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The Bride of the Lamb

The Bridegroom is without blemish or spot.

The bride, too, is without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, holy and without blemish.

The bride has this splendor because her robes have been washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. She has been cleansed by the washing of water by the Word.

This is a great mystery, says Paul, and he takes it to mean Christ and the church.

The Bridegroom is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

The bride is the church. He loved her and gave Himself for her.

The bride still awaits the Bridegroom, for the Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

But by faith the church is even now joined to Christ in a union closer and more intimate than the one flesh of husband and wife.

While the church is in the world and in faith awaits her consummation, she has existed under all sorts of conditions and various outward forms. Professor Mullett reminds us in an article in this issue that by a "Settlement" 400 years ago the doctrine, worship, and life of millions of Christians in England and the world over was ordered and regulated.

A brief study compiles the great numbers of those all over the world who profess membership in the church and allegiance to the Lutheran Confessions.

The church is made up of people who are one with Christ as bride and Bridegroom are one. This union with the Head also supplies the power and the example for the attitude of the members toward their fellow man. Another article in this issue isolates a specific — the most intimate — human relationship, that of hus-

band and wife. In a review of the recent publication *Engagement and Marriage*, Professor Schuller points to some of the aspects of the hallowed bond which is to exist between a Christian man and woman in holy wedlock.

But in or out of the marital state Christian people know that their bodies are members of Christ. They strive therefore to yield also the members of their bodies — all of them — not to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity but to righteousness for sanctification. Professor Coiner proceeds from this basic point of view in his article "The Church's Concern About Sex Attitudes."