

The phrase, the concept, "the Bride of Christ," how it's used, and applied:

Through the scriptures, we see that in the Old Testament Israel was God's people, and later the church (*body of Christ*) was thought of as His bride, and then we see in the book of Revelation, the Lamb's wife as being the Holy Jerusalem (*New Jerusalem*).

Many individuals apply this phrase to themselves as being Christ's bride; however, scripture tells us that Jesus prayed to the Father that we would be one in Him as He is one with the Father and we would be one in Them.

That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou has sent Me, John 17:21.

Israel was first called God's son, only to later loose their covenant.

And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel *is* My son, *even* My firstborn: **Exodus 4:22.**

And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; **Jeremiah 3:8.**

The church body can be pictured as being a bride

Scripture uses the example of a marriage between a husband and wife as being compared to Christ's bride, His church. Also, Jesus spoke in the Gospels of the bridegroom being taken away from them (*the children of the bridechamber*), **Matthew 9:15, Mark 2:19 & Luke 5:34.**

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; ²⁶ That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, ²⁷ That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish, **Ephesians 5:22-33.**

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife has made herself ready. ⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints, **Revelation 19:7-8.**

Lastly we see that the Holy city Jerusalem as being the Lamb's wife.

And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, **Revelation 21:9-10.**

Spiritually we are one in the spirit with Jesus to the point where the spirit is indistinguishable from Christ's Spirit. Several scriptures and biblical concepts use this truth: when the Father looks at us, He sees us through His Son Jesus. It is the righteousness of Jesus that we must put on, **Matthew 6:33,** We will have our own incorruptible and unique body and can therefore use the phrase "The Bride of Christ." However, this applies more so to New Jerusalem, as being the Lamb's wife. This would also include all of God's creation: the earth, grass and trees, the fish and birds, and the cattle.

Summary: It is more accurate to say that we are "one in Christ," for that addresses man's spirit; however, we can also use the phrase "The Bride of Christ," for that tends to address man's individuality.

