

# O Bride of Christ

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Ephesians 5 is often understood as a chapter in the Bible that uses the church as a metaphor to describe marriage but it is actually the other way around. The Apostle Paul is writing primarily about the church, the relationship between Christ and His Bride, and using marriage as a metaphor. (Eph 5:32).

The lyrics of "O Bride of Christ" depict several key aspects about the nature and assignment of the church. She is not a gathering of perfect people, but sinners in need of a savior (Romans 3:21-26). The distinction between sinner and saint is the application of Jesus' saving work and sinners known and loved by Jesus beautifully comprise the Church's membership.

*O Bride of Christ, rise up as one  
Yes, sinners all, but known and loved  
Washed radiant white by saving blood  
O Bride of Christ, resplendent*

Jesus promised that after his death and resurrection He would send a Helper (Jn 14:16) and that He would always be with them (Matt 28:20). Because of the presence of the risen Christ, the Church has no reason to fear, only reason to hope.

*O bride of Christ, hold fast your hope  
You will not face the night alone  
When fear is strong your Lord is close  
O bride of Christ, unshaken*

Jesus rules over the Church as the head like a king (Eph 5:23), and the church lives concretely on earth as members of His Body (Eph 5:30). Jesus became ruler of His Church through conquest over death at the cross (Gen 3:15; 1 Cor 15:55-57), and has shared His victory with His bride.

***One sovereign God, one living church  
One saving faith and one rebirth  
One Conquering King who ransomed her  
O bride of Christ, victorious***

Even now, the Church awaits final victory, like a farmer waiting for a harvest (Matt 9:37). The mission of the Church is to announce His grace—the forgiveness of sins and regeneration of every man who joins Himself with Christ (2 Cor 5:17). We exult in one thing only - Jesus Christ and Him crucified - the glorious gospel of grace.

*O Bride of Christ, lift up your face  
Around you now the harvest waits  
Let grateful hearts announce His grace  
O Bride of Christ, exultant*

- written by Redemption City Church member, Devin Maddox