



Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL 139.0

January 27
2017

A Devoted Bride

“We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5 ESV).

All Believers are still tempted to sin. We sin when we act on the rebellious arguments of the flesh against the knowledge of God. Paul instructed us to destroy every argument and speculation against God that comes from outside influences while also imprisoning every thought or imagination in our hearts and minds that freely acts to oppose our devotion to Jesus Christ. He told the Church at Corinth, *“I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ”* (2 Cor. 11:2-3).

Paul appealed to them in this way because a betrothed woman who is devoted to a godly husband would never entertain ideas, thoughts, or arguments against her beloved. She would not listen if asked, “Why are you waiting for this man, when he has made you wait so long? You should come away with me and have some fun instead.” She would not entertain thoughts in her own heart, such as, “Now that I’m betrothed, I’m expected to serve my husband, but I will continue serving my own desires instead.” A devoted bride would not let these thoughts remain free in her heart or mind; she would deny them freedom because they make her faithless and adulterous at heart.

Paul further explained our relationship to Jesus: *“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their hus-*

bands. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it” (Eph. 5:22-25).

While in human marriage both spouses are still swayed by their sin natures and entertain arguments against one another, the Church’s bridegroom is sinless. As Jesus is perfect, sinless, and good, all the more reason that the Church be devoted to Him without giving freedom to thoughts or reservations against Him. Furthermore, Jesus loved us so much that He endured in our place the death and separation from His Father that we deserve for our sin—not only so we would be saved from it, but also that we could be united to Him as His purified Bride in eternal glory. In light of this, how could the Church tolerate arguments against Him? Today, many in the Church are entertaining and even promoting arguments that are in opposition to Jesus—things which are “anti-Christ.” Also, in our personal lives, we may give some freedom to arguments and ideas that raise themselves against God’s knowledge in our minds and make friends of us to the world. At times, we all struggle with “anti-Christ” thoughts and desires that oppose our Bridegroom in our hearts, for this is the reality of the sin nature that God is cleansing us from.

But while we struggle in our rebellious flesh to come to a sincere and pure devotion to our Beloved, may it not be said of us, *“You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, ‘He yearns jealously over the spirit that He has made to dwell in us’?”* (James 4:4-5). The Church is still tempted to rebel against Christ, but as a devoted Bride, we should be **“fixing our eyes on Jesus”** (Heb. 12:2), seeking to fully submit, serve, and please Him *“to the praise of His glory”* (Eph. 1:12). Amen.

Explore more devotionals, articles, sermons, and music from the Body of Christ—also sign up for the bi-monthly Newsletter and learn more about the Berean Christian Fellowship and its ministry, the Berean Lamp—by visiting us at www.bereanlamp.org