

SERIES: Living In Love
SUBJECT: Evidence Of The Filling Of The Spirit
READING: Eph 5:21-33

Introduction:

Last week we were examining the evidence if the Spirit's filling in our worship Life;

Eph 5:17-20 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. (18) And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; (19) Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (20) Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

This week we continue by checking out the evidence if the Spirit's filling in...

II. Our wedded life.

- a. This verse is a transition to Paul's extensive discussion of relationships that continues through Chapter 6:9. The general principle of mutual submission, Eph 5:21 *Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.*

- i. **It is the filling of the Spirit that establishes a right relationship within the individual family!**

It includes wives, husbands, children, and parents as well as slaves to masters and vice versa.

Among the worst tragedies of our day is the progressive death of the family as it has been traditionally known.

- ii. Marital infidelity, exaltation of sexual sin, homosexuality, abortion, women's liberation, delinquency, and the sexual revolution in general have all contributed to the family's demise.
- iii. Each one is a strand in the hangman's noose that is rapidly strangling marriage and the family.
 - 1. Gays and lesbians demanded the right to be married to each other and that right is now the law of the land!
 - 2. Even before the Supreme Court's The decision was 5-4 decision legalizing homosexual marriage there was a growing number of church groups who recognized it as a right.
 - 3. Lesbian couples, and even some gay couples, are bringing together the children they have had by various lovers of the opposite sex and calling the resulting group a family.
 - 4. The new mentality about marriage is reflected in the belief of some that man "come of age" is presumed not to need the restrictions and boundaries that once seemed essential for productive, satisfying life.
 - 5. Without a proper basis of authority for relationships, people grope for meaningful, harmonious, fulfilling

relationships by whatever means and arrangements they can find or devise.

6. Experimentation is their only resource, and disintegration of the family—and ultimately of society in general—**is being disclosed as the inevitable consequence.**

b. It is time for Christians to declare and live what the Bible has always declared and what the church has always taught until recent years: *"God's standard for marriage and the family produces meaning, happiness, blessedness, reward, and fulfillment—and it is the only standard that can produce those results."*

- i. Yet confusion about God's standard for marriage and the family **has found its way even into the church.**

Where Major Religions Stand on Same-Sex Marriage



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- c. The pastor of a large evangelical church reported that, although most of them claimed to be Christians, at least seventy percent of the couples who came to him to be married were already living together.
 - i. Many of them claimed that it was God's will for them to be married; but by living in such flagrant disobedience of His moral standards they had no basis for knowing His will about their marriage.
 - ii. Other couples who claim to be Christian come to be married for the second, third, or fourth time—and often maintain that the Lord has guided them each time.

- d. God will forgive, cleanse, and restore the repentant believer, **but He does not change His standards of righteousness and purity and does not promise to remove the often tragic consequences of disobedience.**

- e. **This section begins: Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God** (5:21) and then gives special commands to wives and husbands.
 - i. The word "submission" is not a synonym for **"doormat" or "slave."** It refers to equal people submitting voluntarily to one another out of obedience to God's Word.

 - ii. Verse 21 introduces the next verse: **Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord** (5:22).
 - 1. Wives, you are to be submissive to your husband, not someone else's husband.

 - 2. This doesn't imply women are inferior to men or women should be subject to men. **Gal 3:28** makes that truth abundantly clear!

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

- iii. Wives are to submit to their own husbands, as unto the Lord, **which means they willingly submit to someone who loves them.**

1. However, this submission is not absolute. *If a husband wants his wife to do something that goes against Scripture or her conscience, she must refuse.*
2. This principle is found when Peter and the apostles were commanded to stop preaching about Jesus. Their response is in Acts 5:29;

Act 5:29 Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

- i. Paul continues: **For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body (5:23).**
 - a. The word translated head means leader and declares the husband is to be the spiritual leader of the family as Christ is the head of the church.
 - b. It is leadership like that of Christ's.

Mar 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and **to give his life a ransom for many.**

- ii. The example of this submission is given in verse 24:

Eph 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

- iii. This means the wife is to be supportive of her husband's spiritual leadership.

- iv. The phrase in everything means everything consistent with the character of Christ.
 - v. A wife is never to follow her husband into sin.
 - vi. Any wife would be glad to submit to a Spirit-filled husband whose leadership style is like that of Christ's.
- f. A wife's submission is in response to her husband's obedience to this command: **Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it (5:25).**
- a. This means a husband is to love his wife so much he would die for her and proves it by the way he lives for her.
 - b. Few women would have any difficulty submitting to a husband who loves her as Christ also loved the church. The first two characteristics of love can be found in...**

1Co 13:4 **Charity suffereth long, and is kind; ...**

- c. Nothing reveals the spirituality and character of a man like how he treats his wife.
 - i. If a husband is rude, unkind, demeaning, and acts superior to his wife, he is not filled with the Holy Spirit
 - ii. He is full of himself and the devil is delighted!

- g. Paul explains the purpose of Christ giving Himself up for the church in Eph 5:26-27 **That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, (27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**
- i. Paul is referring to the cleansing power of God's word.
 - ii. As a husband obeys the Word of God, it will have a cleansing effect on his wife and family.
 - iii. The real question for husbands is: *"Is my wife more holy and without blemish because of me?"*
 - iv. I sincerely hope my wife, Joyce, is half as much a better person because she is married to me as I am because I am married to her.
- h. Paul continues: *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones* (5:28-30).
- i. **This is the ultimate golden rule!** The wife is not a piece of property! She is not to be treated like a slave, as was the practice in Paul's day.
 - ii. In New Testament times women were considered to be little more than servants.

- iii. It is said that many Jewish men prayed each morning: *"God, I thank you that I am not a Gentile, a slave, or a woman."*
- iv. Biblically speaking the wife is to be considered a part of her husband!
- v. Paul now quotes Genesis 2:24, which Jesus repeats (Mt 19:5). **And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?**
- vi. When we marry, **we leave and cleave.** *This means our spouse takes precedence over every other human relationship.*
- vii. The word translated joined means to join permanently or glue together.

Conclusion;

Paul closes this section concerning husband and wives with the statement of a great mystery; Eph 5:32 **This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.** This statement is so full of mystery concerning the similarity between Christ and The church.

Even greater is Eph 5:33 **Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence *her* husband.**

A husband's greatest motive for loving, purifying, protecting, and caring for his wife is Christ's love, purifying, protecting, and caring for His own bride, the church.

Christian marriage is to be loving, holy, pure, self-sacrificing, and mutually submissive because those virtues characterize the relationship of Christ and the church.