

## **Father Of The Bride**

**Text: Revelation 19:5–9**

### **Introduction**

Most weddings are planned by women. Recently, my daughter got married. She and her mother totally immersed themselves in elaborate plans for a beautiful and memorable ceremony. My strategy was to stay out of the way as much as possible and be there to walk the bride down the aisle. I have talked to other men about this and have concluded that if fathers planned the weddings, they would be more practical and much less expensive. But the Bible speaks of two weddings planned by God the Father: That of Adam and Eve (Genesis 2), and that of Christ and the Church, in (Revelation 19). It is interesting in this day of moral confusion, when the biblical concept of heterosexual marriage is being questioned and challenged, to look at marriage from the perspective of God the Father.

### **Message**

#### **1. Marriage is a divine institution (Genesis 2:18).**

The Bible teaches that the structure of marriage is sacred. It is forever intended by God to be a lifelong monogamous union of one man and one woman, “till death do us part.” We experiment with changing the definition of marriage at our own peril. Whether same-sex marriage or old-fashioned infidelity, adultery, divorce, or cohabitation, it is all detrimental to the well-being of mankind.

#### **2. Marriage is a divine illustration (Ephesians 5:31,32).**

We understand that marriage is an eternal covenant, based on love and commitment. The husband is to be the head; a visionary leader who, like Christ, is willing to lay down his life in sacrificial love for his family. And the wife is to be submissive and supportive. Her role is like that of the Church, which is called to surrender to the Lordship of Christ. When marriage is done God’s way, it is a prelude to heaven.

#### **3. Marriage is a divine expectation (Ephesians 5:25–27).**

Prior to my daughter’s wedding, our household was caught up in a flurry of activity. There was much preparation for such a big day. The Bible is clear in its promise that Christ, the Bridegroom, will soon return for His bride, the Church. To have this great expectation means that we must live in a continual state of preparation. “His bride has made herself ready” (Revelation 19:7).

### **Conclusion**

May we be like the five virgins who kept their lamps filled with oil in anticipation of the return of the Bridegroom (Matthew 25:1–10).

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