

THE PRIVILEGES OF THE BRIDE

Part 3 Romans Seven

Romans 7:4

*Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ [His slain body], that you may be **married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead**, that we should bear fruit to God.*

OUR STUDY OF ROMANS HAS BEEN QUITE A JOURNEY SO FAR. We have seen that our Saviour has taken us out of OUR OLD ADAMIC ANCESTRY and re-established us in a new heritage. (Romans 5:12)

We have seen that He did this by uniting us with Himself all the way.

We have been united together with Him in death (Romans 6:5) freeing us from the Adamic curse of sin and death. (Romans 5:18)

We have been buried together with Him so that the Old Man will never rise again. (Romans 6:4)

We have been raised together with Him in the newness of life. (Colossians. 3:1)

BESIDES ALL THE BLESSING OF ALL THESE REDEMPTIVE EVENTS ... WE NOW SEE THAT THIS AMAZING PROCESS **HAS MADE US ELIGIBLE TO BE JOINED IN MARRIAGE TO HIM.**

To be eligible to marry THE SON, we had to be of His family line ... from His lineage, as we see when Abraham selected a bride for Isaac - a perfect type of Jesus.

Genesis 24:3 **SLIDE**

*Swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not allow my son to marry one of these local Canaanite women. ⁴ **Go instead to my homeland, to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son Isaac.**"*

So we were born again into a new family lineage which now made us eligible to be married to The Son.

SLIDE WE READ IN OUR TEXT THAT THIS MARRIAGE HAS ALREADY HAPPENED AND WE ARE NOW LEGALLY MARRIED TO HIM WHO WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD
When it reads 'that you may be' it is 'in order that you might be'. It's referring to a consequence of something that happened (- having become dead to Law), not something that may yet happen. *(The verb is in the aorist tense but with a prolongation and middle voice)*

In a traditional Jewish marriage **there were 2 separate parts.**

THE FIRST PART WAS THE BETROTHAL CONTRACT CALLED THE **ERUSIN**. This involved the two people and God making a legal contract in the presence of two unrelated male witnesses. At this time, the groom placed a ring on the bride's index finger and said, **SLIDE** 'Behold, you are consecrated to me with this ring according to the laws of Moses and Israel.' This signified that, from that time on, they were now legally joined to each other and only death or divorce could separate them. It was the legal contract of MARRIAGE. (Deuteronomy 24)

This betrothal is frequently referred to as sanctification (Hebrew: *Kiddushin*, קידושין), MEANING: **THE BRIDE HAS BECOME "SANCTIFIED" – SET APART** – to the groom.

A BETROTHED COUPLE WAS REGARDED, AS LEGALLY MARRIED.

THE SECOND PART WAS THE ACTUAL WEDDING CEREMONY CALLED NISSU'IN. This took place about a year later.

NB: AFTER THE FIRST PART ... THE BETROTHAL ... **THE GROOM WOULD GO AWAY TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR HIS BRIDE.** This place was where the actual ceremony took place. Sound familiar?

John 14:2-3 **SLIDE**

I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Our marriage to Jesus is what He had in mind when He stated these words. So what is the place He is preparing for us?

Jesus is preparing the place for His magnificent marriage ceremony ...

'THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB' – a glorious event that will make the greatest of this world's wedding ceremonies pale into insignificance ...

The wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton cost \$34 million, and that of Charles and Dianna \$110 million ... with all their pomp and circumstance. But these will pale into insignificance compared to the ceremony of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Revelation 19:7, 9 ESV

*Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb has come** and his Bride has made herself ready ...*

*⁹ And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the **marriage supper of the Lamb.**" And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."*

ON THAT DAY, WE WILL BE COMPLETELY MARRIED. SPIRIT, SOUL AND NEW BODY ... BUT NOW WE ARE LEGALLY AND SPIRITUALLY MARRIED.

WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN JOINED TO JESUS THE RISEN LORD.

SLIDE 'TO HIM WHO WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD' (See Text)

This is the King who has come into His Kingdom.

This is our legal marriage to Christ Jesus **our risen King.**

We are legally married to Him who has **all authority in heaven and in earth.** (Matt 28:17)

We are legally married to Him who has ascended **far above ALL principalities and powers.** (Ephesians 1:20-21)

We are legally married to Him who is **highly exalted** and has been given **a name that is above all other names** in heaven and earth. (Philippians 2:9)

We are legally married to Him who has **entered into His eternal glory.**

Luke 24:25-26

*Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and **to enter into His glory?**"*

We are legally married to Him who is beloved of His Father. (Matthew 3:17)

This means that all the many privileges of **our Risen Lord and Husband Jesus Christ** are now bestowed on us – as His bride; **what is His is ours also.**

WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE PRIVILEGES OF OUR LEGAL MARRIAGE TO CHRIST JESUS – THE RISEN LORD. AS STATED HERE.

LET'S LOOK AT SOME OF THESE PRIVILEGES

1. SLIDE THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING HIS NAME

When a woman marries a man, traditionally, she takes on his name. So with us, **WE HAVE TAKEN ON HIS NAME.** We are called Christ-ians.

Look at the Greatness of His name ... the one to whom you are legally joined.

Philippians 2:9 SLIDE

*God also has highly exalted Him and **given Him the name which is above every name,**¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

THIS NAME IS NOW OUR NAME. WE HAVE TAKEN ON HIS NAME.

A wife has all the authority of her husband in His name.

A GREAT NAME UNLOCKS DOORS

Dignitaries that would have turned you away before, now welcome you with honour.

You say, I come in the name of Jesus my Lord.

There was a lady of great status that came to stay at Downton Abbey with her husband. They were welcomed as great dignitaries because they had a great name with a title. Then the head maid recognised this lady as someone without rank who used to work in the kitchen. This head maid had formerly ordered her around and got her to work for her. Now, however, the tables had turned. The head maid was serving this Lady who had risen overnight in status & rank. How did this happen? She married a man with a title and rank and his name became her name.

So it is with us ...

BEFORE YOU WERE FROM ANOTHER LINEAGE.

YOUR FATHER ADAM WAS A FAILURE AND YOU CARRIED HIS NAME. YOU WERE A CHILD OF FAILURE ... ONE OF THE POOR PEOPLE ... A BEGGAR ... A CHAMBER MAID ... A SCHEMER ... YOU CAME FROM A LOWLY STATUS. YOU CARRIED ADAM'S 'NAME OF SHAME'.

Song of Solomon 1:5 KJV

I am black ... as the tents of Kedar ...

The tents of Kedar were made of black goat skins and we know goats speak of unredeemed people as opposed to sheep.

THE LAW CONDEMNED YOU AND CLASSIFIED YOU AS A CHILD OF SHAME AND FAILURE.

The only way you could gain any sort of status was by what you achieved, how you performed for someone else ... the skills you had that they needed.

YOU WERE BORN INTO SERVITUDE.

Psalm 45:10-11 **SLIDE**

Listen, O daughter, consider and incline your ear; forget your own people also and your father's house [the Adamic line].

¹¹ *So the King will greatly desire your beauty; because He is your Lord ...*

NOW A GREAT WARRIOR KING HAS SEEN YOU. He has chosen you out of all the fair maidens to be his own. He is someone with a great title ... someone with a great name and honour. All of heaven bows when He approaches and you are now on his arm.

ARE YOU PROUD OF THAT NAME?

How do you feel when you mention that name? **YOU SHOULD BE EXTREMELY PROUD; YET MANY CHRISTIANS FEEL ASHAMED.** They don't like to tell people that they're a Christian because they feel ashamed.

WE SHOULD NEVER FEEL ASHAMED OF THAT NAME. We should never be apologetic.

My mum is praying for people in her recovery room ... in the name of Jesus ... and people are getting blessed. These are non-believers who now acknowledge that name.

1 Corinthians 1:31 (The magnificence and glory of that name).

As it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

THE LAW WILL BELITTLE YOU

You have been devalued by your former husband – THE LAW. It speaks to you saying ...

'You are useless ... you cannot keep my standards ...'

THE DISCIPLES OF THE LAW ALSO DEVALUE YOU. THEY DON'T BELIEVE IN YOU ...

But your new husband believes in you ...

YOU ARE NOW MARRIED TO ANOTHER AND HE HAS A MOST NOBLE AND MAGNIFICENT NAME.

THAT NAME DEFEATS SPIRITUAL POWERS AND OPPOSITION

1 Samuel 17:45

David said to the Philistine, 'You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied'.

DO YOU KNOW TO WHOM YOU BELONG?

A missionary couple who never asked people for money but thanked God for their provisions stated, 'We are not the sons and daughters of a beggar king'.

Yet sometimes we pray to God like a beggar from our old status.

We now, as married to Christ, have no cause in BEGGAR – PRAYING.

WE ARE MARRIED TO THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Whatever you ask in MY NAME ... This of course is dependent upon us abiding in Him as His bride.

So let's look at the next privilege we have being married to Him. Lets look at ...

2. SLIDE THE PRIVILEGE OF MEETING HIS FATHER

When two people get serious about their relationship ... the tell-tale sign is when the guy takes his girl to meet his parents.

So Jesus does this with us ... HE TAKES YOU TO MEET HIS FATHER.

We see in John 17:24-25, that Jesus already spoke of you to the Father before we were married i.e. before His death and resurrection. Look at how He desired us to be with Him.

John 17:24-25

Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me: for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.

Now, he introduces you to His Father as His betrothed.

Are you nervous?

You are marrying a king of a magnificent kingdom. Now he arranges for you to come to the palace to meet His Father. But this King has married you and HIS FATHER IS NOW YOUR FATHER THROUGH THIS MARRIAGE.

John 20:17 **SLIDE**

Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, "I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God" '.

Beforehand you were just an unknown person in His Kingdom ... a son of Adam.

BUT NOW THE SON HAS CHOSEN YOU AND PRESENTS YOU TO HIS FATHER.

Here, the Father smiles at you. The Father accepts His Son's choice.

You now become favoured, privileged, set apart.

Ephesians 1:6 American KJV

*... His grace ... has made us **accepted** in the Beloved (the Son of His love).*

This is your new family ... a wealthy family ... a powerful family of influence.

Ephesians 2:18 **SLIDE**

*Through Him [Jesus] we both have access by one Spirit to **the Father**.*

3. SLIDE THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING HIS PROTECTION

Now, you have servants assigned to you from The Palace

Hebrews 1:13-14 **SLIDE**

But to which of the angels has He ever said, 'Sit at My right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool'?

¹⁴ *Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*

Psalm 91:11

For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

NB: He commands the angels ... WE DON'T!

Psalm 34:7

The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear (reverence) Him, and delivers them.

NLT

The angel of the LORD is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear (reverence) Him.

We don't control the angels; they are on assignment from the Father because you are NOW that important to Him ... There is now nothing He would not do for you.

So if there is a satanic attack on your life we stand knowing we are married to the supreme authority of the entire universe and we have a legion of angels surrounding us.

WE DON'T FIGHT; THEY DO ... WE STAY DELICATE ...

LIKE THE SECRET SERVICE PROTECTING THE PRESIDENT. SLIDE

2 Kings 19:35 SLIDE tells that 185,000 Assyrian soldiers were killed by one angel one night.

YOU ARE PRIVILEGED AND PRISTINE

You are under the His mantle, washed, clean, anointed, scented ... your skin is soft and delicate ... you are for the King.

You have been taken out of the rough, poor, sad world of Adam into which you were born and placed in a pristine palace, now clothed in the finest ...

Esther 2:12

Before each young woman was taken to the king's bed, she was given the prescribed twelve months of beauty treatments—six months with oil of myrrh, followed by six months with special perfumes and ointments.

4. THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING HIS AFFECTION

Song of Songs 2:2 *KJV*

As the Lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.

Song of Songs 2:10, 14

My beloved spoke and said to me ...

... Let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet ...

5. THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING HIS PROVISION

1 Corinthians 3:21-23

Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours:²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours.²³ And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.