

The Perfect Bride

My wife and I were eating dinner at an outdoor restaurant and a truck pulled up in the parking lot with a "Just Married" sign painted on the back window. We expected that in a moment the doors of the truck would open and out would jump a young couple that would be laughing and celebrating their love and hopes for their life together. Instead the passenger's side door opened slowly and the bride, probably in her 30's, got out very carefully. Her husband lovingly supported her arm and the two made their way across the parking lot. The new bride was obviously struggling as she walked and the hesitations in her movement made it clear she had some kind of serious neurological disorder.

My wife has a close friend with MS and we knew that this couple, who had probably only been married for a few hours, would likely be facing some difficult times in the years ahead. If the disease progressed as we had seen with our friend, she might soon need a cane, then a walker and finally a wheelchair. As things progressed our friend now requires almost constant care. Unlike most of us, this couple had stood before an altar and promised to stand by each other in sickness and in health when they already knew a severe illness and its ravages were looming on their horizon.

In spite of all this, in her Husband's eyes she was not flawed at all but his perfect and beautiful bride. No difficulty would be too great. No sacrifice would be too much. These could all be conquered with unconditional love.

It occurred to me that this is an earthly picture of the love that compelled our Savior to sacrifice Himself for us. We were and are flawed. We were and are ravaged by the sickness of sin and yet we are loved. He supports us on our journey through this life and ushers us into the life beyond. What a wonderful Heavenly father and what a Savior!

JER 31:3 The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."

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