

Betrothed

By Steve Pruitt

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1 John 2:15 ESV

God declared that he was a husband to Israel. Israel was the virgin of his affection and he longed to be the affection of Israel's heart. He said, *For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. For the Lord has called you like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, like a youthful wife when you were refused, says the Lord.* (Isaiah 54:15-6)

Throughout the Old Testament God commanded Israel to have no other god's before him. During times of rebellion he accused them of committing adultery with other lovers. God's assessment of Israel's condition was, *...She decked herself with earrings and jewelry, and went after her lovers; but me she forgot...*(Hosea 2:13) *You are an adulterous wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband.* (Ezekiel 16:32) Israel sought gratification in something other than God. They loved how the things of the world made them feel.

The word defile means to make filthy or dirty. That is exactly what we do when we entertain the things of this world. At first it may seem not to affect us. We enjoy how it makes us feel so we continue to indulge ourselves. Soon that thing isn't enough, and we begin to turn to other sources of pleasure to fulfill our desires. Eventually we find ourselves cankered with worldliness.

The Apostle Paul, being concerned that the Corinthian believers had been deceived into believing a different gospel than the one he had preached, wrote this, *For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.* (2 Corinthians 11:2)

Many people in the church today have chased after the things of this world. They have honored God with their lips but their hearts are far from him. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life have lured them from the one who has betrothed them.

Our husband is jealous for a virgin bride. True worshipers are virgins in the since that they are married to God alone. They are not defiled with the things of this world nor have they given themselves to other gods. They have only one husband; Jesus.

Are you married to God alone? Do you have other "lovers" in your life. Ask God for the grace you need to remain faithful to him.

NOTES:

Scriptures for meditation:

James 4:-5

James 1:27

1 John 2:16

Galatians 5:16