

To be... *Equally*

Yoked



stephlmcmurray.wordpress.com

How do you love him?
How does a peasant girl love a king?
How can she, his bride become **equally yoked** with
Him, her bridegroom?

PRIORITY #1 – Keep the GREATEST COMMANDMENT: Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.

What are His terms?

“If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15).

“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3).

“Therefore, anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever **practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven**” (Matthew 5:19).

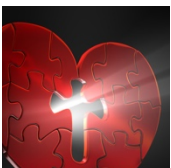
*God’s commandments are designed to establish peace and harmony: oneness with Him as Christ is one with Him, **equally yoked**. Two people walking together in agreement, perfectly supporting each other through the darkest of times to the most joyous of times can only be happy when they are equally yoked.*

How does your bridegroom show his love to you?

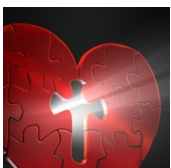
“...while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you” (John 15:13).

*To be **equally yoked** with the One who took the beatings until he was unrecognizable and died on the cross, a death sentenced for the worst of criminals is to willingly enter into a blood covenant and stand by him until death.*



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Understanding his sacrifice, how does that make you feel?



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"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

*To be **equally yoked** with him is understanding the degree of suffering he endured to rescue you. Unwilling to let you die, he sacrificed himself, so that you could live. The magnitude of his generous gift is like a powerful magnet, which generates an eternal energy of awe, bringing you down to our knees in total surrender of self to him—in love.*

How long has God our Father loved you?



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"I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love, I have drawn you to myself" (Jeremiah 31:3).

"We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

*To be **equally yoked** with God our Father is recognizing our insufficiencies in our love for Him. Remedying our incompleteness comes through relentless prayer asking our Father to give us His Spirit so that we can grow in-love, love as God loves His Son.*

How can you love your bridegroom as God loves?



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"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; **abide in My love**" (John 15:9).

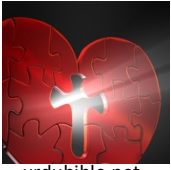
"O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the **love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them**" (John 17:25).

"Let us not love in word or in tongue, but **in deed and in truth**. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him" (1 John 3:18-19).

"If you find my Beloved ... tell Him I am lovesick!" (Song 5:8).

*To be **equally yoked** is to love him as God loves him. This type of love is the strongest, deepest, and most consistent obedience that transforms us into a lovesick person willing to endure anything for love—this joy of being lovesick has no words. It is characterized by a fearless loyalty and a strong desire to avoid the pain of failing him. It is expressed in actions never to be reduced to mere words. This love is not passive but passionate.*

What are the characteristics of this level of in-loveness?



The ecstasy of perfect happiness:

- Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.
- Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
- Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake (Matthew 5:4-11).

*To be **equally yoked** means that the more we seek to live for love, the more broken we will become, truly humble seeking to obey God. Lean on His Son and you will remain strong.*

- *Servants of God recognize the wickedness of the world and it is painful. They mourn, looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God” (Hebrews 11:10).*
- *Servants of God recognize how small they are before the Great God. Meekly, they come before Him.*
- *Servants of God cannot get enough of God's way and so, they are always hungry for knowledge, wisdom and understanding.*
- *Servants of God are forgiving because they can see their own short-comings, their flaws that are just so slow to go away.*
- *Servants of God are genuine seeking their God sincerely, searching to know Him relentlessly.*
- *Servants of God seek peace with their brothers, their sisters, their people, all people knowing that “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).*
- *Servants of God remain loyal, unwavering like the cedars of Lebanon standing by their God. Despite persecution and suffering, there is no temptation that will cause them to succumb. They are in-love; they cannot be torn from Him or His Son.*
- *Servants of God silence the words of those who accuse and attack with lies*

because they know their enemy. They have chosen the side that cannot fall. They stand by their Creator and there is no one like Him. "I know that Yahuah is greater than all the gods" (Exodus 18:11). They rejoice in their God; they see and feel His power everywhere. They are filled with His power and no one can touch them.



What will the marriage to God's Son be like?

Love: "He is love..." (1 John 4:8).

Humble: "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in **lowliness of mind** let each **esteem others better than himself**. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to steal, but **made Himself of no reputation**, taking the **form of a bondservant**, and **coming in the likeness of men**. And being found in appearance as a man, He **humbled Himself** and became **obedient to the point of death**, even the **death of the cross**. Therefore, **God also has highly exalted Him**" (Philippians 2:3-9).

Merciful: "In all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a **merciful** and **faithful High Priest** ... to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people" (Hebrews 2:17).

Pure: "And everyone who has this hope focused on him purifies himself, just as Jesus is pure" (1 John 3:3).

Holy: "—but, like the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in all of your conduct, for it is written, "You shall be holy, because I am holy" (1 Peter 1:15-16).

Righteous: "Little children, let no one deceive you: The one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as Jesus is righteous" (1 John 3:7).

Forgiving: "—bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if someone happens to have a complaint against anyone else. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also forgive others" (Colossians 3:13).

Enduring: "—keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set out for him he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Think of him who endured such opposition against himself by sinners, so that you may not grow weary in your souls and give up. You have not yet resisted to the point of bloodshed in your struggle against sin" (Hebrews 12:2-4).

Just: “For the LORD is a God of justice” (Isaiah 30:18).

Healing: “—who forgives all your iniquities; who heals all your diseases...” (Psalms 103:3). “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8).

*To be **equally yoked** with him, she longs to know everything about him and lives as he lives, searching through the scriptures to see him in his full glory, to study for truth not the traditions of men or preaching of men, but she learns only from him. He guides her towards him into his perfection and her spots, wrinkles, and blemishes are removed through **her desire to be cleansed by him**. “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities... I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you... you will be moved to be careful to keep my laws” (Ezekiel 36:25-28).*

How much can you love God—our Father in heaven?



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“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mark. 12:30).

“May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God” (2 Thessalonians. 3:5).

“I will love You, O LORD, my strength” (Psalms 18:1).

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve” (Mark 10:45).

*To be **equally yoked** is to **love God extravagantly!** Refuse to become trapped in bitterness by those who mistreat you. Don't get caught up into seeking wealth and fame as a primary goal in the kingdom. **Serve Him into perfection**, rooted deeply in your heart, overflowing your soul, filling your mind, and using all of your resources, your strength to pursue love for Him more than things or influence. In loving God, you are loving His Son.*

When will Christ come to take His bride?



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“But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. Take heed, **keep on the alert**; for you do not know when the appointed time will come (Mark 13:32-33).

“Blessed are those servants whom the Master, when He comes, will find watching ... He will gird Himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them” (Luke 12:37).

“But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation” (1 Thessalonians 5:8).

“The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded” (Luke 12:37).

“Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway” (Proverbs 8:34).

“Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore, he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!” (Isaiah 30:18)

“Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?” (James 4:5)

*To be **equally yoked**, is longing for his return as he longs for us to be part of him—his body, ruling and sharing in his glory, as he is sharing in the glory of his Father. She watches for his return studying diligently God’s every word, journeying as a pilgrim on the earth, often alone because the world is traveling on the wide road filled with traffic on their way to destruction.*

IN SUMMARY:



God is love.

Love is the source and goal of the law and the prophets.

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

His bride will be love.

She will run the race to the end.

“Those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it ... Therefore, I run thus: not with uncertainty [lack of focus] ... I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest ... I should become disqualified” (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected ... I do not count myself to have apprehended ... I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God” (Philippians 3:12-14).

“There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness ... on that Day” (2 Timothy 4:8).

She will be ready because she will not stop. She will be found doing till the day Christ returns.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalms 139:23-24).

“Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret [unperceived] faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins ... Then I shall be blameless” (Psalms 19:12-13).

“He who begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ ... I pray that your love may abound ... that you may be sincere and without offense till the day” (Philippians 1:6-10).



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*She has an all-consuming burning desire for him. Her heart melts before him. She acknowledges his greatness at every level, perfect without sin, unique, beloved Son of God. The honor to share in his glory brings her into his humility where this generous and great gift is tenderly treasured. She will be **equally yoked** with him because she has not given up the race, but ran ahead of everyone guarding her reward jealously.*

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich from segments of the comprehensive researched articles on loving God written by Mike Bickle at <http://mikebickle.org>.

All illustrations are used to enhance learning, for educational purposes and the associated websites for your reference.