

THE WEDDING OF PRINCE CHARLES AND LADY DIANA

D.B. KNOX

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"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"

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The wedding of the Prince of Wales to Lady Diana Spencer was a wonderful event. I expect you may have seen it on television. It has been said that over 500 million people saw it on television. It was a very colourful scene, the horses and the coaches and the liveried footmen made it seem like a page from fairyland, and inside the marvellous cathedral this effect was enhanced by the long train of the bride, the glittering robes of the bishop and the marvels of the architecture of the cathedral. But the huge crowds in the street and the leaders of the nations who took their seats in the church made plain that it was a real event, the marriage of two young people who were giving themselves to each other in life long commitment. It was this that made it such a happy event because true love is very happy.

The Archbishop spoke well about love. The essence of love is self giving, it should not have a trace of selfishness in it and when each gives truly and fully to the other, each has more than if they were acting selfishly and they have it much more pleasantly. That is the way God has made our life to be because that is what he is like. He is a giving God. There is no touch of self-centredness in his relationships with us and we should have none in our relations with others. We should be other person centred in all our relationships, especially in the home. But we cannot achieve this by ourselves, for we are all marred by selfishness ever since the human race turned away from God at the beginning. But God is the source of love; as the apostle John said "Love is of God" and he will give us his spirit so that we might be true lovers not only of him but of one another. We need to repent of our self-centredness towards others and especially of our forgetfulness and disobedience towards him. He will forgive for Jesus sake all who turn back to him and he will give us his help

to have the same character of love as he has, all our life long.

Unfortunately the Archbishop didn't mention in his address that it is God who is the source of love, and that Jesus is the expression of God's love and that it is through Jesus and through Jesus only that we receive the strength to be true lovers all our lives. God is the source of life and God is the source of love, indeed, he is the source of all the good things we enjoy and he should always be in our thoughts. We should be giving him thanks and asking for his strength each day. The Archbishop didn't mention Jesus and I am afraid that this is all too characteristic of each of us. How seldom do we think of God and give him thanks. Jesus should be in the centre of our thoughts, he is our saviour and our Lord. We will give an account of our lives to him in due course and from him we will receive either the words "Well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord" or else we will hear him say "I never knew you, depart from me into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth". This is no fairytale but is very real; we will all come to the judgement day. Now is the time to get right with God. He is a loving God and will forgive us if we turn back to him for Jesus died to take away our judgement.

**THE CHRISTIAN FAITH**  
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