The Bride of Christ has combat boots on. I said, "The Bride of Christ has combat boots on under her wedding dress…"
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Christian International

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INTIMACY WITH JESUS AND THE REMNANT COMPANY OF THE LAST DAYS

INTIMACY

In this study I want to look at two Biblical types of the Remnant Company of the Last Days, the Manifested Sons of God Company and the Bridal Company. But first we will look at the most important aspect of the Remnant Company of the Last Days, *intimacy with Jesus*.

To be intimate with the Lord is "to know Him" way beyond a superficial, *I-want-fire-insurance-so-I-won't-go-to-hell* relationship and beyond a country club type of church existence that feeds and entertains the soul but not the spirit, with sermonettes and chicken soup stories.

The Hebrew word generally translated *know* or *knew*, and sometimes *acquainted with* (as in Isaiah 53:3 where Jesus is said to be one *acquainted with grief*) in the Old Testament is *yada. Yada* conveys the meanings of *recognizing with a certainty, ascertain by seeing, knowing a familiar friend or kinsman,* and is used euphemistically to denote *having an intimate sexual relationship in the marriage bed* as in Genesis 4:1a: *Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain….* Thus, *yada* involves the most intimate human relationships. Knowing what *yada* means gives a lot more understanding of passages such as Daniel 11:32b: *…but the people that do know [yada] their God shall be strong and do exploits.* Daniel is not talking about carnal believers here who have a casual relationship with God, but instead, he is referring to those who intimately know God.

The Greek equivalent to the Hebrew *yada* is *ginosko,* which means *to know absolutely, to understand, to be sure*.
This is the word Paul used in Philippians 3:7-11: *But what things were gain to me, these I counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count ALL things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith, <u>that I may know (ginosko) Him</u> and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if by any means, I may attain to the resurrection of the dead.* This is one of the most astounding statements in the New Testament to me. Paul, the man who was converted in a dramatic encounter with Jesus Himself on the Damascus Road and was, Bible scholars believe, even caught up into the third heaven, an experience he did not even speak of for 14 years because it was too glorious to share, states in Philippians 3 that the goal of his life was to know the Lord. I would think that if any man knew the Lord intimately, it would be Paul. Yet I know that we will hunger for more intimacy with Christ as long as we live on this earth, no matter how close we get to Him. We will always want more!

The great devotionalist Oswald Chambers wrote that "the bearing of fruit is always shown in Scripture to be the visible result of an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ."
Chambers goes on to say, "True friendship is rare on earth. It means identifying with someone in thought, heart, and spirit. The whole experience of life is designed to enable us to enter into this closest relationship with Jesus Christ. We receive His blessings and know His Word, but do we really know Him?"

Jesus gives us the key to intimacy with Him: John 15:14-17: "***You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did***

not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another."

THE REMNANT

For a few years now I have felt that the Lord was preparing a remnant company of the Last Days. None of us know the day nor the hour when Jesus will return, but the signs of the times seem more and more to be pointing to a possible return in the lives of some of you living now. Perhaps some of you will see Jesus come in the Eastern sky. At any rate, the Lord has ALWAYS had a remnant, a small group of believers who are *all in,* even if it costs their lives to follow Him. There is physical death, but there is also soulish death or death to personal ambition and plans, ego, control, etc. In the inerrant, Holy Spirit breathed, Word of God, the remnant has taken many different forms from the preservation of mankind through Noah to the 7000 who had not bowed the knee to Baal in Elijah's day, from the remnant that returned with Ezra and Nehemiah after the 70 years of Babylonia capture to the Jewish remnant waiting for the Messiah in Simeon and Anna and John the Baptist's day. Isaiah wrote, "*Unless the LORD of hosts had left to us a very small remnant, we would have been like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah"* (Isaiah 1:9). Isaiah went on to prophesy that the nation of Israel would be overthrown by a foreign power, but a remnant would survive to serve as a witness of God's redeeming love and power. He felt so strongly about this that he named one of his sons, Shear-Jashub, which means "*A Remnant shall return"* (Isaiah 7:3).

I believe that many of you are specifically being called and challenged to be part of the remnant company of the Last Days. You have free will to choose whether you will take this assignment. Only those in this generation who sell out to Jesus will be part of the remnant in our day. They will be baptized with fire (Matthew 3:11-*I indeed baptize you with water unto*

repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.) And no doubt these believers will bear a hundred fold fruit for the Kingdom (Matthew 13:23: ***"But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty fold, some thirty."***) But again, if you choose to go all the way with Jesus, being sold out, no matter what, you need to know that this choice may cost you everything, even your life.

And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

Joel 2:32

Even so, then, at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Romans 11:5

Therefore will He give them [those who rejected Him] *up, until the time that she* [the church] *who travaileth hath brought forth; then the remnant of His brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.*

Micah 5:3

And the dragon was angry with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, who keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:17

Some Scriptural Examples of the Many Types and Characteristics of the Remnant Company Being Gathered:

1. The Joshua Company in the book of Joshua who cross the Jordan-*Those who are Warrior/Saints.*
2. The Remnant left to rebuild the temple in Ezra-*Those who are Repentant and Separated from the world.*
3. The Remnant left to rebuild the wall in Nehemiah-*Those who are Joyful.*
4. The Mephibosheths (destroying shame) called in 2nd Samuel 9 to eat at the king's table-*Those who are Full of Grace and without Shame.*
5. The Outcasts of Israel with broken hearts and wounds in Psalm 147:2-3- *Those who are Healed and Made Whole.*
6. The small Remnant of Isaiah-*Those who walk in Purity.*
7. The Dry Bones coming alive as an army in Ezekiel 37-*Those who are Prophetically Alive.*
8. The Third Day Church of Hosea raised up to know the Lord-*Those Alive in the Lord.*
9. Joel's Army with the fire devouring before them in Joel 2-*Those speaking the spirit-quickened Word of God.*
10. The Latter House and Desire of all Nations of Haggai 2-*Those full of glory and peace..*
11. The Elijah Company of Malachi 4:5-6-*Those with a father's heart.*
12. The 5 Wise Virgins of Matthew 25-*Those who are watchful and ready.*
13. The People in Daniel 11:32 who know their God-*Those who are strong in the Lord and do exploits.*
14. The Bridal Company in Ephesians 5:25-29-*Those who walk in His Glory and have been made clean by the blood of the Lamb.*
15. The Zion Company in Psalm 9:11-*Those who walk in the Spirit realm and with the Lord.*

A REMNANT IS RISING IN THE LAND BY ROBERT STEARNS

They will not be bought or sold with position or money. They are remembering why they "got into this" in the first place- for the Lamb, for Jesus Christ's honor, for the sake of His worthy name. Their backbones are being steeled in the furnace of affliction, and purified of contemporary dross. They are old-school, hard-core Jesus freaks, and they are not apologizing for it. The remnant is not ashamed!

They are blood-bought and fiercely committed to the Word-the Logos and the Rhema.

Something within them stirs because they know they are here on a kairos assignment. They realize that they may have forgotten for a moment, diverted off the path for some years, but like soldiers who remember drills from long ago, they are coming to attention and position and awareness.

They are here on purpose. They are necessary to Heaven's narrative. They are not bystanders. They are the players on the stage of His-story.

This army is realizing they never should have eaten Babylon's food in the first place, even if it was served in halls decorated to look like a cheap imitation of Zion. They would rather be pilgrims than settle. They would rather be fools for Christ than wise in the world's eyes. THEY WOULD RATHER BE KNOWN IN HEAVEN AND FEARED IN HELL THAN RECOGNIZED ON EARTH.

Whatever happens to them in the world really doesn't matter. They have locked gazes with the Lamb's eyes and locked step with the cadence of Heaven's march.

His remnant understands that this is the Final Act and there is no turning back now.

I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back. No turning back. We have decided. Have *you* decided?

MALE AND FEMALE

Men feel uncomfortable sometimes identifying as part of the Bride of Christ, and women may not like being called *sons* of God. Paul settled this in Galatians 3:26-29: *"For you are ALL sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise."*

MANIFESTED SONS OF GOD COMPANY

For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.
Romans 8:19 KJV

For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.
Romans 8:19 New Century Version

Everything God made is waiting with excitement for God to show His children's glory completely.
Romans 8:19 New International Version

The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.
Romans 8:19 NLV

The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next.
Romans 8:19 The Message

1. **When the Manifested Sons of God Company recognizes who they really are, i.e. heirs of God, through Christ, they will become the Last Day's Remnant, (also known as the Zion Company, the Elijah Company, Joel's Army, Ezekiel's Dry Bones Come to Life, the People in Daniel who know their God and are strong and do exploits, Amos' restored Tabernacle of David Company, the Glory of the Latter House of Haggai, the Third Day Church of Hosea, and the Bridal Company. Etc.):** They will walk in and assume their inheritance rights: *Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because we are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ* (Galatians 4:1-7).
2. **The Manifested Sons of God will make up the Last Days' Saints' Company, or Last Day's Remnant Company, fully equipped with the 5 fold ministry offices, and they will bring the Body in maturity:** *"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"* (Ephesians 4:11-13).

3. **The Manifested Sons of God will make His enemies His footstool.** *The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool* (Psalm 110:1).
4. **When #1, #2, and #3 are accomplished, then Jesus will come back for the Glorious Church, His Bride.** *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word; that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish* (Ephesians 5:25-27).

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SONS OF GOD

1. **Sons of God don't love the world and the applause of men**. *Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the sons[children] of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are the sons [children] of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that, when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is* (1st John 3:1-2).
2. **Sons of God shine as lights and don't complain.** *Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, the [children] sons of God, without fault, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom you shine as lights in the world* (Philippians 2:14-15).
3. **Sons of God walk in maturity and have put away childish things**. *When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man, I put away childish things* (1st Corinthians 13:11).

4. **Sons of God speak the Truth in love.** …*that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things unto Him who is the head- Christ…*(Ephesians 4:14-15).
5. **Sons of God are called to praise Him.** *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light* (1st Peter 2:9).
6. **Sons of God walk in obedience and love.** *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. But fornication and uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness nor foolish talking nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this we know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience* (Ephesians 5:1-6).
7. **Sons of God are led by the Spirit.** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.* (Romans 8:14)
8. **Sons of God tabernacle the living God and separate from worldly things**. *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God*

with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore, "Come out from among them and be separate," says the Lord. "Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters," says the LORD Almighty (2nd Corinthians 6:14-18).

9. **Sons of God accept the chastening of the Lord**. *And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons. "My son do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves, he chastens and scourges every son whom He receives* (Hebrews 12:5-6).
10. **Sons of God walk in power.** *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the sons [children] of God, to those who believe in His name* (John 1:12).

I believe that the Lord is calling His Last Days Remnant even now. Do you feel a dissatisfaction in the spirit? Are you troubled by the world situation that is increasingly hostile to Christians, especially hostile to those Christians who are walking in present day truth? Are you groaning for more of Jesus? Do you believe the Lord is birthing something in your spirit? If so, perhaps the Lord is calling you to be part of this endtime company.

THE BRIDAL COMPANY

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.

Revelation 19:7-8KJV

*Let us rejoice and shout for joy [*exulting and triumphant*]! Let us celebrate and ascribe to Him glory and honor, for the marriage of the Lamb [*at last*] has come, and His bride has prepared herself.*
Revelation 19:7-8 AMP

Let us rejoice and be happy and give God glory, because the wedding of the Lamb has come, and the Lamb's bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given to her to wear. The fine linen means the good things done by God's holy people.
Revelation 19:7-8 New Century

Let us be glad and rejoice and honor Him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and His bride has prepared herself. She is permitted to wear the finest white linen. (Fine linen represents the good deeds done by the people of God.)
Revelation 19:7-8 NLV

I suppose there is no more intimate relationship on earth than a godly marriage relationship. Paul tells us that *for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh* (Ephesians 5:31). Paul says that, in thatI same way, the Lord will be joined to His Bride, the Church: *This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.* (Ephesians 5:32) God is a God, not of religion, but of personal relationship, and He wants not only personal relationship with each one of us but relationship that can best be compared to the relationship of a husband and wife in intimacy and love. That's what separates Christianity from all other religions, i.e. He passionately wants to have intimate relationship with you so that He can bless the object of His love, YOU. In fact, the Lord desires intimacy with you even more than you desire it with Him. Why? Because those in relationship with Him will fall in love with Him, and those who love Him will obey Him, and those who obey Him can be showered with blessings. His greatest desire is to bless you,

and since He is just, He can only bless you when you walk in obedience to Him.

JESUS IS COMING BACK FOR HIS BRIDE, A GLORIOUS CHURCH, WHO HAS MADE HERSELF READY!

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word; 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. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his flesh, but nourished and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church, for we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:25-32).

HOW HAS THE BRIDE MADE HERSELF READY?

1. **She has come out of Babylon.** (ARE YOU NO LONGER CHARMED BY WORDLY PURSUITS AND THE WORLD'S DELIGHTS? DO YOU NO LONGER STRIVE FOR MEN'S APPROVAL, BUT DELIGHT IN THE LORD?) *The light of a lamp shall not shine in you* [Babylon] *anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and all who were slain on the earth* (Revelation 18:23-24).
2. **She has changed her garments.** (HAVE YOU COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND SEPARATED YOURSELF UNTO THE LORD? DO YOU WALK IN HOLINESS AND DO RIGHTEOUS ACTS IN HIS NAME?) *Then Jacob said unto his household and to all that were with him, Put away*

the foreign gods that are among you and be clean and change your garments (Genesis 35:2). *I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorned herself with her jewels* (Isaiah 61:10). *And the Lord said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan, even the LORD who hath chosen Jerusalem, rebuke thee. Is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and stood before the angel. And he answered and spoke unto those who stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. And I said, Let them set a clean turban upon his head. So they set a clean turban upon his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the Lord stood by* (Zechariah 3:25).

3. **She has overcome.** (HAVE YOU OVERCOME BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB-ACCEPTING CHRIST- AND THE WORD OF YOUR TESTIMONY-SPEAKING THE WORD OF GOD?) *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell in them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God,*

and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Revelation 21:2-8).

4. **She walks in joy, even giving the sacrifice of praise.** (ARE YOU WALKING IN AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE AND PRAISE NO MATTER WHAT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES?) *The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness; the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride; the voice of them who shall say, Praise the Lord of hosts; for the Lord is good; for His mercy endureth forever; and of those who shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the Lord* (Jeremiah 33:11).
5. **She longs for the coming One, who said, "You have ravaged my heart.**"(ARE YOU LONGING FOR THE COMING OF JESUS?) *And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take of the water of life freely* (Revelation 22:17).

The Bridal Company will make herself ready for the coming of the King. Do you want to be part of that company? Are you going to stand in this evil day when others fall? (A good example of this falling away is Demas who forsook Paul for wordly things. -2nd Timothy 4:10) James calls such people adulterers and adulteresses and says that friendship with the world is enmity with God and further states that to be a friend of the world is to be the enemy of God (James 4:4).Are His enemies your enemies? Frequently scripture refers to the believers as playing the harlot. It also makes much of agreement. Unfortunately, the church often loses its savor by walking in agreement with the world, much as a harlot. Instead of hating His enemies, we try to be politically correct and say anything goes.

What is in your heart? It does not matter how gifted you think you are, coarse conversations indicate that you are double-minded (James 1:9), and Madison Square Techniques indicate that you have to use a gimmick and thus have a form of godliness but deny the power (2nd Timothy 3:5). Again James says, *"Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren these things ought not so to be"*(James 3:10). Are you looking for manifestations and the blessing of His hand, or are you seeking Him and His face, whether He gets you out of a hard place or not? Do you realize that, if He did nothing else for you ever, He has already done enough? Are you going to love Him with all your heart in the hard times as well as in times of prosperity?

What if real persecution comes, and you are not raptured away? That's what happened to the Chinese Christians under Mao and the Communist. Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote to Timothy that *"…all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."* Will you be the one who stands? It is worth going through persecution to you to follow Christ? Are you willing to die? Are you hungry for the things of God? Do you really want to be part of that company, the Bridal Company, that is even now in the process of making herself ready?