

# Marriage: The Working Couple

## How did God establish the marriage relationship at the beginning?

Adam and Eve were to be \_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 2:20-24 (NIV) - *20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." 24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.*

The relationship established between Adam and Eve  
\_\_\_\_\_ between Christ and His people.

## How does Scripture define believers in Jesus?

As Eve became \_\_\_\_\_ because she came from \_\_\_\_\_  
while he \_\_\_\_\_, believers become \_\_\_\_\_ because we are of  
\_\_\_\_\_ through His \_\_\_\_\_.

John 3:22-30 (NIV) - *22 After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. 23 Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized. 24 (This was before John was put in prison.) 25 An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. 26 They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him." 27 To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. 28 You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' 29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. 30 He must become greater; I must become less."*

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV) - *27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

Ephesians 3:6 (NIV) - *6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body . . .*

## Why are believers in Jesus called His Bride?

Because He \_\_\_\_\_ us by \_\_\_\_\_ us.

Just as a Jewish bride was \_\_\_\_\_ before the wedding ceremony, believers are \_\_\_\_\_ by Christ's death to be His Bride.

*Ephesians 5:25-32 (NIV) - 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.*

### **What are we to do as Christ's Bride, His Body?**

As Eve was a \_\_\_\_\_ to Adam and his \_\_\_\_\_, believers are to \_\_\_\_\_ so that we can grow as Christ's body and become more like Him.

*Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIV) - 11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

*Philippians 4:3 (NIV) - Yes . . . my true companion . . . these women . . . have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.*

*Philippians 2:13 (NIV) - . . . it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

**God is working in us and we are working for Him: the Married couple.**