

**Looking for Your Helper  
(Find God's Match for You)**

Ephesians 5:21-33

#27 in our series from Paul's letter to the Ephesians

July 15, 2013

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**Prayer**

Lord you are beautiful. We pray that you would help us to feel what you feel, to do what you do, and to speak what you say. In other words, Lord God, help us to preach the gospel in Jesus' name, through the power of your Spirit.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Message**

We've been preaching through the book of Ephesians. Last week we spoke about the scripture where Paul says, "Don't be drunk with wine, but be filled with the Holy Spirit." We talked about how people drink wine to lose the thing that keeps them numb, like a covering around their heart or ears. They drink to lose that thing and to commune with another person.

Last week we preached on Ephesians 5:18 "Don't get drunk with wine...but be filled with the Spirit..." That sentence ends in verse twenty-one with this phrase:

*...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

Now verse 22:

*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

Now I know that these verses raise a few questions...like:

What do you mean my husband is the head?

Who does the dishes?

Who takes out the trash?

And the Bible? Is that just some antiquated relic of a sexist and patriarchal age?

And what is marriage and what about gay marriage?

And what about divorce? Can I get a divorce?

And is cleaving only for marriage?

What about sex outside of marriage? Did Paul hate sex? Does God hate sex?

Does God hate my sex? What's the line between good sex and evil sex?

When I was a youth pastor, for ten years, parents used to come to me all the time saying: "Peter, I certainly hope you talk to the children about sexuality and dating! I hope you answer all their questions like how far is too far? Is open-mouthed kissing a Godly activity? What's the line between heavy petting and light petting? How does that line move depending upon how long they've been dating, how old they are and the particular situation? There must be some sort of algorithm that can explain this. And Peter, please talk to the boys about masturbation."

Recently a friend sent me the following slide show:

[Each slide zooms out to show the next level of complexity in an impossibly overwhelming, mind-bogglingly huge universe.]

This is the Earth.

This is the Earth in relation to the Solar System.

This is the Solar System in relation to the Solar Interstellar Neighborhood.

This is the Solar Interstellar Neighborhood in relation to the Milky Way Galaxy.

This is the Milky Way Galaxy in relation to the Local Galactic Group.

The Local Galactic Group in relation to the Virgo Supercluster.

The Virgo Supercluster in relation to the Local Superclusters.

The Local Superclusters in relation to the Observable Universe.

The Observable Universe in relation to God.



And what is the Word of God saying? "Don't masturbate."  
Now you don't know whether to laugh or not.  
Is that appropriate or should you feel offended?  
But you feel something don't you? Now you're paying attention.

It's not like knowledge you take from a book but something you feel in your gut. And it all raises a question: "Is this what the Creator cares about?" Well...no. The Bible doesn't even mention the word "masturbation," and I should know, because for years, I scoured the Bible looking for it. It doesn't even mention the word. I used to think: "Perhaps it had not yet been invented." It speaks about "immoral lust," but not that word. And there's an obscure reference to Onan "spilling seed on the ground," which has led to religious schism, open warfare, and the Monte Python song: "Every Sperm is Sacred." Well, Onan's sin was very different than simple masturbation.

SO... is that what the Creator cares about?

No, *and* yes.

I mean sexuality is a constant topic in the Bible. It's often translated into obscurity, but concepts like seed, fruit, communion, even "knowledge" are very sexual concepts in scripture. God's first commandment was: "Be fruitful and multiply." In the Old Testament, the sign of the covenant was circumcision. I'm sure Abraham thought: "Gosh, couldn't we think of a better sign? Like a ring or a certificate signed by a judge or a pastor...or maybe we could wear matching outfits from JC Penny. God you want to touch me there? I mean if you touch me there it's like touching my heart...could we talk about something else? This topic makes me feel uncomfortable."

The Bible never mentions "masturbation" but God seems to be very concerned with your sexuality.

So you see, I really and truly don't know what Jesus is telling you in regard to that topic, but I'm convinced that He'd really like you to talk to Him about any and all sexual issues. But we have such a difficult time doing that. It's ironic, we live in a very promiscuous society and yet an extremely repressed society. Sex is everywhere, but it's very difficult to talk about what it means.

In a Hebrew agrarian society, it must've been just about the opposite: Everyone knew what sex was, how it worked and even what it meant. Every little kid grew up watching the animals on the farm. They knew where baby sheep and goats come from. They knew how life was produced. And they knew that when it came to people, the process was sacred, and so it belonged in the sanctuary of a covenant, it even constituted the covenant.

So if you're thinking: "Paul is talking about marriage, not sex," you need to understand, that in scripture, the thing that constitutes a marriage isn't a certificate or a ring. We don't get that in our society; we're promiscuous and repressed, which produces shame and denial, and so gender, sex, and marriage are very difficult to talk about, especially in church.

I think that's also why we get the idea that sex is a "dirty, filthy thing." "And that's why you should save it for the person you marry and never mention it in church." "Sexuality doesn't belong in the sanctuary." "We come here to celebrate the sacrament of communion in the sanctuary of the covenant of grace." "Sex doesn't belong in the sanctuary of the covenant, sex belongs outside the sanctuary of the covenant."

You know, sometimes I think that we, the Bride of Christ, have entirely lost sight of the story. It's the plot of a story that gives meaning to every detail in the story. And if you don't know the plot, anyone can lie to you about the meaning of each and every detail. So right now, some of you feel shame, some feel anger, some panic, some may even feel licentious. That's all because we've been listening to the liar and not the Logos, who is the Plot, and also our Bridegroom. And so, we can't even begin to address these questions, from the start of this message, until we remember The Story.

In Ephesians, Paul begins speaking about gender, marriage, and sex, and then he reminds us of the Story: "For this reason, a man shall leave his father and his mother and cleave to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." He's quoting Genesis 2:24. (This scripture is what theologian Andrew Tibert says is the most quoted Old Testament verse in the New Testament.) Paul is reminding them of The Story.

Let's pray.

Father I'm talking about sex, gender, and marriage in a sermon. Lord Jesus you see us, you know us, you created us, and you are creating us. You know that when we talk about this it stirs such deep passions, longings, fears and hopes. And none of it is a surprise to you. You made us this way. So I claim the blood of the covenant over this Sanctuary. I ask that we would commune with You and that You, Holy Spirit, would remind us of the Great Story and who it is that we truly are. We ask You to help us believe The Story, in Jesus' name, Amen.

In the second chapter of the book of Genesis, the creation of man is being described.

It happens on the 6th day... and it must still be the 6th day, for you and I are still being made in the image of God. We're *not* "finished."

Genesis 2:15a *"The Lord God took the man..."*

"Man" in Hebrew is "Adam."

I think at some point there was an Adam, but Adam also means "man," as in humanity. So please don't get hung up on historical accuracy. Historically, this is entirely accurate. It's at least His story of you.

Genesis 2:15b *"...and put him in the Garden of Eden..."*

Eden means: "pleasure."

Many Orthodox Jews believe that Eden is the site of the temple and Jerusalem. And in the Revelation, the New Jerusalem is Eden and is the temple.

Genesis 2:15-17

*The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

In the very spot where the tree of knowledge stood, so also stood the tree of life. Some ancient rabbis taught they were mysteriously the same tree. And if Jerusalem is in the same location as Eden, then, in Eden stood another tree that we refer to as the cross. And according to the Revelation, in the New Jerusalem, there stands a tree as well. Its leaves are for the healing of the nations and through it flows a river, the river of life.

I think they're all the same tree: The cross, the knowledge of good and evil, and the source of life. Well, in Genesis 2, God warns Adam about the tree of knowledge.

In scripture, there are two ways of knowing.

1. Adam and Eve will know stuff through this tree and die.
  2. Adam and Eve will know each other and Eve will bear fruit that is life.
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1. You can know by seizing control.
  2. You can know by surrendering control and being known.

Genesis 2:18 *"Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone..."*

This is the first thing that God declares "not good:" loneliness. And if it's not good, Adam is definitely not finished in God's image. God is Good and God is a trinity of loving persons, so if Adam is alone, he's certainly not finished in the image of God. In fact, in the Bible, the concept "alone" is a pretty good description of what we loosely call Hell. Hell = Adam is alone. Adam is alone in paradise. Have you ever been alone in paradise?

I think I've told you about a certain day several years ago, on a mission trip to Brazil. That day, I visited the most beautiful beach I had ever seen. The jungle came down to the sand. Couples frolicked in the warm waves. I lay there in the light on the warm sand. I remember thinking: "This is paradise." Then I looked to my right and saw my friend Andrew Trawick stretched out like a hairy pale fish in swim trunks. I looked to my left and stared at the big old hairy belly of my missionary friend Ken Flurry. Then, I remembered my bride, whom I had not seen in two weeks, and I thought, "This isn't paradise...this is Hell!"

Susan and I just recently returned from our thirtieth wedding anniversary trip to Hawaii. Just about every day we'd pack a picnic and a bottle of wine and hike to this beautiful secluded beach we found. For me, that's the closest thing to paradise on earth. Yet, without Susan, that beach would just be a sandbox.

You know, if you would've taken me to that beach when I was four or five, I would've liked it, because I liked sandboxes, but sandboxes are not paradise. Even if Susan was with me, I mean we might have played together at four or five...we'd be in paradise but couldn't experience paradise, and not because we'd sinned, but because we were immature—not finished. We did not yet have a capacity for paradise.

Well, Adam is alone in paradise, alone...or is he?  
Actually he's in the very presence of God, who is love.  
Adam is alone in the presence of Love.  
I guess he can't conceive of Love, feel Love, receive Love, and God is Love.

Paul wrote: *"In God we live, and move, and have our being."*  
Now be honest: Do you ever feel lonely? I do. So if scripture is right and I swim in God, who is Love, I must have something like a thick fleshy skin surrounding my heart. So although I swim in Love, I don't feel love, as if I'm surrounded by Heaven and yet trapped by Hell.

Do you remember what Jesus, The Eschatos Adam, preached? "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

Muslim fundamentalists picture Heaven as a harem full of virgins.  
Christian fundamentalists picture Heaven as a mansion and an all you can eat buffet.  
I bet Heaven is at least mansions, buffets, and very attractive women. But maybe, that's just the sandbox and paradise is communion with God, God who is absolutely free and relentless Love. He is Grace.

Sometimes I wonder if we Christians even want God.  
In other words, do we even want the good...for God is The Good?

And that brings up an utterly fascinating question: "How can Adam choose the Good if he doesn't even know about the Good. Well remember: There are two ways of knowing.

Genesis 2:18 *"The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'" "A helper fit for him..."* Now:

1. It's interesting to note that in the Hebrew the word "helper" (*ayzer* in Hebrew) is a masculine noun.
2. It's also interesting to note that at this point Adam is not entirely masculine. Actually, he's a he-she, because where is she? She's yet to be taken out of He-Adam.  
See women? This story has been about you all along...for you're "in Adam," somehow, according to Paul. And we're all a bride, and brides are very feminine and not masculine.
3. It's very interesting to note that the word "helper" in scripture is almost always used for God. Twenty-five times in Psalms and each time we're reminded: "God is our helper."

God said, *"It is not good that the Adam should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."* AND NOW, God makes animals...or at least brings animals He has made to Adam, so Adam can name them. We call that taxonomy or biology—it's science. And the whole time, it's like God is asking Adam: "So is this your helper?" Every creature, all creation is brought to Adam. See? It's like all creation has been made just so that God can ask this question of Adam: "Who's your helper?" We often make created things our helper. Paul refers to those things "idols."

Genesis 2:18

*The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.*

Now this is truly fascinating, recent archeological evidence has revealed that when the ancient rabbis would read these verses in the synagogues they would play a certain soundtrack in the background, because they were convinced that this was the soundtrack playing when God brought the animals to Adam.

[Peter requests the sound techs to start playing the soundtrack "*Let's Do it.*" He reads Genesis 2:20 simultaneously during the intro and then we hear the following words:]

*Birds do it, bees do it  
Even educated fleas do it  
Let's do it, let's fall in love*

Genesis 2:20-22

*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. 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. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.*

Actually, the part about ancient rabbis playing a soundtrack isn't true. (They didn't have soundtracks.) But they wrote Midrash—ancient commentaries on scripture. In their exposition of Genesis two (Bereshit Rabbah,) the animals are pictured walking by Adam in pairs, and Adam comments: "Everything has its partner and I have no partner." Meanwhile, God keeps asking: "Adam where's your partner?" Would you know me? Would you surrender to me? Adam, who is your helper? Adam is alone in paradise and can't find his "helper." Haven't you ever wondered why God made us male and female and why God made sex?

God brings the animals to Adam and asks a question: "Look Adam. They're each male and female, each has a helper in their likeness through whom life is created...created as the result of intimate, naked, vulnerable communion; Adam...who is your helper? In whose likeness are you Adam? Who longs to fill you and create through you Adam? To whom will you cleave Adam? Adam (mankind) who is your helper? Can you see Me, hear Me, know Me? Who's your helper?"

Verse 20: *"But Adam did not find a helper suitable for him."*

So God begins the great lesson; He puts Adam to sleep and takes a rib (and actually the Hebrew is "side.") He takes Adam's side and fashions that side into Eve. He brings the woman to the man and the man declares:

Genesis 2:23

*...This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man.*

And now the verse that Paul quotes in Ephesians:

*That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

And so at last Adam has found his helper...OR NOT!! Next verse:  
*Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did he actually say 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'"*

You know...she didn't turn out to be that great of a helper. Did she?

So did Adam find his helper?

How could Eve be his helper? She's part of the one that needed help in the first place.

Adam even says, "bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh." That is: "She is me, and me is she."

So the helper Adam got was more of himself, and the helper Eve got was more of herself. Eve is a lousy helper for Adam, and Adam is a lousy helper for Eve.

Gen. 3:6 "Eve took the fruit from the tree and ate, and she gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate." Adam was there, and he didn't stop her. That's a lousy helper. But now, let me remind you, Paul has been teaching us about an Old Adam and a New Adam. In Romans 5:14 he says, "Adam, that Old Adam, is "a "toopos," a type or form of the one about to come."

See? The Old Adam is like an empty place, like a womb. He's like a form or mold into which a sculptor pours molten bronze, producing an eternal piece of art. While the form is cut away and discarded, Old Adam is the place in which the New Adam will be revealed.

So Old Adam took Eve's sin at the tree because he was a bad helper.

But maybe there's another Adam that takes Eve's sin at the tree...

Because "He will not leave her nor forsake her..."

Because He wants to sacrifice His life for her...

Because He wants to show her that He is her Helper.

And maybe that Old Adam creates a longing in the Bride so that when she sees the New Adam and hears him cry: "It is finished," she drops at the base of the tree crying "My Lord and my God, my Helper."

Well anyway, day six, back in the garden and outside the garden, God is still asking: "Who's your Helper?" But now He's not only using creation and not only using animals, He's using their very bodies to ask the question. He's even using their very failures to ask the question...to create a longing and a capacity. He's saying,

"Mankind-Adam...look at how you're made: every urge, every desire, every longing...look at how fullness fills emptiness and produces life. Look at the emptiness in your own being, it's like a womb. Now you know that you've sinned, are you ready to be filled with Mercy and known by Mercy? Adam aren't you tired of being so alone? Are you ready to know and be known by your Helper? I am the Good and I am your Helper."

Throughout the Old Testament, God tells Israel: "I am your helper," and "Your maker is your husband" but it's like they can't see and can't hear. They can't know. It's as if their ears and heart are covered.

In the New Testament, we meet Jesus, *Yashua*; the name means "God is salvation." Or "I am Help."

Jesus is the Word of God in human flesh.

Jesus is the Helper made fit for mankind.

Jesus is the Eschatos Adam, and we still didn't recognize Him.

Until we nailed Him to the tree and took His life (that's original sin.)

We took His life and yet He gave His life, (and that's the eternal plan.)

There on the tree, He bore our sin and entered all our sorrows.

There He delivered up His Spirit, the Spirit of the "*parakletos*" "The Helper.

And now He fills all our empty shame with Mercy, our darkness with Light, our lies with Truth, our old man with Eternal Man. He longs to impregnate us, "His Bride," with Himself, the very Seed of the Living God.

Ephesians 5:31

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to the church.*

So why sexuality? Really...why this way? And why gender, and why marriage? Why the covenant of marriage and why failed marriages? Why the longing frustrations and pain? Why broken sexuality, and why the glimpses of ecstasy? It all refers to Christ and His Church—the Bride. In all these things creation and desecration, good and evil, God is still asking "Who's your helper?" "Who's your savior?" And He doesn't want you to answer with just some words...but rather, your whole being.

Thirty-five years ago, my wife Susan and I were in high school and hadn't been dating for long. I brought her to youth group partly because I knew that I wasn't supposed to date non-Christians, and she was smokin' hot! And...I needed to get her "saved." She learned about Jesus and knew about Jesus, but she wasn't sure she wanted to know Jesus or be known by Jesus. Then, late one night, she awoke from a sound sleep to see evil spirits surrounding her bed. A figure, darker than the night, appeared at the foot of the bed. It reached out its arms and said, "You're mine." It was all she could do to say the name "Jesus." (She had learned about that at youth group.) Well, when she said the name, she heard a horrid scream and watched as all the evil shrank into a hole and disappeared. She rolled over and grabbed her Bible, opened it, and her eyes fell on this verse: Hebrews 13:5-6 "*He has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'*" So we can confidently say, '*The Lord is my helper.*'" It was when she read that verse, that night, she prayed this prayer: "Ok Jesus, you can come in."

To the extent that I'm a good helper, I teach my bride about Jesus.

To the extent that I'm a bad helper, I teach her to long for Jesus.

Paul says, "*This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*"

Have you seen these ads?

[Christian mingle ad with a happy couple embracing]

The add reads:

"ChristianMingle.com

Find God's Match for You

Christian & Single?

Ready for love?

CLICK HERE

"ChristianMingle.com- Find God's match for you."

Well...God's match for you is God.

I don't have any problems with dating websites, but this slogan is totally messed up! They're saying: "Use our knowledge of God to help you get married." When in reality, God is using marriage to help you know Him. God is using your sexuality, gender, and relationship (good and bad) to help you ask: "Who's my helper?" and to help you answer, with all your being: "The Lord is my helper."

So, as we begin our study of this section of Ephesians, please let me be clear about these four things:

1. We're all sexual beings. Whether you're eighteen and can't contain yourself or ninety and trying to remember. Whether you're straight as an arrow or all your desires seem out of balance. Whether you've never even been on a date or been married thirty years; we're all sexual beings.
2. We're all frustrated sexual beings. Why? Because we're still waiting for our helper. Human sexuality is the sign and not the substance. So we're frustrated by design to nurture a longing for our Helper.
3. We're all frightened and frustrated sexual beings. This topic makes us uncomfortable and frightened because we don't want to surrender control. Remember there are two ways of knowing:

We can seize control, like you seize fruit on a tree. But everything you know in that way is dead or will die. We can seize control or....

We can surrender control, like a bride surrenders to her groom, like the Church surrenders to her Lord. To truly KNOW LOVE, you can only surrender to Love, and God is Love. If you seize love control of love, you don't know love as Love.

You see? Our old man loves control, our flesh loves control, and in that way it's like a thick skin over our ears and over our hearts. Keeping us from knowing God. Through the prophets, God says, "circumcise your ears and circumcise your hearts." According to Paul, we are circumcised with Christ at His cross.

As if....

There on the tree He freed us of our old man;  
He cut away our body of flesh, the skin covering our hearts.  
There, on the cross, our hearts are exposed to God's heart.

There we begin to commune in the Sanctuary of the covenant.  
There we come to know God even as we are known by God.

So, like a bride on her honeymoon night, yes, we are terrified; our Bridegroom is not safe, but He is good. In fact, He is the Good, and He is the Life. He is what we most desperately desire. He enters us, and rises within us as faith, hope, and love, through the power of His Spirit. And that's just the seed that turns into the Kingdom.

So, number three: We're all frightened frustrated sexual beings. And...

4. Through it all, the Word of God is asking all a question. (It's not what we expected.) He's asking you a question:



"Would you be my bride?"  
"Adam, mankind who's your helper?"

From beyond space and time, He's asking you the question.  
Right here and right now,  
He's giving you the answer.

He Himself is the answer.

### **Communion**

And so on that night He took bread, and He broke it saying: "This is my body broken given to you, take and eat." And in the same manner, after supper, having given thanks, He took the cup saying: "This cup is the covenant, the new and eternal covenant in my blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Drink of it all of you, and do it, in remembrance of me."

He is our Helper.

[Peter takes hold of the cross.] And right here He was made fit, for you and for me.

## **Prayer**

Let's pray. Lord God you know us and see us when we don't see You.

You know all our anxieties. Right now we confess to you that we need a Helper. It's like all creation says that; it's very clear. We need a helper. So right now, just confess yourself to the Lord. Some of you have horrid experiences from the past; confess them to Him; He'll use them to nurture a longing and a desire for Him within you. Give those to Him. Some of you sorrow from things that you tasted and now are gone. Well, give those to Him. They're only a taste of where you're headed, an appetizer of where you're headed...ultimate communion and the unity of the triune God. In all of that say, "God I need a helper." Now, let's say this together: "The Lord God is my Helper."

In Jesus' name Amen.

## **Benediction**

Lord you are beautiful. And You are making us beautiful. We thank you for who You are Jesus.

In Your name, Amen.

I just want to say, this topic is so hard, partly because there is so much broken sexuality. It touches us in frightening places. So I want to encourage you to have hope, so when Paul says: "This refers to Christ and his church..." really good things happen to Christ and His church. You are the Bride of Christ. But now, if you are feeling shame, disappointed or afraid, I want to point out something to you. When you go the gospel of Matthew, it's fascinating that Matthew lists the genealogy, and he points out five women in Jesus' genealogy. The first is Tamar, she basically committed incest by dressing up as a prostitute and bedding her father in law. The next is Rahab; she was a Canaanite prostitute, and her name means dragon. The next is Ruth; she was a foreigner and basically seduced a guy. The next is Bathsheba, with whom David committed fornication and then murdered her husband. The next one is Mary.

Now listen: Jesus is born in all those places. Isn't that amazing? He's born out of those wounds. And so everything that you have and everything that you are is that place where He longs to be born, that place He longs to fill, that place He longs to transform, and He will. So Bride of Christ, you need to understand that you are also the mother of Christ, and you need to have hope. Because you are about to go on your honeymoon.

In Jesus' name believe the gospel.

Amen.