is hardly worthy to be a husband.
 2. Girls helped on farms and losing them to other families deserved compensation.
- D. Girls had to wait and hope that someone with sufficient assets would desire them.
- E. Hindus, the benighted religious fools they are, reverse the dowry to corrupt marriage.
- F. Hindu dowry idiocy leads to several evils ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/bride-burning.pdf>.

Who wanted us as wife?

- A. In God's great drama of redemption, He has chosen us for the bride of His only Son.
- B. We may trace Jesus Christ's bride back from Eph 5:25-32 to Eph 1:22 to Eph 1:3-8.
- C. God did not choose us because of our glory, but so that He could get Himself glory!
- D. We had no beauty to cause pity or love, for we were of the same lump (Rom 9:21-24).

What kind of a dowry were we worth?

- A. We had no value, for we were ugly, perverse, odious, filthy women beyond compare.
- B. If this symbolic marriage required a virgin, we were defiled with Satan and the world.
- C. We had no hope or reason to ever be married ... but to be slaves of Satan (Eph 2:1-3).
- D. He was the strong man who had us in his palace, and we liked it there (Luk 11:20-21).

- E. There was no earthly reason or human logic to have spent a single dime for any of us.
- F. Yet worse, a legal claim against us required our death three ways – body, soul, eternal.
- G. There was every reason to leave you loving the devil with his eternal home yours also.

To whom was the dowry paid?

- A. The dowry was paid to God's justice, by which Satan had an eternal claim against us.
- B. In the plan of redemption, God is seen in several roles – God, Judge, Father, etc., etc.
- C. There is a sense in which we were the devil's slave, but the dowry freed us from him.
- D. A great redemption was paid to satisfy infinite justice and buy us everlasting beauty!

What was the dowry price?

- A. The dowry was the blood of God's Son, the life of His Son to release us for marriage.
- B. Precious metals gold and silver cannot compare to His precious blood (I Pet 1:18-20).
- C. God so loved us and desired His Son to have us that He bruised and killed His Son.
- D. If this makes little marital sense, you are right. God's desire for holy drama inspired it.
- E. The end goal was not a sensible transaction, but one of infinite grace for equal praise.

Who remembers the dowry was paid?

- A. God remembers by our names being written in the book of Life of the Lamb slain.
- B. Jesus lives forever to intercede for us, reminding His father like a priest of the dowry.
- C. He will save to the uttermost, not losing a single one, all that God gave Him to wife.
- D. The great price was paid and accepted, and nothing can separate us from His family.

Did the dowry leave any wealth for pleasure?

- A. If a poor family scraped together a dowry or borrowed for it, the future could be bleak.
- B. With God His Father, there is an inheritance of things beyond imagination (I Cor 2:9).
- C. Jesus has been promoted to the right hand of glory and rules over heaven and earth.
- D. We shall sit with Him in His throne and rule with Him over the nations. Get used to it!

Is the Father still committed to the marriage?

- A. A father could buy a wife for his son and let them struggle through life themselves.
- B. A father could buy a wife for his son and require a prenuptial to deny further claims.
- C. He reasoned that having given His Son He will surely give everything else (Ro 8:32).
- D. He wrote His will so we are joint-heirs together of all things with His Son (Rom 8:17).

What is the Lord's Supper?

- A. The event He chose for us to remember the price He paid in order to marry us forever.
- B. The new covenant, represented by the cup, is by the metaphor our marriage covenant.
- C. Our weddings: *With this ring I thee wed.* Our Lord says, *With this blood I thee wed!*
- D. We strictly judge those at His Table, for no one deserves it but faithful, loving brides.
- E. The bride of Christ is His church, a congregation, a large number, thus *communion*.

What is the effect of such a dowry?

- A. We should be chaste virgins, individually and church, for our Husband (II Co 11:2-3).
- B. With such love shown and such a price paid, spiritual adultery is profane (James 4:4).
- C. Consider just ferocity threatened to Hebrews if they backslid to Moses (He 10:26-31).
- D. The love of Jesus Christ for us should constrain us to any obedience (II Cor 5:14-15).

Conclusion:

- 1. Let us come to communion with unmitigated love and appreciation for Him who made us His bride.
- 2. Let the Bible and its metaphorical representations of God's love for us inflame your heart forever.
- 3. Let Bible references to us as Christ's bride be precious, not uncomfortable (Eph 5:25-32; Ps 45).

For Further Study:

- 1. The sermon outline ... *The Glory of the Cross* ... <http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/pdf/glory-of-the-cross-2.pdf>. [See many links at bottom!]
- 2. The sermon outline ... *Facets of Salvation* ... <http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/sermons/salvation/facets-of-salvation/sermon.php>.
- 3. The sermon outline ... *Redemption through His Blood* ... <http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/pdf/redemption.pdf>.
- 4. The sermon outline ... *I Have Found a Ransom* ... <http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/pdf/ransom.pdf>.
- 5. The sermon outline ... *Unsearchable Riches of Christ* ... <http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/pdf/unsearchable-riches.pdf>.
- 6. The sermon outline ... *He Is Altogether Lovely* ... <http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/bible/christ/he-is-altogether-lovely.php>.
- 7. The sermon outline ... *World's Greatest Lover* ... <http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/pdf/worlds-greatest-lover.pdf>.