



## Scripture nugget – Oneness with Christ, our final union in love

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be His people and God Himself will always be with them as their God (Revelation 21:1-3).*

**Our personal relationship with God is the most important, defining our life.** How we relate to God will determine our identity, our existence, our relationship with others and our final destination in eternity. God's relationship with us is a covenantal relationship. A covenant is like a contract. To put it in simple terms, God says: "Do as I say and I will be your God and you will be My people, and I will take care of you." In the Old Testament God summoned Moses to come up to Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments on behalf of Israel. Moses stayed on the mountain with the Lord and fasted 40 days and 40 nights before receiving the Ten Commandments (cf. Exodus 34:28). The terms of the Covenant were the Ten Commandments. God is love (cf. 1 John 4:8) and the essence of the Ten Commandments is filial, holy love of God and others. The Old Covenant which could save no one as none of its animal sacrifices can take away sins, paves the way to a more superior, everlasting New Covenant in the shed Blood of Jesus Christ (cf. Matthew 26:28). In the New Testament, Jesus sums up the Ten Commandments by His Two Great Commandments on love: *You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37-39).* The New Covenant, in which Christ is the Sacrifice and Eternal High Priest, promises salvation to anyone Jews or non-Jews who believes in Christ and walks in His footsteps (cf. John 3:16). We are the New Covenant people of God.

**In this covenantal relationship, God uses marriage to describe the relationship between Himself and Israel in the Old Testament and between Jesus Christ and His Church in the New Testament, reflecting His all-consuming, sacrificial love for His people which is amply proven beyond doubt when Christ died on the Cross while we are still sinners.** From our human perspective, the closest, most intimate relationship with another person is that between husband and wife. God's plan for the fullness of time is to unite all things in Jesus Christ, things in heaven and things on earth (cf. Ephesians 1:10). Thus, Jesus earnestly prayed for our unity with God: *"I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, so that they may all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me (John 17:20-21).*

**Conversation with Jesus.** Precious Lord, purify my heart and unite it to Your Sacred Heart. May our hearts beat in unison in fervent love for the Eternal Father. May our thoughts be as one, contemplating the goodness of God our Father. May our souls be in harmony, glorifying God together. May our hands gather in unity to build up God's kingdom, bringing lost souls to Him through my daily prayers and sacrifices. May our feet journey together towards my glorious eternity that God has prepared for me. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.