

Holy Consummation

“The Joy & Freedom of Submission to Christ”

I. CONSUMMATION

Since today’s message is entitled Holy Consummation, we should probably be sure that we know what the word consummation means. Over the last month or so, we had a few messages about the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. I was most likely inspired by the recent marriage of my daughter Lilli.

The standard Christian belief is that after the Pastor unites a husband and wife in holy matrimony (marriage), there is an entitlement between husband and wife to make the marriage complete by a sexual union. This is the time when the wife willfully submits herself, her body to her husband’s love and desire for her. The definition of consummation includes the idea that when a marriage occurs, then the sexual union actually completes or finalizes the marriage. I pray, however, for my daughter as well as for all other married Christian couples, that the joy of the sexual union is just the beginning of marital bliss.

II. FINDING BALANCE BETWEEN LEGALISM & FREEDOM

It may not be well known to our group, but there was a discussion recently about what our next study book should be for our midweek services. We are now finishing up our study on the book of Acts. I had recommended that we study the book of James. You might remember from our studies that James, the brother of YAHUSHA [Jesus], as leader of the Jewish Council, was instrumental in helping decide many of the issues of the early church. As more and more Gentiles were coming to Christ [MESSIAH] and receiving the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit], the Council was trying to figure out how to integrate them into the Church, into HA’MASHIACH [Christ]’s universal body. There was some pushback on my choice. The pushback was that we should study Galatians instead, because of the freedom that our participants had felt after reading it recently.

I have agreed that we will study the book of Galatians, but we must be careful as we proceed. We should not to conclude too much from just one of the twenty-one (21) letters that are found in the New Testament, including even James’ letter. On one side, Paul’s letter to the Galatians emphasizes freedom in MESSIAH [Christ] for a

church struggling with legalism. On the other side, Paul's letter to the Corinthians stresses obedience for a church that is taking its freedom to immoral extremes.¹ And so, as we begin our study of Paul's letter to the Galatians, we will be balancing it out with His first letter to the Corinthians. For by what I see, in today's world the body of MESSIAH [Christ] is more polluted by immorality and marriage to the world, than it is polluted by an adherence to legalism. But yet, both are problems that we must face and overcome. Today, we will be taking a look at Paul's message to the church in Corinth; today's scripture is from 1 Corinthians 6, verses 15 through 20.

III. SCRIPTURE

“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ [MASHIACH]? Shall I then take the members of Christ [MASHIACH] and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For ‘the two,’ He says, ‘shall become one flesh.’ But he who is joined to the Lord [YAHUAH] is one spirit with Him.” (1 Cor. 6:15-17; *NKJV*).² [And so, ...]

“Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit [RUACH HA'QODESH] who is in you, whom you have from God [YAHUAH], and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God [YAH] in your body and in your spirit, which are God [YAHUAH]'s.” (1 Cor. 6:18-20).

IV. THE ADHESIVE TAPE ILLUSTRATION

At this week's pastors meeting, Pastor Rob of the Oasis AOG church, had recalled and shared an illustration with us that a professor used in front of his large class of young adult students. The topic was on premarital sex. Before giving his lecture, he passed around two pieces of adhesive tape. For the first, he took the large single piece of adhesive tape and invited every student in the class to stick it to anything that they could think of, and then peel it off and pass it on to the next student. For the second, the professor took a large single piece of adhesive tape and placed it onto some glass. For this second experiment, the professor asked his students to apply some form of pressure onto the tape as it was passed around, and before passing it on to the next student.

1. J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays, *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2012), 251-254.

2. 1 Cor 6:15-20; Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is from the *New King James Version*.

After some time went by and the lecture continued, both pieces of tape eventually made their way back to the front of the auditorium. After the lecture concluded, the professor invited a couple of the students to the front. To one he gave the tape that had been attached to everyone and everything that could be found; he asked this student to try to get it to adhere to anyone or anything else he could find. But it would not adhere to anything else because of all the dirt, fabric particles, hair, filth and other stuff that had stuck to it in the process of being adhered to anything and everything along the way. To the other student, he asked her to try and take the tape off of the glass. And as much as she tried, she couldn't get it to peel off without tearing it into tiny little shreds because it had adhered to the glass so tightly.

This illustration shows us exactly what Paul meant when he says in today's scripture, "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ [MASHIACH]? Shall I then take the members of Christ [MASHIACH] and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For 'the two,' He says, 'shall become one flesh.' But he who is joined to the Lord [YAHUAH] is one spirit with Him." (1 Cor. 6:15-17).

V. SEXUAL IMMORALITY

A. PHYSICAL IMMORALITY

By the time I had reached my forties, and I had finally come to surrender myself to and become saved by YAHUSHA [Jesus], but it wasn't without its difficulties. Prior to that time, over a period of many years, I had adhered myself to all the dirt, filth and other stuff that I picked up through my illicit relationships. After I became saved, I realized that although I had MASHIACH [Christ] in my life, I was having difficulty of getting rid of all the stuff that had stuck to me. And one day as I read Solomon's words of advice to a younger man, "Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth" (Prov. 5:18), I felt as if my opportunity for this kind of joy had passed me by. When I surveyed my heart, I realized that all the dirt and filth of my promiscuity had taken away that pure, innocent love that I had once had in my heart that I had for others. I had become so broken by all the pieces of my innocence that I had frittered away, that it wasn't until after a long period of time of praying to YAHUAH [God], that He would begin to renew a right spirit, an unselfish love toward others within me again.

And as I tell you again about my past immorality, again I'm sure that some of you are thinking that you have never sinned in this way. To you, I will ask, what about how you have given yourself away in a union with the world? For if we don't think that we have given in to this world, its ideology, I would ask pray and consider if you might be in a state of self-deception.

B. MENTAL & SPIRITUAL IMMORALITY

As you look at the world around you, consider this... that the bible says, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" (Isa. 5:20-21).

As Pastor Larry also shared with us during this week's pastors' meeting, we who claim to be YAHUAH [God]'s children, have been:

- Losing our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.
- Ridiculing the absolute truth of [God's] Word and calling it Pluralism.
- Tolerating and even worshipping other gods and calling it multiculturalism.
- Endorsing perversion and calling it an alternative lifestyle.
- Exploiting the poor and calling it the lottery.
- Rewarding laziness and calling it welfare.
- Killing our unborn and calling it choice.
- Neglecting to discipline our children and calling it building self-esteem.
- Coveting our neighbor's possessions and calling it ambition.
- Polluting the air with profanity and pornography and calling it freedom of expression, ...

... and we have been doing even more than this, as the list goes on and on.

Don't you remember that the fall of this failing world, including the fall of its leaders and its people, is compared to having our having an illicit sexual relationship with a harlot, who is filled with all filthiness and abomination (Rev. 17:3-5)? Ask yourself, "Have I become the adhesive tape that has all the world's dirt, fabric particles, hair, filth and other stuff on it that I can't seem to loosen myself from it?"

To the church in Corinth, Paul warns, "Do you not know that [you who are] unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God [YAHUAH]? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor

extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God [yahuah]. And such were some of you. But... you were washed, but... you were sanctified, but... you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus [ADONAI YAHUSHA HA'MASHIACH] and by the Spirit of our God [RUACH YAHUAH]." (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

VI. FINDING JOY IN OUR HOLY CONSUMMATION WITH YAHUSHA [Jesus]

As the Apostle Paul says of wedded husbands and wives, we should also submit ourselves, our bodies, with our heart and mind, to YAHUSHA [Jesus] in Holy Consummation. The apostle Paul writes, "Let the husband render [give] to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise, the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does." (1 Cor. 7:3-4).

And now, brothers and sisters, as we submit ourselves, our bodies, our hearts and minds to YAHUSHA [Jesus], we are obligated to give Him full rights to us as He is entitled to as our Holy Spouse. Then, as we do, as the newlyweds do after their holy consummation, we begin to experience the heavenly joy that can only be found in us faithfully yielding ourselves to Him, through our being possessed by an indwelling of the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit].

And as we pray for YAHUAH [God]'s help to shake off all the impurities and filth of this world, as the disciples of the early church shook off the dust of an evil world from their feet, we will begin to be filled with intense joy, as the Holy Spirit [RUACH HA'QODESH" (Acts 13:51-52) takes control, and we find ourselves becoming more and more adhered to Him, our new bride, our new husband... our YAHUSHA [Jesus].

Yes, brothers and sisters, you will certainly find joy in MESSIAH [Christ] as you submit to Him... and you will also begin to find your freedom from the world's harlot. "For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world." (1 John 2:16).

For our husband YAHUSHA [Jesus] romantically tells us, "**As [My] Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.**" (John 15:9-11).

And as we walk together with Him, He continues to reassure us that "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus [MASHIACH

YAHUSHA], who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit [RUACH]. For the law of the Spirit of life [RUACH CHAYIYM] in Christ Jesus [MASHIACH YAHUSHA] has made [us] free from the law of sin and death. For those who live according to the flesh” He continues, “set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit [RUACH], the things of the Spirit [RUACH].” (Rom 8:1-2,5)

And He continues to lovingly tell us ...

“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit [RUACH], if indeed the Spirit of God [RUACH YAHUAH] dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ [RUACH MASHIACH], he is not His. And if Christ [MESSIAH] is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit [RUACH] is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit [RUACH] of Him who raised Jesus [YAHUSHA] from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ [MESSIAH] from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit [RUACH] who dwells in you.” (Rom. 8:9-11).

VII. CONCLUSION

And as we hear His words, and await His physical return to take us home with Him, we say back to Him now ...

“Dear YAHUSHA [Jesus], come upon me now... come upon me each day my ADONAI [Lord]... possess me through your RUACH [Spirit]... Yes MY ADONAI [Lord], possess me now and dwell within me as Your temple, Your holy space, that we might share our time adhering to each other more and more.”

Thank you.

Amen.