

## **MOLESTERS OF THE BRIDE**

Husbands, how would you feel if some other man began to woo your wife -- to seek her love and affection -- to want her to spend her energies on him, and would also desire that she look to him as her "head" and ignore anything you might say to her? And, if she in turn accepted his wooing -- gave him her love and affection and prostituted herself before the world in his embrace, you would say that this man had seduced and molested your wife. This is what human organizations do to the bride of Christ, the church. They seek her love, affection, and loyalty. They want all her energies, and for her to look to them for direction. When she is seduced by these human organizations -- gives them her love and affection and follows their guidance -- they then have "outraged her" before the world. The world, knowing that she has prostituted herself, no longer looks upon her as a faithful bride. The world knows that she has compromised herself and will now become more worldly and more easily seduced into other unfaithful practices. She, like Israel of old, has become a "gadding bride" who has trimmed her ways to seek her lovers (Jeremiah 2: 33, 36).

The husband of a seduced wife may love her dearly and have it in his heart to forgive her, but if he cannot regain her affection and humble her in repentance there can be no reconciliation. Such a husband has no other alternative but to break the bonds of marriage (Matt. 19:9) and let her seek her lover. So it is with the church. The Lord rebukes and chastens ( Rev. 3:19), and those who repent and turn back to Him in faithfulness He forgives (Rev. 3: 19 - 20). Those who go on in unfaithfulness lose their identity ( Rev. 2:5). Many congregations in our day have been "molested" and "outraged" by human organizations and sponsoring churches and have found their seducers so satisfying (the fleshly craving being so great), that they have no intention of coming back to the faithful husband -- Christ! How sad!!

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