

The Salvation Walk

By Dianna Cudworth

When a man sees a woman that he is attracted to he begins to woo her. Sometimes he will send her flowers, or call her, or make a habit of going the same places he knows she goes in the hopes of seeing her. Eventually he may ask her out on a date and begin to spend time with her. Each relationship is different. Sometimes the relationship is developed through compliments, other times it is through teasing and banter. God woos us in much the same manner. Eventually the relationship will develop to the point that the man will declare his love to the woman and she will believe that promise of love and reciprocate and tell him that she also loves him. This is what we call being saved. When our relationship with God reaches the point where we believe His promise of love.

As time goes on it is not enough for the man just to tell the woman that he loves her. His desire is for a much closer relationship. He wants to be near her all the time, not just on the occasional date. So what does he do? He asks her to marry him. When she agrees, together they make a public declaration of their love. In our culture they stand before a preacher, with all their family and friends in attendance, and they declare their love for each other. The man publicly and openly declares "this is the woman I love and I am making her my wife". The woman publicly and openly declares "this is the man I love and I am making him my husband". In a like manner that is what water baptism is all about. When our relationship with God reaches the point when we want more than the occasional date, we want to be with Him on a daily basis, then just like the woman that agreed to be married, we agree to the ceremony of water baptism. The ceremony of putting aside our old self, and joining ourselves to God. Just as the woman stood before her family and friends and declared that this is the man I love and I am making him my husband, when we agree to water baptism, we are standing before family and friends and declaring "this is the God I love and I am making Him my God". At the same time, He is declaring, "this is my child. I am adopting this child into My own household". Through the ceremony of marriage

between a man and woman, the woman takes the man's name. Likewise, when we go through the ceremony of water baptism, God places His name upon us. He gives us the most precious and indescribable gift. He joins His Holy Spirit with our spirit. As a man and woman grows in their marriage, they become more and more alike. Likewise, as we grow in our relationship with our God, we become more and more like Him. In order to make a marriage work, we must put aside our selfish nature and consider our spouse. It is no longer just "I", but it becomes "we". When we enter into the covenant of marriage that is what we are really agreeing to. When we enter into God's covenant that is what we are agreeing to – to set aside our selfish nature and look beyond ourselves. And just as there will be temptations that try to separate the sanctity of the marriage, we must always guard against the temptations that will try to destroy the sanctity of the covenant of God. God Bless You! May your salvation walk be one of joy, peace, righteousness and prosperity.

Dianna Cudworth 5/10/2006