

Can you expound on the following denomination? We were visited on Sunday by two door knockers from the World Mission Society Church of God. The Internet says they are viewed by many main-stream churches as a cult, and they and their doctrine did leave us with a strange feeling. The man (there was also a woman) seemed to know the bible very well. He opened his well-worn NIV bible and quoted scripture from Revelation and Isaiah trying to convince us that Jesus has a wife in heaven who we should know as the "heavenly mother."

"The World Mission Society Church of God believes that the Bride of Christ is another God hidden in the parables of Jesus Christ, not to be revealed until the last day. They point to the fact the Bride gives the water of life in Rev 22:17 and they claim that because Jn 4:10-14 explains that water of life is eternal life, only God can give eternal life. Also, in Jer 2:13 and Revelation 21:6, it is written that God said that he is the source of living water.

Rom 10:2 For I bear them witness
that they have a zeal for God, but
not in accordance with knowledge.

Rev 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"
And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the
one who is thirsty come; and let the one who
wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

The water of life does not come from the bride,
but from God and the lamb!

Rev 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of
the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from
the throne of God and of the Lamb

Jesus had the living water

Jn 4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." (11) "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? (12) Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" (13) Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, (14) but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Joh 7:38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." (39) By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Joh 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

Act 11:14 and he shall speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Thus, the living water is the word
of God!

It flows from the throne of God
and the Lamb and when we drink,
we shall never thirst.

"The World Mission Society Church of God believes that the Bride of Christ is another God hidden in the parables of Jesus Christ, not to be revealed until the last day. They point to the fact the Bride gives the water of life in Rev 22:17 and they claim that because Jn 4:10-14 explains that water of life is eternal life, only God can give eternal life.

They also state that because, to Christians, Jesus is the father of all, his wife must be the mother of all.

They claim that the Bride is the heavenly Jerusalem, and point out that the apostle Paul stated that Jerusalem was their mother. [Gal 4:26] "

Gal 4:23 But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise. (24) This is allegorically speaking: for these women are two covenants, one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar. 25 Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. (26) But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother. (27) For it is written, "REJOICE, BARREN WOMAN WHO DOES NOT BEAR; BREAK FORTH AND SHOUT, YOU WHO ARE NOT IN LABOR; FOR MORE ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE DESOLATE THAN OF THE ONE WHO HAS A HUSBAND." (28) And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise.

An allegory - a symbolic representation

the bondwoman – the one who gave birth to the Jews, now in slavery to sin and the law.

The freewoman – the one who gave birth to Christians – those who are the children of promise – free!

The allegory is for the illustration and does not say that Sarah, the free woman, is our mother – but both Sarah and Hagar are illustrations of the bond and the free.

Who is the bride of Christ? – the church!

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them,

Eph 5:23-32 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. ... (29) for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, (30) because we are members of His body. (31) FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. (32) This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

"For Christ, our dear Redeemer,
For Christ, the crucified;
For the church His blood hath purchased,
The church, His holy bride." Eliza Edmunds Hewitt (1851-1920)

Rev 19:7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." (8)
And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (9) And he *said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he *said to me, "These are true words of God."

How do we biblically answer the denominationalists who say that Acts 10:47, where the Holy Spirit was poured out on those who were not yet baptized, is strong proof that baptism is not essential for salvation?

1Pe 3:20 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, (21) and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

The water saved Noah from the sin in the world. The ark saved Noah from drowning.

The water of baptism saves us from sin.

Watch your versions when you get
into a discussion.

Peter wanted them to be baptized in water –
Act 10:47 *"Surely no one can stand in the way of
their being baptized with water. They have received
*the Holy Spirit just as we have."**

At 1 Pet 3.21, Peter writes that “baptism saves you”

Ananias told Saul he need to be baptized to wash his sins away.

Act 22:16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

If baptism “saves you” and Peter wanted to baptize with water, then you can’t be saved without baptism.

1Pe 3:20 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, (NIV)

1Pe 3:20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. (KJV)

1Pe 3:20-21 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. (NAS)



