

“Is it but a small thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel to bring you near to Himself, to do the service of the tabernacle of Jehovah, and to stand before the congregation to minister to them?” ⇨

Numbers 16:9. God has called us to minister to Him and His people ⇨ Matthew 25:44. “And I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her Husband” ⇨ Revelation 21:2. We have a choice here:

“...we have much to say, and hard to be explained since you are dull of hearing. For indeed because of the time, you ought to be teachers, you have need that one teach you again what are the first principles of the oracles of God. And you have become in need of milk, and not of solid food. For **everyone partaking of milk is unskillful** in the Word of Righteousness, for he is an **infant**. But solid food belongs to those who are of **full age**, even those who because of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” ⇨ Hebrews 5:11-14. God has importance and relevance in choosing **milk** for this lesson:

The root of the word *partaking* is *accompaniment* and the context is breastfeeding. The Bible says the *partaker* is **unskillful**, a **taker**, versus those of **full age** who **own** solid food by working for it. Scripture repeatedly describes the bride’s breast for satisfying her husband ⇨ Proverbs 5:19 followed by feeding her children ⇨ 1 Peter 2:2. So the Bride of Christ has spiritual breasts, so to speak: an intimate ability to minister to the Lord what He desires ⇨ Acts 13:2 followed by Biblically defined ministry to others ⇨ Titus 2:1-10. **Giving** both physical and spiritual milk are Scripturally defined but **humanly acted upon**.

It is God’s heart of love for us that He asks, ‘why is being the Bride of Christ taken so lightly?’ He *died* to have eternal intimacy with us; *is it so much for Him to ask us* for seriousness?! Those who feel this question is harsh minimize God. Yes, He remembers we are but dust ⇨ Psalm 103:14 yet He also says, “I am in Heaven, you are on earth: therefore let your words be few” ⇨ Ecclesiastes 5:2; Proverbs 17:27. *Besides* worthiness:

See if this helps bring the matter home: What if **our** spouse accurately asked us, “**Why do you take being my spouse so lightly?**” Candidates for neglect in either relationship:

- ♥ **Breast-fed / spoon-fed too long**: the goodness of God or a spouse can be perverted into complacency. Perhaps unknowingly (or for fame / product sales), Christians can encourage this evil attitude by *not* challenging those they minister to **to mature**.
- ♥ **Dullness** (*literally* laziness) ⇨ Hebrews 5:11, 6:11-12: do not be offended by this; just **improve** as Jesus’ disciples did when He asked *them*, ‘Are you so dull? Do you still not understand (*literally* exercise your mind)?’ ⇨ Matthew 15:16; Mark 7:18.
- ♥ **Denial** (denying God makes Him deny us ⇨ Titus 1:16, 2 Timothy 2:12; Matthew 10:33): God is on record having reached out to us ⇨ Luke 13:34. Prolonged denial eventually prevents us from understanding and God from healing us ⇨ Isaiah 6:10.

The **Bride of Christ** (and spouses!) **leave preadolescence** and develop and use spiritual breasts to minister to God and to people... **NOT** a **small thing!** ⇨ 1 Corinthians 13:11. James 2:18-19 ⇨ some believers go to hell; but Heaven is for those who also **minister**. ♥