Relational Discipleship

CROSS TRAINING

LEARNING TO GROW IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND PEOPLE!

Father ➪ son
Shepherd ➪ lamb
Teacher ➪ disciple
King ➪ kingdom
Bridegroom ➪ bride
Judge ➪ sinners
Priest ➪ people
Owner ➪ servant
Redeemer ➪ chosen
Cornerstone ➪ stones
Husband ➪ wife
Vine ➪ branches

www.bffbible.org Paul J. Bucknell

BRIDEGROOM
BRIDE

Cross Training

Intimacy & Affection

#5

Bridegroom - Bride

The wedding symbolizes the most inspiring life commitment. Christ uses the image of the Hebrew wedding not only to remind the Christian to keep purely devoted to Him but also to strengthen her patient longing for His return.

Values: intimacy and affection

BRIDEGROOM
BRIDE

Cross Training

Intimacy & Affection

#5

The Hope of Love

- The need for love is as constant as our responsibility to love.
- Commitment rightly builds up our expectations.
- The bride transfers her loyalty from her family to her bridegroom; the church from the world to Christ, the bridegroom.
- The church is anticipating her Bridegroom's soon return where everything will be wonderful.

In My Father' s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ... I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:2-3).

BRIDEGROOM BRIDE

Cross Training

Intimacy & Affection

#5

Our Goals

A Affection for Christ the Bridegroom → Remain devoted to Christ

B Christ's Soon Return → Focus on Christ's return

C Keep Pure → Steps to a great marriage

BRIDEGROOM BRIDE

Cross Training

Intimacy & Affection

#5

A Devotion to the Groom

Remain devoted to Christ

• The Father arranged a bride for Christ the Son. Christ came and sacrificially secured that bride by laying down His life for her.

1) Loved and Secured

"Blessed be the God ... who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as **He chose us in Him** before the foundation of the world..." (Ephesians 1:3-5).

2) Affection for Christ

The groom desires, chooses and makes a life-long commitment to the bride, his wife. She is won by his commitment and responds with her devotion.

"I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine" (Song of Solomon 6:3).

3) Attentiveness to Christ and His Work

"Listen, O daughter, give attention and incline your ear; forget your people and your father's house; then the King will desire your beauty" (Psalm 45:10-11).

Examine your devotion to Christ. Have you lost your first love?

BRIDEGROOM BRIDE

Cross Training

Intimacy & Affection

#5

B Christ's Soon Return

Focus on Christ's return

1) The Hebrew Wedding

• Once engaged, the bridegroom would go off and arrange a place to live. After an indefinite time, he would in surprise return with the wedding party.

"The kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom…. And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. And later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.' But he answered and said, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour" (Matthew 25:1-13).

2) Alert & Perseverance

• The bride had to always be ready.

• So the church needs to always be ready for Christ's sudden return. (The rapture: 1 Thes 4:13-18)

What would you change if Christ was to come back this week?

BRIDEGROOM BRIDE

Cross Training

Intimacy & Affection

#5

C Keeping Pure

Prerequisites to having a great marriage

• Every effort must be made to keep sexually and morally pure so that a stable foundation for a loving relationship can be laid rather than one that is ruled by lust. Genuine love demands purity.

PURITY
Courtship Engagement Marriage

1) Before Marriage

"But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints" (Ephesians 5:3).

2) Courtship and dating

"Now **flee** from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart" (2 Tim. 2:22).

3) Establishing Standards

"Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteous and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?" (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

What standards have you adopted to keep yourself pure?

BRIDEGROOM
BRIDE

Cross Training

Intimacy & Affection

#5

Take Home Project

- Memory Verses (Revelation 19:7-8)
- Test of Readiness

Only some virgins were ready for Christ's return. What things do you need to work on so that you are 'ready' for His return? Write in your spiritual journal one or two things in each main area of life that you need to be doing to help confirm your readiness for His coming .

Work | Home | Studies | Relationships | Service | With God

- Project Purity

- Write down your before/during marriage standards for purity.
- Confess and turn from any that you have failed.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him" (Isaiah 55:7).

BRIDEGROOM
BRIDE

Cross Training

Intimacy & Affection

#5

Summary

A The Lord deserves my full-hearted service.

B I will regularly ponder and delight myself in the Lord's soon return.

C I will be sexually pure, both in thought and deed, in and out of marriage.

Relational Discipleship

CROSS TRAINING

LEARNING TO GROW IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND PEOPLE!

BRIDEGROOM

BRIDE

Love and constant service

Grow in love for God

Grow in love for others

Father ➪ son
Shepherd ➪ lamb
Teacher ➪ disciple
King ➪ kingdom
Bridegroom ➪ bride
Judge ➪ sinners
Priest ➪ people
Owner ➪ servant
Redeemer ➪ chosen
Cornerstone ➪ stones
Husband ➪ wife
Vine ➪ branches

www.bffbible.org

Paul J. Bucknell