

A Great MYSTERY

- *Mystery* used 28 times in the NT
- Always used to describe something God had kept hidden, often from eternity, and incomprehensible.
- Sometimes what is revealed is a mystery only until it is revealed, then it becomes “milk”
- Other times, even after it is revealed it is still difficult to understand.
- *solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*
Heb 5:14

A GREAT Mystery

- Some of the *mysteries*, revealed in Scripture are *great* because they rise above the level of human understanding.
- We have not point of reference to move from the unknown to the known. Such things can't be fully understood.
- *The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, Deut. 29:29*
- *Learn not to go beyond what is written. 1Cor 4:6*
- Never “intruding on those things he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind. Col. 2:18”

A Great Mystery

- Revealed us to meditate upon, take apart, compare with other Scriptures. Humbly see them as much more than meets the eye or we can understand.
- *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. 32 This mystery is great: but I speak in regard of Christ and of the church.*
Eph. 5:29-32
- Marriage is a great mystery!
- A man leaving father and mother
- Cleaving to his wife – becoming one flesh.

A Mystery Based on Creation

*And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.” 24 Therefore
a man shall leave his father and mother and be
joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife,
and were not ashamed. Gen. 2:22-25*

At least 3 mysteries – deeper than we understand,
more than meets the eye, beyond comprehension.

- (1) Woman taken out of man!
- (2) Joined to his wife
- (3) Become one flesh

Marriage

- Adam revealed God's prophecy / Promise
- Will hold true until the end of the age.
- Will occur to all men and women
- God joins them together
- God makes them one flesh.
- Some is simply, some profound, some sublime.
- But to be a great mystery – Not easily explained

Jesus Expands the Mystery

Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?' 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." Mt 19:4-6

God spoke these words – Adam repeated them

God joined them together

Man must not (and can't/unable to) separate). There is a bond exceeding our comprehension.

Marriage

- A bond only God can make!
- A bond only God can break!
- Not something man can modify or nullify.
- Any attempt or man-made modifications will always end in corruption and defilement.
- We can't tamper with God's natural order without grave consequences to our being.
- *And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." Mt 19:9*

The Great Mystery of Marriage

Multitudes do what God says can't be done.

Can be done – is done – but consequences are grave and severe – man creates a monstrosity.

Still joined to one woman – living with another

The mystery:

We can't see what God sees.

God sees this as a grave sin to body and soul.

There is a fleshly, spiritual, deeper component man can't see, but Jesus warned against.

Sublime = awe, reverence, respect, fear

Sin – Reveals Depth of Great Mystery

- *Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. 18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 1Cor 6:16-18*

- Parallel:

- Joined to the Lord = One Spirit with Him

- Joined to a harlot = One body with her – part of the meaning “one one flesh”

- Every sin = outside the body = fornication = sin against one’s own body?

Great Mystery of Fornication

A sin like no other.

Become one body

Sin against own body

Every other sin outside of body

New Component for the Christian

your bodies are members of Christ

Can I take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? May It Never Be!!!

He who is joined to a harlot is one body with her

For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh."

he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit in you

whom you have from God,

you are not your own? For you were bought at a

price; therefore glorify God in your body and in

your spirit, which are God's.

Sexual Activity: A Great Mystery

- Adam *knew* Eve. How is intimacy a knowing?
- Before it can be done God must glue and join.
- It must result from after God makes us “one flesh”
- It makes them one body
- There is a spiritual component we don't grasp
- Procreation is also part of the great mystery
- Christ and the church are also a component.

Husband – Wife Christ – Church

● *So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Eph 5:28-33*

The Great Mystery

- The great mystery of marriage
- The great mystery of sexual intimacy
- The great mystery of knowing
- The great mystery of fornication
 - A grievous sin that affects body, soul, spirit and our relationship to Christ and the Holy Spirit
 - Every other sin outside of the body –
Fornication is a sin against one's own body.