

# Intimacy with Christ Article

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If worship is ascribing worth to God, then the price of our worship shows God and the world how much we value Him.

Women typically understand this better than men. Take the engagement ring for example. How does a woman announce to her friends that she is engaged? Does she email them, Twitter, call, Facebook? Does she say anything at all? No. She walks into the room with a sideways smile, her hand preceding her, and her ring preceding her hand by a good inch and a half. Her friends, instinctively recognizing her posture, respond to this universal cue by gasping, oozing and aching with hand-covered mouths. They gather about with outstretched hands, to touch and admire the ring. The ring!

Do any of them ask about the man? What's he like? Does he have a job? Does he live with his mother? Does he have a hunchback and a third eye? No! None of that matters. he could be Quasimodo for all they care! It matters not. The world has come down to this. The ring!

That used to puzzle me until I figured it out. How could they care so much about chunk of glittery carbon and so little about the guy she was about to spend the rest of her life with?

Because the ring tells them all they need to know. They don't care about the groom until they see how much he values their friend—the newly engaged woman. They come to that newly engaged woman with one question in all of their hearts, "How much is she worth to him? How much does he value her?"

They want to know whether she is valuable enough for him to spend 6 months eating nothing but Ramen noodles, riding a bike to work, reweaving three-day-old laundry, scrimping and saving and sacrificing in order to buy a ring that somehow reflects how empty life would be without the woman he loves. How she means more to him than life itself. How valuable is she? How much is she worth?

So she shows them the ring. In their economy, the price of the ring shows the world how much he values her.

Now, switch gears. Here we are, the Bride of Christ, unlovable, unfaithful, adulterous, and fickle. Heaven and hell stand stupefied and the lost are incredulous! How could anyone love such a woman? How could the perfect Prince of Peace—glorious, holy, faithful, powerful, righteous, full of beauty and light—choose such an unlovely, wayward woman? The angels are mystified. Hell cannot comprehend it. The lost cannot believe it. Who could love a people like the Church? Only one thing will silence their doubt.

Show them the ring.

The only way for God to silence the skeptics was to demonstrate His love. To prove how much we are worth to Him. Romans 5:8 says that “*God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us*”(NIV). What is the cross? It’s the engagement ring of Christ. It is a blood stone, bought at the price of God’s own Son, to woo the heart of the Bride away from her other suitors and prove once and for all that He loves her more than life.

The Gospel is our engagement ring, and it says everything that the world needs to know about the Groom who is pursuing us.