**Feeling like a Bride**

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.” Ephesians 5: 25-27

Share this: Act like a bride.

“Look at this,” I said, pointing at a phrase in a wedding program. My wife and I were waiting for the big event to start.

Below the words “Vows” and “Proclamation” we read “Couple’s First Kiss.”

We looked at each other. *Really?!* I then recalled seeing the bride greet the groom the day before, how she ran up to him, turned her head, snuggled in, and hugged him and he her. No kiss. So today was the day. When they were pronounced husband and wife, they kissed, and it was beautifully innocent.

This couple’s commitment to remain as pure as possible before their wedding day reminded me of Paul likening the church to Jesus’ bride, one that he zealously protects, cherishes, loves, and cleanses by his word. It struck me that Jesus must be as concerned about our well-being as that young bridegroom was about purity with his future wife.

I don’t often think of the church worldwide or my local one as Jesus’ bride, but I know that Jesus treats us like that young groom did his beloved.

Jesus is devoted to us, his church. Are we devoted to him, and to other believers?

*God, the image of your church as a bride says so much about how much you love us. Thank you that among your people I am shown your protection and love. May I delight in being like a bride to you, and may I enjoy fellowship with your followers.*

Action Step: Take a moment to thank God for our status as his bride, for his protection, and for his zeal to see us become more and more pure.