

Holy Living

The Christian's Personal Life **Ephesians 5**

I. Introduction

- A. It is quite a picture to see a parent trying to teach their little baby how to walk. Both parents usually gang up on the poor little guy to coax him in taking those early steps. One is holding the child with both hands up in the air, while the other is inches away with their hands outstretched to catch the child in the event that he should release and fall forward. Early on, the child may simply drop to his knees and crawl to the outstretched hands, but in time, he learns to take that step. Because of their own maturity, Mom and Dad know what it takes to accomplish that successful walk. They also feel the frustration of a letdown when the child won't trust them and instead reverts to crying and refusal to take that grand first step.
- B. This is something of how Paul feels about these new Christians at Ephesus. If believers were ever going to walk right, they had to quit falling into sinful behaviour.
- C. In chapter four Paul told them how Christians SHOULDNT walk, i.e. as the Gentiles walked, "in the vanity of their mind" (vs 17), This included lusts, greediness of the flesh, filthy conversation, lying, anger, theft, laziness; profanity, bitterness, wrath, clamour and any other kind of evil speaking (vs 17-31).
- D. Paul concluded chapter 4 on a positive note. He tells them how they should walk by emphasizing the value of kindness, tender-heartedness and forgiveness. This launches the reader into instruction on the way a Christian SHOULD walk in chapters five and six.
- E. The Christian who can learn and put to practice the information found in these chapters, will be a Christian who will enjoy the sweet fellowship with his Saviour that such a walk will bring.

II. Main Lesson

A. Walk as Followers (Eph 5:1)

1. No longer going our own way, but following Jesus (Isa 53:6; John 10:27)
2. Learning how to live, react, think, rest, fight, and love as Jesus taught us
3. Holy living comes from our closeness to Jesus, and our willingness to line-up our ways with His ways; our thoughts with His thoughts; our loves with His loves!
4. Our goal is not to be great leaders, but great followers!
5. It is from great followers, that God raises up great leaders (1Cor 11:1)
6. Just by being close to the Lord Jesus, we will be cleansed (Isa 6)!

B. Walk "in Love" (Eph 5:2)

1. In the love of Christ, and in love WITH Christ
 - a. He first loved us didn't He?
 - b. How many of you are passionately in love with Him back, or just conveniently in love with Him – only because it is easy?
2. Since "God is love" (I John 4:8), it is expected that God's children will walk in love. Before salvation, our old nature was selfish and declared war on God, but after salvation, the new nature is loving and declares surrender!
3. He has purchased us with a great price, "hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour" (vs 2). Our love for Him is in response to His love for us. The "sweet-savour" sacrifices are described in Leviticus 1-3. There were three:
 - a. The burnt offering, the meal offering, and the peace offering – all blessed the Lord! Like the smelling of freshly baked apple pies, or BBQ steaks on a grill, or fresh baked cookies!
 - b. The burnt offering pictures Christ's complete devotion to God. The meal offering, His perfect character. The peace offering, His making peace between sinners and God.
4. One other thought – when we love God, we sacrifice our lives to Him – meaning that we pay whatever it takes to prove that love, and THAT blesses Him!

C. Walk in Light (Eph 5:3-14)

1. Replace Darkness with Thanks-Giving (5:3,4; Rom 1:21)
 - a. Fornication – there is that porno word again! Relates to any sin not between a husband and wife!

- 1) If you are married, THANK God for your mate, and bless your mate – don't cause your mate to struggle – be thankful – they are God's gift to you
 - 2) If you are unmarried, BE THANKFUL
 - 3) The main reason for so much fornication is because people are NOT thankful for how they are, and who they are – thinking they are unlovely, or unlucky, etc
 - 4) Quite reading the wicked women's magazines!
- b. Uncleaness – same as what the lepers said. It is when people are filled with unclean spirits
- 1) Demons cannot co-exists in a thankful heart! AMEN!
 - 2) Get more of the word in you if you want to be clean (John 15:3)
- c. Covetousness – causes murmuring and complaining – God HATES covetousness (Heb 13:5)
- d. Filthiness (2Cor 7:1) – talking about soiling, defilement – you can be cleansed from ALL stains!
- e. Foolish Talking - does not mean innocent humour, but rather senseless conversation that cheapens a person (Eph 4:29).
- f. Jesting - The "*jesting, which*" is "*not convenient*" is the low or coarse jesting of a person who turns everything that is said into something smutty. It doesn't speak of the person who is blessed with a gift of wit.
- g. A person cannot at the same time, commit these sins and follow Christ. The reason is clear, the people who easily sin such sins do not have "*any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*" The alternative to all of this is to give thanks (Note Eph 5:20; Phil 4:6). If believers are to inherit the great wealth of God (vs 5), then why should they settle for the beggarly morsels of this world? Note Col 3:24.
2. Reject Deception (5:5,6)
- a. These are serious sins being listed (not murdering, but internal thought sins)!!!
- 1) Whoremongering - translated from the Greek word, *pornos* from which we derive our word, "pornography"
 - 2) Unclean persons – people who spiritually are like lepers spiritually, filled with sins
 - 3) Covetousness which is idolatry
- b. Man's philosophy about sin and the human condition is vain/empty words (Col 2:8) – reject it all!
- c. Have NOTHING to do with people who promote sinful lifestyles, and explain it away (5:7)
3. You are Different, so, Live Like You Are Different (5:8-10)
- a. There is NO escaping it (Mt 26:73) – Jesus has an effect on every person who follows Him! People will expose you, so go ahead and stand out!
- b. There is NO faking it – good fruit just happens! You don't have to force it! Any more than married couples have to force children – they usually just happen!
- c. We live our lives now to PROVE that only the Christian life is acceptable to God (Rom 12:2). No other way of living is right:
- 1) No religious devotion
 - 2) No aesthetic meditations
 - 3) No monastic poverty
 - 4) No sacrificial dying
 - 5) No ignorant hedonism
 - 6) No passive do good to others paganism
4. Reprove Darkness (5:11-14)
- a. There is NO WAY to get along with darkness (2Cor 6:14)
- b. There is no way to even sit down and discuss such filth openly
- c. Our job is to expose sin for what it is, and to show ALL of its angles and lies, by our life, our conversation, and all our influence. This is the business of Christians. Our lives should be a standing rebuke of a sinful world, and we should be ever ready to express our rejection of its wickedness in every form.
- d. We Christians need to awake out of sleep, rise up out of this dead world, and shine the light on this world that Jesus Christ will give us!

D. Walk Circumspectly (Eph 5:15-17)

1. Be Forward in Motion – walking always forward
 - a. Growing
 - b. Sometimes Standing
 - c. But never retreating, or backsliding
2. Be Focused on the Prize (Philp 3:13,14) – heavenly awards, heavenly praise
 - a. Main focus is on God’s will for you (maybe stay single, maybe stay married, maybe stay here, maybe go to some far away mission field, maybe teach Sunday School, maybe sing in the choir)
 - b. You do any and all of that for the future benefit, not the present benefit!
 - c. But at the same time, have all eyes open for what’s going on around you – not ignorant of sin and its power
3. Be Aware of Your Enemies – circumspect means, be very careful, very aware of your surroundings, know your limits and your enemies
 - a. Not paranoid, but perceptive (Matt 10:16; 1Cor 14:20)
 - b. Who are our enemies? God is not your enemy, and neither is your wife, or your pastor
 - 1) Our own flesh (James 4:1-3) – we ourselves are our first enemy that has to be brought under subjection (2Cor 10:4,5)
 - a) Our self-reliance, and self-sufficiency
 - b) Prayerlessness
 - c) Our imaginations, surmisings, suspicions, evil opinions that just naturally arise out of our hearts
 - d) Our old habits that won’t easily change
 - 2) Our own brethren (Philp 1:12,13; 1Cor 3:3; 6:6-8; 2Cor 12:20; Job 16:2)
 - 3) Spiritual powers (Eph 6:12) – wrestling demonic attacks - you need to be able to tell that the things you are thinking, or are feeling truly are from GOD, or from the devil (John 8:44)
 - 4) The devil himself (1Peter 5:8)
 - c. To be aware of your enemy is NOT to just know he is there, but to:
 - 1) Know how he attacks, when he attacks, what weapons he uses (2Cor 2:11)
 - a) He is cunning – he uses anything and everything to defeat us
 - b) He attacks our lusts – when we want – change your lusts
 - c) He targets our confusions
 - d) He brings up our past, failures, hurts, scars
 - e) He stirs up our fears
 - f) He uses visuals, images to damage our memories
 - g) He uses lies – very good lies like he did in the garden of Eden
 - h) He keeps us bitter and unforgiving
 - 2) Know how to fight back
 - a) Resist steadfast in the faith (1Peter 5:9) By no means give way to him, by indulging ANY sin, or yielding to ANY temptation, but oppose him, and stand against his wiles, his cunning and his power! You can stand against it (Eph 6:13; Heb 12:3,4)
 - b) By loving, giving, helping others, when the devil wants you to only think of yourself (2Tim 1:7)
 - c) Use ALL your weapons against attacks (Eph 6:11-18), including PRAYER!
 - d) Hold onto eternal life (1Tim 6:12), instead of just this life – love not your life unto the death, looking for a better country!
 - e) Stay on course (2Tim 4:7)
 - f) Keep the faith – keep believing (see Luke 22:31,32)
 - 3) Know when to fight, and know when to run! There are some battles NOT to be fought! They have already been lost!
 - a) Flee fornication – you can’t fight it (1Cor 6:18)
 - b) Flee from idolatry (1Cor 10:14)

- c) Flee youthful lusts (1Tim 2:22) - vain glory, popular applause, seeking to have the pre-eminence, contentions with, and contempt of others, and the like
 - d) Flee discontentment (1Tim 6:8-11)
- 4) Most of the time young David knew when it was time to fight (Goliath, bear, lion), and when to run (from king Saul).
- 5) But when he got older, he forgot to run once (Bathsheba) and thought he could handle it! WRONG!
4. Be Wise (5:17) – Part of walking Circumspectly
- a. There is that Old Testament theme being presented there (being “wise” or “foolish”).
 - b. The Bible is not talking about being “rocket scientists” but just wise, thinkers, cautious, sober-minded, with good cop-on, and having a good head on our shoulders – not stupid, and ignoramuses
 - c. Here is a simple outline on How to be wise
 - 1) Study Wisdom itself – the Bible – be a serious and thorough student of the word (2Tim 2:15; 4:1-4)
 - a) Loads of people turn to the process of education itself, instead of to the AUTHOR of wisdom (2Tim 3:7)
 - b) The wisest people are those who personally know the Saviour, always studying HIM
 - c) Takes time
 - d) Takes effort – willing to check out what you think you know and have learned
 - e) Takes humility – mostly we are wrong on first impression
 - 2) Learn to Fear God (Prov 9:10)
 - a) People learn either to fear everything – anxious, panic attacks
 - b) Or they fear nothing – numb, stupid, duh!
 - c) You had better learn to fear God
 - (i) Fear crossing Him - breaking His commandments
 - (ii) Fear hurting the apple of His eye – His people – not loving the brethren
 - (iii) Fear the chastening hand of the Lord (Heb 12:6-9)
 - (iv) Fear the Judgment Seat of Christ (2Cor 5:10,11)
 - 3) Walk WITH the wise (Prov 13:20)
 - a) No one is born wise – you have to want to be wise, and work at being wise. You have to seek out wisdom, instead of just pleasure and entertainment
 - b) Question: Who are the spiritual people in your life, especially the spiritual MEN in your life that you look up to and look to for direction and guidance?
 - c) Always get plenty of counsel about decisions – read yes, but talk to spiritual leaders
 - d) A fool just ignorantly, almost blindly goes forward not knowing the danger they may be heading into
 - e) MAKE yourself have wise friends, God-fearing friends
 - f) Spend as much time as possible with your pastor and with Godly men
 - 4) Redeem the time – HOW DO WE DO THAT? It means...
 - a) Make best use of the time that you have right now – no procrastination (Eccl 9:10)
 - b) To recover our time from waste – how much of our time is wasted time?
 - c) Buy up those moments which others seem to throw away; steadily improving every present moment, that you may, in some measure, regain the time you have lost.
 - d) Let time be your chief commodity; deal in that alone; buy it all up, and use every portion of it for good and righteousness, and for the glory of God!
 - e) The days are against us - The present times are dangerous, they are full of trouble and temptations, and only the watchful and diligent have any hope of keeping their garments unspotted.
 - 5) Know and understand the will of God
 - a) The will of God is throughout this whole portion of Scripture
 - b) But to summarize, it is as follows (seven clearly defined wills for all mankind):
 - (i) Be SAVED (1 Tim 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9)! Everyone must begin here!

- (ii) Be SATURATED/filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:17,18). A surrendering of your life to the work and authority of God over your will and plans.
 - (iii) Be SATISFIED/thankful in all things (Eph 5:19,20; 1 Thes 5:18)
 - (iv) Be SUBMISSIVE servants in everything you do (Eph 6:5-8), remembering "ye serve the Lord Christ" (Col 3:23,24). This includes submitting to all the laws of the land (1 Pet 2:13-15).
 - (v) Be SANCTIFIED (1 Thes 4:3-7). Sanctification means that we separate our-selves from sins and evils so that we can be holy and clean objects in God's hands (2 Tim 2:21). This involves every Christian coming away from all the activities and influences that hinder us from serving the Lord with our whole heart (2 Cor 6:17,18).
 - (vi) Be ready to sometimes SUFFER (1Pet 3:14-17; 4:19).
 - (vii) Be a SOUL-WINNER (Mt 28:19,20; Acts 1:8)
- c) Everything beyond the above is gravy!
- (i) What woman to marry
 - (ii) What career to get into
 - (iii) Whether God is calling you into full-time ministry
 - (iv) What country to live in
 - (v) What kind of computer to buy
 - (vi) They are all easy to handle when you are focused on doing those seven things

E. **Walk in the Spirit** (Eph 5:18-21)

Eph 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;
 Eph 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
 Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;
 Eph 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

1. The Prohibition of Drink and Drunkenness!
 - a. Prov 20:1
 - b. Prov 23:20
 - c. Prov 23:29-35
 - d. Isa 5:22 – ability to drink wine and strong drink is NOTHING to be proud of
 - e. 1Cor 6:9-11
 - f. Other things that people get “drunk” on
 - 1) Fornication, Pornography (Rev 17:2)
 - 2) Pleasure (Luk 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. Luke 8:14)
 - 3) Always SELF, and self-service (Rom 1:29,30)
 - g. Notice that THIS rebuke sets the stage for the command to follow
2. Confusion about being Filled with the Spirit
 - a. The first filling.
 - 1) Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
 - 2) It was a baptism. Act 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.
 - 3) The idea that is being taught is that we all need to be “baptized” the same way in the Holy Spirit
 - b. Every believer is given the gift of the Holy Spirit
 - 1) In John 14:16, Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would indwell believers and that the indwelling would be **permanent**. It is important to distinguish the indwelling and the filling of the Spirit.
 - 2) The permanent indwelling of the Spirit is not for a select few believers, but rather for all believers. He is a gift given to all believers in Jesus without exception, and no conditions are placed upon this gift except faith in Christ (John 7:37-39). Ephesians 1:13 and Galatians 3:2 shows us that the Holy Spirit is given at the moment of salvation. The Holy Spirit is given to believers as a down payment, or verification of their future glorification in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 4:30).
 - c. So, when does a Christian get Baptized with the Holy Spirit, and when does he get Filled?
 - 1) You are Baptized at salvation (1Cor 12:12-14). We have the presence of the Holy Spirit from salvation, but we do not automatically have the fullness of the Spirit – it is simple!
 - 2) You need to be Filled daily, moment by moment. We should be so completely yielded (bowing the knee, so-to-speak) to the Holy Spirit that He can possess us fully, and in that sense, fill us with Himself, instead of the world, or even the devil.
 - 3) There is a spiritual awareness of the NEED for the power of God’s Holy Spirit in your life that many people call their “baptism” – but it is just an revival of need
3. The **COMMAND** to Be Filled with God’s Spirit
 - a. Absolute necessity for the Christian
 - b. There is no growing without being filled with the Holy Spirit
 - 1) Romans 8:9 and Ephesians 1:13-14 state that He dwells within every believer, but He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30), and His activity within us can be quenched (1 Thessalonians 5:19). When we allow this to happen, we do not experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit’s working and power in and through us.
 - 2) To be filled with the Spirit implies freedom for Him to occupy every part of our lives, guiding and controlling us. His power then can be exerted through us so that what we do is fruitful to God. The

filling of the Spirit does not apply to outward acts alone; it also applies to the innermost thoughts and motives of our actions. Psalm 19:14 says, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable to you, O Lord my strength, and my redeemer."

- c. Sin is what separates us from the filling of the Holy Spirit, and obedience to God is how the filling of the Spirit is maintained.
 - d. Although our focus should be to "be filled" as Ephesians 5:18 commands, praying for the filling of the Holy Spirit is not what accomplishes the filling of the Spirit. **Only our obedience to God's commands allows the Spirit freedom to work within us.** Because we are sinful creatures, it is impossible to be filled with the Spirit all of the time. We should immediately deal with sin in our lives, and renew our commitment to being Spirit-filled and Spirit-led.
4. Signs that you have the fullness of the Spirit
- a. You are like Christ in the things you do – no longer living in the flesh - see Romans 8:5-16
 - b. You are now completely yielded to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and influenced ONLY through the Holy Spirit's work in your heart
 - c. You have a Boldness to witness and preach (Acts 4:8, 31)
 - d. You have a Hatred of sin in YOUR life as did John the Baptist (Luke 1:15)
 - e. There is an Instant and automatic Praise and thankfulness (Eph 5:20)
 - f. You easily forgive (Eph 5:30-32)
5. Understanding this concept of being FILLED with something – compare it to what we already, easily experience:
- a. To be consumed with, controlled by...
 - 1) Drink (Eph 5:18), or anything that you do that replaces dependency on the Holy Spirit
 - 2) Anger and wrath – consumed with it (Luke 4:28)
 - 3) Our own ways (Prov 14:14) – no heart or mind for God
 - 4) Envy (Acts 13:45) – no joy or contentment
 - 5) Love (Prov 7:18)
 - b. To be Overwhelmed – not just topped up, but over-flowing
 - 1) The broken alabaster box (John 12:3) – other things are present, but the only thing you can think about is the beauty of that aroma!
 - 2) Filled with the evident presence of God (2Chron 5:13)
 - 3) Filled like a well would give you, instead of just a drink (John 4:14)
 - c. Our old life, our flesh is TOTALLY filled with evil (Rom 1:29-32) – depravity, ruined (Rom 8:8)
 - d. The goal of the Christian should be to become:
 - 1) Full of ALL the fullness of God (Eph 3:19) – what a GOAL!
 - 2) Full of spiritual fruits (Philp 1:11)
 - 3) Full of knowing God's will – no doubts at all (Col 1:9)
 - 4) Full of the Holy Spirit of God (Eph 5:18)
6. It is possible to be "FILLED" with God's Spirit
- a. Peter was - Act 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,
 - b. The entire Church in Jerusalem was - Act 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.
 - c. Saul was supposed to be full from the moment of salvation - Act 9:17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.
 - d. Gentile believers were - Act 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.
 - e. Servants, and the leadership in a Church were supposed to be - Act 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.
7. How to Get Filled, and Stay Filled with God's Spirit

- a. **PURSUE - SEEK** - to be filled – like seeking “drink” – Got to have it
- 1) Reject your normal abilities – your flesh (Gal 5:22-24) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.
 - 2) Hunger for God HIMSELF (Acts 13:22)
 - a) Song 1:4 Draw me (INVITE ME), we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine: the upright love thee.
 - b) Act 2:13-18 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine. But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: **And on my servants and on my handmaidens** I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:
 - c) Psalm 63:1
 - 3) Hunger for God's Gifts
 - a) Isa 55:1 Ho, every one that **thirsteth, come** ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, **come**, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
 - b) Isa 55:2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? **hearken diligently unto me**, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.
 - c) Luk 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them **that ask him?** THE WHOLE PACKAGE COMES WITH THE PERSON OF THE HOLY GHOST – ALL THE GIFTS
 - 4) Hunger for God's presence in your life like He promises (2Cor 6:16; 13:5)
 - 5) Hunger for God's power – not your own power (2Cor 12:9)
 - 6) Hunger for God's fullness – not just a taste, but to be filled (Eph 3:19)
- b. **PURGE** (2Tim 2:21; 1Cor 5:7; 2Cor 7:1; 1John 3:3)
- 1) Purging is, a removal of anything that takes the “place” of the Holy Spirit in your life
 - 2) This is the hardest part of the process because we have gotten used to ourselves – to the way we are
 - 3) Principles and Truths
 - a) The Holy Spirit *is a spirit* – not material – so, it is like air
 - b) It is natural for believers to be filled with God's Spirit – He WANTS to fill you. It is a process that GOD initiates, and seeks to complete on a moment by moment basis
 - c) You and I are vessels – my “spirit” is where God's Spirit seeks to reside
 - d) God's Spirit only fills you through His word being heard and obeyed – it's that simple
 - e) But it cannot co-exists with wilful disobedience
 - (i) Unwilling to forgive someone
 - (ii) Unwilling to love your enemy
 - (iii) Unwilling to obey God's will for you today
 - (iv) Unwilling to give up whatever hinders God in your life (Ps 78:41)
 - f) My spirit is filled with something at all times – God wants me to be filled with Himself
 - g) To allow the Holy Spirit to fill me, I have to be willing to do whatever it takes to free-up room for God's Spirit in my life
 - h) THEN I will be experiencing the work of the Holy Spirit because I am yielded to the work of the Holy Spirit again in my life
 - 4) How to Purge your spirit
 - a) Find out what is blocking God's Spirit – listen to your pastor, your wife, even your enemies – they will reveal your flesh
 - b) Recognize it as a spirit – an unclean spirit

- (i) Lying spirits (1Kings 22:19-22)
 - (ii) Angry spirits (Eph 4:26,27; Eccl 7:9)
 - (iii) Unclean spirits – filthy thoughts, ungodly imaginations (Mt 10:1)
 - (iv) Familiar spirits – spirits that talk with you and guide you (Lev 19:31)
 - (v) Seducing spirits – drawing people away from the word, from church, from authority, towards “independence!” (1Tim 4:1) – they speak doctrines of devils!
 - (vi) Powerful spirits that can work miracles (Rev 16:13,14)
 - (vii) Understand that it could be more than one (Luke 8:2)
- c) Wrestle with that spirit (1John 4:1; Eph 6:12) in prayer and by the sword of the Spirit (Mt 8:16). It is like taking a scouring brush and scrubbing out the filth in a cup so that it can be filled with something hot and good to drink!
- d) Cast it down – dethrone it from the place you used to give it (2Cor 10:5). Reckon it to be dead
- e) Throw everything out that doesn't belong (2Kings 23:4; 2Chron 34:3,4). Burn it (Acts 19:19)!
- f) Replace with:
- (i) Prayer
 - (ii) Praise
 - (iii) God's people – Church and Fellowship
 - (iv) Pursuing God's will
 - (v) And Pondering God's word through out each day
 - (vi) All with the view to enthrone Jesus Christ
 - (vii) If you DON'T fully and completely replace those spirits with Jesus Christ, you will be worse off than before (Mt 12:43-45)

c. Review

- 1) We are **COMMANDED** to Be Filled with God's Spirit
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 - b) There is no growing without being filled with the Holy Spirit
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 - f) You easily forgive (Eph 5:30-32)
- 5) How to Get Filled, and Stay Filled with God's Spirit
 - a) **PURSUE - SEEK** - to be filled – like seeking "drink" – Got to have it
 - b) **PURGE** (2Tim 2:21; 1Cor 5:7; 2Cor 7:1; 1John 3:3). Purging is, a removal of anything that takes the "place" of the Holy Spirit in your life
- 6) Now we look at the next logical step in enabling the Holy Spirit of God to fill you and use you every day... **PRACTICING** what we are supposed to be doing – it doesn't come "automatically" it takes repetitive retraining of our minds, heart, lips, actions.

d. Lesson – **PRACTICE – A FOURFOLD ROUTINE for the Christian**

- 1) **SPEAKING** – right speech (Job 6:25; Prov 12:18) – force yourself to say things that Jesus would say to the people in your life, not what YOU want to say (Eph 5:19; Luke 4:22)
 - a) Check what you say – control what you say – show GREAT care about what comes out of your mouth (Col 4:6) – you will be judged for what you SAY as much as what you do!
 - (i) Christians now have a very different vocabulary (Eph 4:29; 5:4; Col 3:8)
 - (ii) We do NOT speak as we used to – just like we do not LIVE like we used to
 - (iii) Since our heart has been changed, our reasons for speaking have been changed (Luke 6:45)
 - (iv) Our hope is assured, so frustrations should be minimum
 - b) Honour people with your words – edify people with what you say
 - c) Listen twice as much as you talk
 - d) Say blessings, beneficial words, and especially speak God's word (Josh 1:8) – not your anger or feelings very often
 - e) So, practice speaking ONLY right words, clean words, encouraging words (James 3:10)
- 2) **SINGING** (Eph 5:19)
 - a) Notice how the world has hi-jacked the Christians heart and mind: placing music and songs and words in there that make it nearly impossible to please God with
 - (i) We already learned about PURGING...
 - (ii) Well, here is one place we have to spend a LOT of time REPLACING filth with Godliness, and TRUE music
 - (iii) All the songs, and sensuality, and music of the world is in US from our past
 - (iv) We HAVE to force ourselves to sing HEAVEN'S songs
 - b) Examples of singing:

- (i) Moses sang a song of praise after the Exodus
 - (ii) Miriam, his older sister sang in response
 - (iii) Deborah sang after Israel's victory over a wicked tyrant named Sisera
 - (iv) King David played the harp, and wrote many of the Psalms to be sung
 - (v) The Lord Jesus sang a hymn with his disciples at the last supper
 - (vi) Paul and Silas sang a hymn of praise to God in jail
- c) Make melody in your heart to the Lord FIRST – learn to sing in love and worship to HIM
- d) Sing with other believers – this church ought to rattle with praise, NOT DRUMS! Rock concerts ought to pale in comparison with the joy in our singing
- e) Sing the Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs – not rock music!
- f) Sing BEYOND these doors and these walls – sing in the car, at home, in the shower, while washing dishes, while mowing the grass
- 3) **THANKING** (Eph 5:20)
- a) Thanking God – no grumbling, murmuring, complaining, rejecting
 - b) Always – at all times (Ps 34:1). This cures filthy conversation (Eph 5:4)
 - c) For ALL things – for ALL things – abundant in it (Col 2:6,7)
 - d) Thankfulness is key to getting answer to prayer (Philp 4:6)
 - e) In the name of Jesus Christ – as if everything is a gift from Jesus!
 - f) What are YOU thankful for, right now? When was the last time you took the time to THANK the Lord for those things?
- 4) **SUBMITTING** – Yielding (Eph 5:21), getting out of the “driver’s seat” and letting God direct your life through His commands, and through the authorities that he has placed over your life. Here is that “dreaded” word – yet it is right in line with Thanking, Singing, and Encouraging
- a) This is what “bowing the knee” is all about – coming UNDER, and resting in God’s place of protection and peace instead of trying to handle our enemies head on!
 - b) Clear instructions:
 - (i) Gen 16:9 And the angel of the LORD said unto her [Hagar], Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.
 - (ii) 1Ch 29:24 And all the princes, and the mighty men, and all the sons likewise of king David, submitted themselves unto Solomon the king.
 - (iii) Rom 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.
 - (iv) 1Co 16:16 That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.
 - (v) Eph 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.
 - (vi) Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.
 - (vii) Eph 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.
 - (viii) 1Ti 2:11,12 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.
 - (ix) Col 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.
 - (x) Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.
 - (xi) Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
 - (xii) 1Pe 2:13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;
 - (xiii) 1Pe 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.
 - c) Who Do We Submit To?
 - d) **Submit To God** – this is so ambiguous that God places other authorities over us to see if we really ARE submitted to Him. DON'T say you love God and are following Christ if you have a hard time obeying the authorities in your life!!!
 - (i) Do as He says to do – in His word!

- (ii) Submitted to His will for your life, no matter how slow it may be, or what direction it leads
 - (iii) Submitted to His commands, no matter how embarrassing, or humiliating
 - (iv) Submitted to His work, like clay is to the Potter (Jer 18:1-6)
- e) **Submit To authorities** (1Pet 5:5) – do as they say to do, as long as it is not sinful
- (i) Parents
 - (ii) Pastor (Heb 13:17; **2Thes 3:14**)
 - (iii) Government, the Garda (Romans 13)
 - (iv) Your husband – as your authority (coming up more next week)
 - (v) Older men and women – as authority – they have earned the right to speak with authority
- f) **Submit to each other** (your equals), preferring one another over themselves (Rom 12:10; Mt 20:26) – doing even their wishes, as long as it is not sinful
- g) More about these next week
8. Walking in the Spirit means to become yielded to His presence in my life instead of yielding to the things of this world like we did to drink, and drugs, and friends, and demonic forces
- a. We are **COMMANDED** to be filled constantly with the Holy Spirit
 - b. There are simple signs that we **ARE** filled
 - c. There are some hard steps to getting filled...
 - 1) **PURSUE - SEEK** - to be filled – like seeking “drink” – Got to have it
 - 2) **PURGE**
 - 3) **PRACTICE AT**
 - a) **SPEAKING** – right speech – force yourself to say things that Jesus would say, not what YOU want to say (Eph 5:19)
 - b) **SINGING** (Eph 5:19)
 - c) **THANKING** (Eph 5:20)
 - d) **SUBMITTING** – Yielding (Eph 5:21), getting out of the “driver’s seat” and letting God direct your life through His commands, and through the authorities that he has placed over your life
 - d. **What is amazing is that these four things are not only what we work at, but they prove that the Holy Spirit is being yielded to – they are proofs that you are full of the Holy Spirit finally!**
 - 1) If you are seeking to be filled, it will be because you **ARE** being filled!
 - 2) If you are purging out filthy thoughts and imaginations in order to be filled with God’s peace and joy, it will be because you are being helped, and encouraged by His working in your heart
 - 3) If you are speaking right things, it will be because the Holy Spirit is being yielded to in your mouth
 - 4) If you are singing, it will not only be because you are forcing yourself to learn Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs, but it will become “natural” to sing God honouring songs because you are being filled with the Spirit
 - 5) You won’t be able to be thankful for very long unless you become filled with the Holy Spirit
 - 6) You won’t be able to submit without the enabling power of the Holy Spirit
 - e. There are more proofs, but suffice this list for now
 - f. **Without the Holy Spirit free to work in our lives and through our lives, we will only fail as Christians!** Let’s all seek to be full of something more than ourselves, or this world!

F. **Walk in Your Home** (Eph 5:21-33)

1. **We just finished learning how to “Walk in the Spirit”** (Eph 5:18-21) – there is a lot to this: it is not just something that comes natural (as a matter of fact, none of the Christian life comes naturally)
 - a. Doing things that are acceptable to the Lord (5:10)
 - b. Abstaining from things that are dark and evil (5:11-14), and actually reprovng/standing against them
 - c. Walking circumspectly (5:15) – with our spiritual eyes just as open as our physical eyes
 - d. Redeeming our time (5:16) – making every minute count – not wasting our lives
 - e. Knowing and living out the will of God in your life (5:17)
 - f. Not drunk with wine, but filled with God’s Holy Spirit (5:18)
 - g. Joyful - Singing praises to God (5:19)
 - h. Thankful - Thanking God (5:20)
 - i. AND submitting ourselves to each other (5:21) – all part of walking in the Spirit
2. So, How can a person tell whether or not he is "filled with the Spirit"?
 - a. Nowhere, in this text, does Paul say anything about miracles or tongues or any other manifestations of the Spirit.
 - b. Instead, he goes to the home setting to deal with it. Nobody knows you like those with whom you live. If God can bring spiritual fruit out of the home, to the point that everybody in the home respects and has confidence in the respective family members of the home, then that home will have fruit in the rest of the world.
 - c. When the Spirit is in control of the home and fills it with joy, thanksgiving and submission, the home then becomes a little "Heaven on Earth!"
3. We are to Walk and Live in our homes: Submissively
 - a. The Bible has some of the clearest language about marriage – and the language is strong and to the point!
 - b. Doing it in fear of going against God – that is our motivation
 - c. To submit is to “allow the other person to lead” – to follow, to yield to, to obey
 - d. God teaches us how to submit by dealing with three groups of people in this and the beginning of the next chapter: (1) Wives and Husbands, (2) Children and Parents, and (3) Servants and Masters.
4. God Starts with the Wife’s responsibilities in the home – not the husband – not yet!
 - a. What we are about to learn is God’s grand design for a strong home
 - 1) A home without design is chaos – and that is why most homes are a huge mess
 - 2) God has order and design to a home (1Cor 11:1-3)
 - 3) God – Jesus – the man – and the woman – the children – the dog – the cat – the fish!
 - 4) Part of the curse (Gen 3:16)
 - 5) Kids are not equal to their parents – in value yes, but in decisions, NO!
 - 6) A wife is MUCH MORE VALUABLE than a man, but she cannot take over the leadership in a home
 - 7) AND she cannot take over the leadership in a church (1Cor 14:32-35)
 - 8) Listen to the words in 1Tim 2:9-14
 - b. Submit to your husband’s leadership – period!
 - 1) We better start talking to our young people about the commitment of marriage, and the cost of it
 - 2) You better marry a good man, and a godly woman or you are going to be regretting it for a very long time!
 - 3) Not a door-mat – but not the decider
 - 4) You have the right to speak up and express your opinion, but he has to be allowed to decide
 - 5) If he is doing wrong, or doing something that you are concerned about then you had better take this as an opportunity to pray and get God’s help
 - c. Speaking to Christian women
 - 1) Submit not for the man’s worth, but because the Lord is worthy
 - 2) Look beyond the flaws of your husband, and yield as if the Lord Jesus was leading you – because HE IS!
 - d. The reason for submitting is because... (5:23-24)

- 1) God designed the home with the man as the leader – he is built for pressure and stress and burdens
- 2) God designed the woman NOT as the leader – ladies are not built for it
- 3) THAT is simple isn't it?
 - a) By the way, almost ½ of the Irish population are on some kind of prescription drug
 - b) That includes children and teens
 - c) And as much as 1 in 5 people on this island are taking anti-depressants
 - d) Someone is carrying a load that they were never meant to carry!
- 4) This submission pictures/shows the relationship between Jesus and his Church – it is not about feminism or chauvinism – it's about God's design – the only way a home can work!
 - a) What an awful thing when a church splits and people hurt each other because of selfishness and because the believers decide not to submit to the gift of their pastor and leaders
 - b) Same is true in a home – and yet women will encourage each other to NOT submit to their man
 - c) They think it is safer and better to fight their husband instead of fight the devil (I know, most women think their husband IS the devil, but the shoe fits the other way too)!
- 5) Notice the words, “and he is the saviour of the body”
 - a) As Christ gave himself to save his bride, the church; as he practiced self-denial and made it an object of intense solicitude to preserve that church...
 - b) A wife is the body of her husband – the extension of his life – not separate anymore
 - (i) Eph 5:28
 - (ii) 1Cor 7:1-5
 - (iii) Col 1:24
 - c) So ought the husband to save his wife (5:23)
 - (i) Show a similar desire like Christ to make his wife happy,
 - (ii) And to save her from want, affliction, and pain.
 - (iii) He ought to regard himself as her natural protector;
 - (iv) As bound to anticipate and provide for her needs (what a thought);
 - (v) As under obligation to comfort her in trial, even as Christ does the church.
 - (vi) What a beautiful illustration of the spirit which a husband should manifest is the care which Christ has shown for his “bride,” the church!
- e. The Bible doesn't say the husband ought to be the head of the wife; it simply says he is.
 - 1) The man's headship is a fact, designed to picture Christ's headship.
 - 2) So every husband reflects Jesus Christ, whether he wants to or not.
 - 3) Because of sin and rebellion, many of these marriage-pictures are slanderous lies concerning Christ. But a husband can never stop being the image of Christ.
 - 4) If he is obedient to God, he is preaching the truth; if he does not love his wife, he is speaking apostasy and lies - but he is always talking.
 - 5) If he deserts his wife, he is saying that this is the way Christ deserts his bride - a lie.
 - 6) If he is harsh with his wife and strikes her, he is saying that Christ is harsh with the church - another lie!
- f. The husband represents the headship of Christ over the church, so if he does not lovingly provide for his wife and family, *"he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel"* (an unbeliever, 1 Timothy 5:8).
 - 1) He not only harms his wife, but he defames the Lord Jesus Christ, whose headship the husband is supposed to represent.
 - 2) How should a husband act as head of his wife in order to show the truth about Christ, the head of the church? Our text says, *"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 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."* (Ephesians 5:25-30).
 - 3) A Christ-like husband loves his wife, sacrifices for her, provides for her, leads her, builds her up, prizes her, and enjoys being one with her. He models his marriage on Christ's marriage to the church.

- g. Wives, in turn, are to picture/symbolise the church's response to Christ.
- 1) What does our text say? (v.24).
 - 2) A wife's conduct toward her husband always says something about the church's response to Christ, either right or wrong.
 - 3) If a woman does not honour her husband and is not loving toward him, if she is independent and defiant toward him, she proclaims this as the church's response to Christ and thus attacks God's Word.
 - 4) A wife's behaviour toward her husband either makes the Word of God more attractive or else makes it an object of contempt.
 - 5) Hear what Paul says to Titus about life in his congregation, that wives ought "to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." (Titus 2:4-5).
 - 6) In other words, the reason why wives are to submit to their husbands is not because they are wonderful guys who deserve it. Sometimes husbands deserve very little from their wives. The reason why you submit is because your **Lord Jesus Christ deserves it**. Out of gratitude to him, for all that he has done for you, you submit. It is not because you love your husband that much, but it is because you love the Lord Jesus more.
 - 7) That is the key. I obey the one I love; I do whatever he tells me to do.
 - 8) A wife's submission to her husband is "as to the Lord" Paul tells us in our text. I am willing to do whatever it is he tells me to do. My reverence for Christ motivates me to obey him in everything he says. I am in his Word, and I am doing his Word day by day. I am doing it in my home, in the daily chores of life.
- h. True submission is complete, from the heart, voluntary, it proceeds from love and so it is tender and wise. Ponder those thoughts, and we will look more at them when I get back from the States

5. True submission is complete, from the heart, voluntary, it proceeds from love and so it is tender and wise. Ponder those thoughts, and we will look more at them when I get back from the States
- a. It is to be complete submission.
 - 1) Is there any area in which the Church is not subject to Jesus Christ?
 - 2) Can the Church say, "In matters of doctrine we will submit to Jesus, but in matters of practice, we will do our own thing"?
 - 3) Can the Church say, "At certain times we will submit to Jesus, but at other times, we are free"?
 - 4) Isn't it the case that in all things and at all times she is subject to Christ?
 - 5) So, for the wife to say, "I'll submit to my husband when he's around, but not when he is gone," or "I'll be subject as long as it pleases me, or when he gives me what I want, as long as he is nice to me" is to disobey Jesus.
 - 6) Christ's apostle says, "So let the wives be (subject) to their own husbands in everything" (v.24).
 - b. Submission requires a calm, prayerful, and peaceful spirit.
 - 1) In other words submission is from the heart.
 - 2) Throughout the Bible, God calls his people to give him their hearts. He doesn't want outward worship alone, but inward worship. "Rend your heart and not your garments" was the cry of the prophets.
 - 3) By grace, the Church can obey the Lord from the heart, from a love for Christ, from her inner life pulsating with a feeling for his Lordship.
 - 4) What a privilege it is to serve the Lord. This is the attitude of a wife to her husband. It is not just outward as some make it. But, as Peter says, "let it be that hidden man of the heart" (1 Peter 3:4)
 - c. Submission is voluntary.
 - 1) The Church is not subject to Christ because she is forced kicking and screaming against her will to do it, but because of the wonderful grace of Jesus that has changed her from a rebel to a beautiful wife (see Psalm 110).
 - 2) So the wife doesn't submit only because she must, but she willingly does so. That also means that a husband cannot stand before his wife and demand submission, even resorting to raising his voice and verbally abusing her, or worse, in order to get it.
 - 3) Losing your family is a horrible price to pay for being 'correct.'
 - 4) Let the husband submit himself to God's hand and love his wife as Christ loved the church. That is the way ahead.
 - 5) But let me say this, you married the guy! That SHOULD have meant that you knew him well enough to be ABLE to submit to him – not change in mid-stream!
 - d. Submission also proceeds from love.
 - 1) Does the Church love Christ? Of course!
 - 2) Then out of that love comes the Church's submission that is willing, voluntary, from the heart, and complete (Ps 40:8)
 - 3) So God calls women to love their husbands (Titus 2:4), and out of that love comes the beauty of this life described here.
 - e. Submission is also tender and wise.
 - 1) Let me illustrate this from an experience of Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones;
 - 2) "I sometimes think that one of the most wonderful things I have ever been privileged to witness was the following. It was my custom for a number of years to go and preach in a certain church in the provinces, and after preaching to spend the night in the manse with the minister and his wife. It was always most interesting for this reason, that it was so obvious to me on the first visit, that from the standpoint of sheer ability there was no comparison between the husband and the wife. The wife was an exceptionally able and brilliant woman. The husband was not without his gifts, but his main gifts were in the matter of personality - he was an exceptionally nice and friendly and kind and gracious man. But as regards sheer intellectual ability there was no comparison. Indeed their academic record - they were both graduates - had proved this. The wife had a degree in a subject that very few women took up at that particular time, and she had taken First Class Honours. The husband, taking a much easier subject, only had a Second Class.
 - 3) "There was no question, I say, as to the ability - her grasp of intellectual matters, her understanding, struck me immediately, and became more and more evident as I got to know them. But what I wish to say is that I do not know that I have ever seen anything more wonderful than the way in which

that woman always put her husband into his true Scriptural position. She did it in a very clever and subtle way. She would put arguments into his mouth; but she always did so in such a way as to suggest that they were his, and not hers! There is an amusing aspect to the matter, but I am reporting it as one of the most moving and tremendous things I have ever experienced. She was not only an able woman, she was a Christian woman, and she was putting into operation this principle that the husband is the head. He always had to state the decision though she had supplied him with the reasons. She was acting as a help meet for him. She had the qualities that he lacked; she was complementing, she was supplementing him. But the husband was the head, and the children were always referred to him. She was guarding his position" (D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, "Life in the Spirit: In Marriage, Home and Work, an Exposition of Ephesians 5:18 to 6:9," Banner of Truth, Edinburgh, 1973, pp. 110&111).

- f. According to the apostle there is no possibility of a married woman's surrender to a heavenly Lord which is not made visible and actual by submission to her husband. See what Paul says in our text, "Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." That is our duty, and incidentally that is our happiness, for when this command is ignored it doesn't make life better for women it actually makes life worse. There is power in Christ to do what He requires and then the Lord is exalted in our homes.
- g. God's Word is not dated. The culture of the day did not rule the Bible's teaching. The Apostle Paul was not a chauvinistic bachelor. His writing in Ephesians, as all the rest of the Bible's teaching, were written under the reliable guidance of God's Spirit. They are based on both the creation of the human race and the salvation of the church. "For Eve was not created first" Paul says in the first letter to Timothy, "but the man" (2:13). That's creation.
- h. Sometimes we misinterpret this, with disastrous results. Some suppose that when a wife subjects herself to her husband, she becomes a nothing, to be treated as a servant. She may never open her mouth, never offer a suggestion, much less ever question or criticize her husband's behaviour. This may be the Eastern or Muslim culture, but it surely is not the Biblical picture. Christ certainly does not treat us in this way. Yet some Christian husbands treat their wives as though this were the case. If they do, it only shows their insecurity, their own failure to love their wives. We should read what Proverbs 31 says about a godly, virtuous woman.
- i. Generally, submission is an attitude of heart and walk of life. Submitting, we put ourselves under the authority and rule of another. It may be children to parents, citizens to government, employees to employers, or wives to husbands.
- j. When the book of Ephesians teaches the woman's submission, it does that by comparing it to the Church's relation to Jesus Christ. In doing that, it points out several characteristics of submission that help us to identify it as true:
- k. The main objection to this teaching is that it degrades the honour of the woman, makes them "nothings." To this, we respond with a friendly question: "Was it degrading for His honour when Jesus subjected Himself to His parents (Luke 2:51)?" Jesus was God Himself Who willingly put Himself under two of His lowly creatures. This in no way degraded His honour or made Him inferior. If Jesus could submit without giving up a speck of His dignity, so can wives. We may also ask, "Does the Church lose Her dignity when He submits to Christ? Does it detract from Her beauty, Her honour, Her 'church-ness' to give Herself wholly to Him?" Of course not. Indeed, is it not exactly this that makes the Church a beautiful Bride? It is! It's a beautiful woman who places herself under the authority of her husband: willingly and from the heart.
- l. Then the Church is subject to Christ, there is also **freedom**. There is unspeakable bliss for Her. Although the world cannot understand this, this is the freedom, this is the joy, this is the bliss of the Christian wife!
- m. As with the calling of husbands to sacrifice themselves for their wives in love, this calling for the wives is so difficult. Really, it is impossible. The possibility for women to live as Christ calls them is only by the power of Christ's grace, which He gives richly to those who fear Him.
- n. In Jesus Christ is deliverance from our natural rebellion. In His work is forgiveness for our failures in the past. For the present, in Christ there is power to overcome a sinful nature, to become the kind of wife God wills women to be. There is power in Christ. This exalts the Church and honours our great God.

6. **A Husband's Role** (Eph 5:25-31) – That of a Lover!a. **Extreme Love** (5:25)

- 1) This is a present tense action, that is ongoing – not an act, or a phrase, but a life of love
- 2) Not Psycho love – animalistic
 - a) This is the level that all movies and music are driving men DOWN to
 - b) The media seem to only depict brutal love by man
 - c) NOTE: the only time softness is shown, it is portrayed by homosexuals!!!
- 3) More than natural love
 - a) Almost all men do love! It really is very for men easy to love... they were wired to love
 - (i) They easily love football
 - (ii) They love money
 - (iii) They love success
 - (iv) AND, they love their wives – just not extremely!
 - (v) Christianity raises the bar so-to-speak
 - b) Too many marriage breakups are NOT because the man stops loving, it is because the woman stops loving
 - c) The men are loving, just the wife needs more!
 - d) She had better get it from Christ then!!!
- 4) Sacrificial love – as Christ loved!

b. **Sanctifying Love** (5:26,27)

- 1) Cleansing
 - a) This is what Christ does in us as He loves us. He does not defile us, or smudge us
 - b) A wife should be safe in her home
 - c) A Christian man should be living the Bible, and quoting the Bible around the Bible for her cleansing and encouraging
 - d) The power of proper words is extreme!
 - e) The power of negative, hurtful words is deadly (Pr 18:21)
- 2) Protecting
- 3) Saving even – the husband cannot save her, but he can mimic the Lord in giving his life, and his wants up so that she benefits

c. **Similar Love** – the same as he loves himself (5:28-30)

- 1) This is very humiliating!
- 2) We men ALL love ourselves!!! No man hates himself!
- 3) The challenge is to love our wives equally to that amount!
- 4) Almost impossible! We expend just about everything on ourselves, and then the Lord says,
 - a) “Hey! Give your wife just as much money as you spend on yourself...”
 - b) “Give your wife just as much time as you give yourself” – don’t be so impatient
 - c) “Give as much as if you were the wife”
- 5) Nourish and cherish your wife
 - a) Nourish means to feed her, and build her up
 - b) To Cherish her means to prize her more than a 72” plasma TV
 - c) Christ values us more than the whole world
- 6) Your wife is of equal value to you – she is not inferior (5:30)

d. **Committed Love** (5:31)

- 1) Enough to leave some things
- 2) Enough to grow up – be the man, the leader, the protector, the nourisher, not selfish
- 3) Together – one flesh – one person

- a) Not that the two of you are no longer different
- b) But that the two of you work together as one person
- c) As a TRUE team

7. **The Great Mystery** (5:32,33)

- a. The home is a picture of the relationship of Jesus Christ with the Church
 - 1) His body (Col 1:17,18; 24)
 - 2) His wife
 - 3) We are His bride right now (2Cor 11:1,2), separate and waiting for His coming (John 14:1-3), and one day we will be with Him
- b. But even though it is hard to understand, and grasp, there is something both parties are to be doing...
 - 1) The husband is to love his wife – period – as Jesus loved you!!!
 - 2) The wife is to reverence her husband – period – like you KNOW we are to reverence Jesus as Lord!
- c. The World desperately needs to see such a home like this! Would to God a whole load of homes were like this!!!

III. Concluding Thoughts

CONCLUSION:

This thought on domestic duties will continue into chapter six.

Since the Spirit-filled life is mentioned in context with the home, it is reasonable to assume that it is a requirement to be Spirit-filled. Many who claim to be Spirit-filled lose their credibility when a close examination of their homes are made by onlookers. 1Peter 3:7 proves this. When couples argue, they can't even get their prayers answered.

Many homes are plagued with ruin. Not until Christians learn to humble themselves before God and each other, will their homes be placed back on solid ground. It begins with repentance. God is in the home repair business!