

Was Jesus Married?

by Wayne Goff

Dear reader, relax! There is no serious evidence that Jesus was ever married, contrary to recent news!

The evidence offered this past week by Harvard Divinity School professor Karen King was hardly earth-shattering. First, it was a fragment written in Coptic, a language used by Egyptian Christians, thus not from any apostle or prophet. Second, it said in part *"Jesus said to them, 'My wife...'"* and we have yet to see the context. Third, this fragment only dates back to the fourth century A.D., although some are already suggesting it dates back to the second century. Fourth, even Ms. King admits that this "does not prove that (Jesus) was married,..." So the truth of the matter is that this is much ado about nothing!

Ms. King also agreed that the scrap does not have the same historical weight as the canonical Gospels. In fact, the material belongs in the same category as The Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Mary, and the Gospel of Judas -- non-canonical, influenced by false doctrine like Gnosticism, and not worthy of serious consideration.

If Jesus had been married, there certainly would have been something said about it at the cross. We have the words of Jesus in caring for His mother (Jn. 19:26-27). Are we to believe that Jesus had no such care for a wife? It would be contrary to Old Testament biblical teaching (Gen. 2:23-24), Jesus' own teaching through the apostles (Eph. 5:25-26; 1 Tim. 5:8; 1 Pet. 3:7), and common sense.

Darrell Bock, a senior research professor of New Testament studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, said: "One could say the text is silent on Jesus' marital status ... because there was nothing to say."

Furthermore, Jesus' bride is His church (Eph. 5:25) and He gave His life for her. You and I, as members of the church of Christ, should give due consideration to the honor bestowed upon the Lord's bride, the church, and conduct ourselves accordingly. That is what is important. That is what the New Testament says. That is what we **know**!

Keep in mind that the *Gnostic goal* was to make Jesus *sinfully* human in order to sustain their doctrine of all material things are inherently evil. They separated the *physical* Jesus from the *spiritual* Christ, making them two separate entities. The apostle John soundly defeats this philosophy in 1 John. 1 John 2:22 reads, *"Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ. He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son."*

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