

"The Practice of the Believer"

Ephesians 4-6

Part 21

Introduction: In our study of Ephesians we are currently looking at what life looks like when the believer is Spirit filled. To be Spirit filled means that the believer is controlled by the Spirit and not by the flesh. In God's Word we are commanded to be filled with the Spirit.

Notice Ephesians 5:18

Paul then goes on and he explains what the Spirit filled life will look like.

Notice Ephesians 5:19-21

These verses help us to see several points about the Spirit filled believer and they are parallel with what Paul wrote to the Colossians.

Colossians 3:15-17

¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

¹⁷ And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

1. Present in Church.
2. Participate in Church.
3. Purpose in Church.

Getting back to Ephesians, Paul then moves on to the family.

I. Spirit Filled in the Family

Part 2

A. The Exhortation for the Wife

Notice Ephesians 5:21-22

There have been 2 wrong interpretations offered for this.

1. **The husband's interpretation:** This person declares that a woman is to submit to her husband as if he was *God*. This is wrong because no place in Scripture are we commanded to submit to another person as if they were *God*. That is idolatry.
2. **The wife's interpretation:** The second wrong interpretation that favors the wife says that "as unto the Lord" means "I'll submit to him as long as he does what the Lord wants." Then the wife often thinks it is her job to decide what the Lord wants. This interpretation thinks that "as to the Lord" defines the limit of submission.

Both of these are wrong. The words "as unto the Lord" do not mean the husband is as *God* and neither do they define the limits of the wife's submission.

The phrase "as unto the Lord" defines the motive of a wife's submission.

B. The Example for the Wife

Notice Ephesians 5:23

C. The Expectation of the Wife

Notice Ephesians 5:24

D. The Exhortation for the Husband

Notice Ephesians 5:25

E. The Example and the Standard for the Husband

Notice Ephesians 5:25b-27

As we continue today, I want to extend this thought concerning the husband's responsibility.

1. There is never a reason a man is to stop loving his wife.

Let us remember that the love spoken of here is *AGAPE* love and that is unconditional love. It is a love that is expressed even when it receives nothing in return. Someone may say, "Well, you don't know my wife! She is grouchy and bitter almost all the time. Surely this would make me an exception."

There are no exceptions! When Paul wrote this, he was very careful to give to us the Model we are to follow. He did not pick some man he knew who loved a perfect wife. He points to Jesus Christ and His love for us.

Here is a reminder of what we were like.

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

² *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

³ *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

Romans 5:8-10

⁸ *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

⁹ *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

¹⁰ *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

We were enemies of God and even then, we were loved, and this love is far greater than many realize.

John 17:23

²³ *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

Jeremiah 31:3

³ *The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

God loves us so much that we can never do one thing to make Him love us less!!

This then is the Model we are to follow when we love our wives. God never stops loving you and I and both of us are far from perfect.

Notice Ephesians 5:26 again.

2. The means of cleansing.

The word "WORD" here is a different word than what is used to describe the written Word of God. The word "WORD" here refers to "THE PROCLAIMED WORD". This is so interesting! It is a reference to the preaching of God's Word. I have said many times that it is so important to be sure to be under the teaching of the Word in church and right here the Bible confirms it.

God has ordained the church as a place where the saints are to be equipped as they are taught the Word of God.

Ephesians 4:11-15

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

There is absolutely no replacement for the church which God has ordained. When you stay away from church you are guilty of several things:

- a. **Saying to God that what He has ordained is not that important to you. The training which Jesus died to make possible you are spurning.**
- b. **You are not giving the Holy Spirit the opportunity to use the spoken Word to transform your life.**

3. The end product.

Notice Ephesians 5:26-27 again.

I want you to notice that Jesus loves us and protects us and along life's path He is purifying us so that when we stand before our Lord on the wedding day, we will be perfect. We will be holy and without blemish.

Revelation 19:7-8

⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

The final product will be perfection when we stand before our Lord. Now as men we cannot make our wives perfect, but we do have the responsibility of providing physical and spiritual protection.

Application:

I want to focus upon the spiritual protection for a few moments. Last week I expressed one of the concerns I see within the world today and that is that many who calls themselves Christians are Biblically illiterate.

Hebrews 5:10-14

¹⁰ Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

¹¹ Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.

¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

¹³ For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

The writer of Hebrews could not teach what he desired concerning Jesus because those who received this letter were not able to digest spiritual meat. They had been distracted and their allegiance was divided, and it kept them from growing.

This is what is happening to many men today. They have time for many things except the Word of God.

Let us notice what God said to Israel through Amos. They had turned away from God and turned to sin.

Amos 8:11-12

¹¹ Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

¹² And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

I want you to notice that this is a FAMINE of HEARING the WORD. It is not that the WORD was not proclaimed but the problem was they could not hear the WORD.

This is the same situation we are in today. There are so many distractions, and many men have no time for God and His Word. Sure they know the high points, but they have no deep understanding of the Word. We are living in some very dangerous times. Let me show you what will happen in the Tribulation and remind you that it is already underway.

Revelation 13:11-14

¹¹ And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

¹² And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

¹³ And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Matthew 24:4-5

⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

⁵ For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

We are not in the Tribulation, but we are in a day of great deception. Because many in the church are Bible illiterate they are then getting much of their information from the government and from the media.

Husbands, it is our responsibility to know the Truth and protect our wives.

There are things being taught today that you **MUST** be aware of. One is Critical Race Theory, and it is backed by Black Lives Matter. Let me explain what all of this is. It is communism!

The bottom line is that as husbands it is our responsibility to know the Word.

Conclusion:

Song of Solomon 8:7a

⁷ Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it:

When we love our wives with **AGAPE** love, we will do all we can to protect them from spiritual dangers. We will sacrifice our desires so as to be equipped to protect those we love.