

“JESUS LOVES ME”

The Sacred Romance – Jesus Courts Us

The Bible tells us:

- 1) Jesus **L_____** us and wants to have an intimate **R_____** with us ... and it brings him **P_____**!

Acts 17:24-27 (all scriptures NIV): “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth, and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands **as if He needed anything**, because He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man He made every nation of men ... God did this so that men would **seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him**, though He is not far from each of us”.

Ephesians 1:3-5: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For He **chose us** in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In **love**, He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ in accordance with His **pleasure and will**”.

Other verses:

Psalms 8:4-5 Is 29:13; 62: 4,12 Titus 3:4-7 Rev 3:20

- 2) Jesus **h_____** Himself, endured the cross and it’s shame, suffered and died in order to potentially have an eternal, intimate relationship with you and me! (Heb 12:1-3; Phil 2:5-8).
- 3) God knows us by **N_____** (individually); He wants a “**S_____ R_____**”, a “**M_____**” type relationship with us!

- God knows us individually (Is 49:16; Psalm 139; John 10:3,14; 2 Tim 2:19; Is 43:1, 45:3, 49:1)

The Bible speaks of a “marriage” type relationship between God/Jesus and the Church/Christians

Is 54:5-7; Jer 2:2, 3:14, 20, 31:32; Hosea 2:2-5, 3:1, 9:1

Song of Solomon?

Matthew 9:14-15

Eph 5:31-32

Rev 19:6-9 (Jer 31:13; Is 25:6; Mat 22:2-12)

Our time on earth is like an “engagement” period

4) Jesus “C_____” us (seeks an intimate relationship with us) in a variety of ways:

- By His creation (Rom 1:18-20; Ps 19:1-6)
- By His word (Jn 14:21,23)
- By the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:15-18)
- By the “good gifts” He gives us (Mt 7:11; Jm 1:17)
- By giving us blessings (John 1:16)
- By the church and other Christians (Acts 2:42-47)
- By past demonstrations of His love (e.g. the Cross) (Rom 5:8)
- By worship/praise/thanksgiving (Jn 14:23-24; Eph 5:19-20; Col 3:16-17)
- By speaking to our hearts (I Ki 19:10-13; Rev 3:20)
- By telling us of His future plans for us (Jn 14:1-3)

5) We often R_____ Jesus because we are D_____ and T_____ B_____!

Rev 3:14-20 Jesus is knocking at our heart door ... are we listening?

Luke 10:38-41 Tasks can distract us from our relationship with Jesus

Luke 14: 15-20 We are “too busy” for Jesus. Good things keep us from the best!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

6) Jesus wants to give us a S_____ A_____ life here on earth. He is also excitedly looking forward to us being in H_____ with Him!

- He wants to enjoy a “super abundant” life here on earth (John 10:10)

NASB “...I have come that they might have life, and might have it abundantly”

- He wants to show us His glory! (John 17:20-24; Ex 33:11,18-20)
- He wants us to reveal our glory (which comes through Him) (Rom 8:14-25)

There are “new” things He wants to give us for our enjoyment with Him!!

- *New name* (a private name known only by us and Him) Rev 2:17; Is 62:2, 65:15
- *New home* (special dwelling place just for us) John 14:1-3
- *New body* (similar to His) I Cor 15:35-58
- *A new life* (eternal life full of incomprehensible joys, adventures and relationships)
Psalm 16:11; I Cor 2:9; Rev 21 & 22, etc

The Sacred Romance – Appropriate Responses to Jesus

What are appropriate responses to Jesus courting of us?

1) Say YES to Jesus! Seek a close, personal, intimate relationship with Him!

Psalms 16:11

Ps 34:8

Ps 42:1-2

Ps 63:1

Ps 97:12

Ps 105: 1-5

Is 55:6-7

Hab 3:17-19

Phil 3:1, 4:4

Good news! If we earnestly seek a close relationship with Jesus, we will find it! (Mat 7:7-8; Ps 53:2; Jer 29:13; Acts 17:24-27)

2) Cultivate a desire to be with Him forever in Heaven!

Ps 16:11

Ps 27:4

Ps 84

I Cor 2:9

John 10

3) Learn and Practice ways to develop our relationship with Jesus here on earth!

Twenty ways to develop our relationship with Jesus:

- 1) **Be committed to pursuing God** (Duet 4:29; Ps 27:4, 63:1-8, 84:2; Jer 29:13). **Have a sense of urgency** (Ps 34:4, 63:1, 77:1-2). **Don't be lukewarm towards Jesus** (Rev 3:14-16).
- 2) **Worship God – in spirit and in truth** (John 4:23-24).
- 3) **Love & worship God only; avoid false gods/idols** (Ex 20:3-6).
- 4) **Obey God – learn & do His word** (John 14:15, 21, 23, 15:4; I John 5:3; Luke 6:46-49, 8:19-21, 11:28; James 1:22-25; Duet 30:8-9; Ps 19:7-11; Ps 119).
- 5) **Be humble, not proud** (James 4:6,10; Is 57:15).

- 6) **Choose to draw close to God ... And He will draw close to you** (James 4:8; John 15:5)
- 7) **Make time to listen to God's "gentle whisper"** (I Kings 19:11-13)
- 8) **Desire Jesus over things of the earth** (Ps 73:23-26)
- 9) **Avoid sin; pursue holiness and righteousness** (Jer 32:41; Prov 1:24, 26 15:9; Is 9:13-14; Hosea 5:4-6, 7:10; Ps 24:3-6)
- 10) **Have faith, believe and trust God. Realize He will never leave or forsake us!** (Mat 28:20; Heb 10:38, 11:6, 13:5; Rom 1:17; Mt 13:58; Jam 2:23; Rom 4:3,9,22; Is 41:8; 2 Chron 20:7).
- 11) **Realize He has good plans for us, and wants us to have an abundant life!** (John 10:10; Jer 29:11)
- 12) **Give heart to God** (2 Chr 16:9; I Sam 13:4, 16:7; Duet 6:5; Mat 22:37)
- 13) **Delight in God** (Ps 37:4)
- 14) **Have a spirit of thanksgiving ("attitude of gratitude")** (I Chron 16:8-36; Ps 22:26, 40:16,70:4, 105:3).
- 15) **Get to know God** (Rom 11:33-36; Phil 3:7-10).
- 16) **Prayer** (Heb 4:14-16, 10:19-22; Mat 21:22; John 14:13, 16:24).
- 17) **Be aware of the "beast within", the "traitor" – our sinful, fleshly nature** (Rom 7:20-23; Gal 5:17)
- 18) **Realize God cares for us – we can give Him all our worries and burdens** (Mt 11:28-30; I Pet 5:7; Phil 4:6-7; Ps 55:22)
- 19) **Fellowship & minister with His children** (Acts 2:42-47; 2 Tim 1:3-4; I John 1:3-4).
- 20) **Avoid spiritual adultery** (see handout)