

Let Me Introduce You
"To the Bride of Christ"
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Thread: **What I think of the Bride of Christ matters a great deal to Jesus.**

*"When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"¹⁴ "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."¹⁵ Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?"¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."¹⁷ Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven." **Matthew 16:13-19 NLT***

- **There will be an "ecclesia."**
 - There will be those who acknowledge and follow Jesus as God's Messiah and Son.
- **The foundation of the Church is built upon acknowledging and following Jesus as God's Messiah and Son.**
 - The Church represents God's presence, work, mission, values and will on earth to each generation. They may not choose Jesus, but they will have a clear choice to make.
 - The Church has a powerful identifying quality.
 - *"Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other."³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." **John 13:34-35 NLT***
- **Hell in its full-throated fury will try but fail to conquer His Church.**
- **The Church is known as the Bride of Christ.**
 - *"For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself." **Revelations 19:7 NLT***
 - Why the Bride metaphor?
- **Jesus is the Head of the Church.**
 - Meaning this is NOT about me.

Challenges:

1. What do I think about the Bride of Christ?
2. What stands in my way of embracing the Church as Jesus' Bride?

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