

"The Practice of the Believer"

Ephesians 4-6

Part 22

Introduction: We hear many people in our nation calling for a revival. We hear of many churches praying for revival. But the problem is that many who are praying and calling for revival do not even understand what a revival is. Revival happens when God's people begin to get back into the Word of God and then they begin to live God's Word. That is the definition of a revival. Let me show you what has happened in our nation and in many churches.

2 Kings 22:3-13

³ *And it came to pass in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, the scribe, to the house of the LORD, saying,*

⁴ *Go up to Hilkiyah the high priest, that he may sum the silver which is brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers of the door have gathered of the people:*

⁵ *And let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD: and let them give it to the doers of the work which is in the house of the LORD, to repair the breaches of the house,*

⁶ *Unto carpenters, and builders, and masons, and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house.*

⁷ *Howbeit there was no reckoning made with them of the money that was delivered into their hand, because they dealt faithfully.*

⁸ *And Hilkiyah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, **I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD.** And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.*

⁹ *And Shaphan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and said, Thy servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of them that do the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD.*

¹⁰ *And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiyah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king.*

¹¹ *And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.*

¹² And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying,

¹³ Go ye, enquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us.

This is what has happened in the body of Jesus Christ today. The Word of God has been lost in the rubble of the world. So there is a need for the church to rediscover the Word of God and then put it into practice.

Now let me tell you where this starts, IN THE FAMILY.

Today we are coming back to our study in Ephesians and the last time we were here was August 22nd. For this reason we need a quick review to get our minds set on what we are going to look at this morning.

This letter is written to Gentile believers who were in need of spiritual guidance. In the first three chapters Paul taught them DOCTRINE and in the last three chapters he taught them DUTY. Starting in Ephesians 4 Paul instructed his readers about how they were to live. We have entitled it The Practice of the Believer.

- **Ephesians 4:1-16** - The believer's practice pertaining to the church.
- **Ephesians 4:17-5:17** - The believer's practice pertaining to sin and the old life.
- **Ephesians 5:18-21** - The believer's practice pertaining to the Holy Spirit.
- **Ephesians 5:22-6:4** - The believer's practice in the home.

We are currently in the middle of the believer's practice in the home.

I. Spirit Filled in the Family

Part 3

A. The Exhortation for the Wife

Notice Ephesians 5:22

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

This now brings us to where we are today in our study.

F. The Mystery Revealed

Before we get into the verses before us, I want to point out something very important. There are 3 verses that pertain to the wife in this section and there are 9 that pertain to the husband. Why is this the case? The husband has a great responsibility in the family. The moment a man and a woman are married the husband immediately steps up to a higher level of accountability. He immediately becomes the spiritual leader of the family.

I need to also remind you that as the spiritual leader you will be held accountable by God for how you did on the day when we all stand before Him. Your responsibility as a husband far exceeds any other position you will occupy in your life.

Notice Ephesians 5:28

Paul had commanded us to love our wives as Jesus loved the church and now here Paul goes even further and tells the husband to love his wife as their own bodies. He tells us that the man who loves his wife loves himself. What does Paul mean by this?

When a man and a woman are joined in marriage, they become one flesh. We will see this in greater detail as we move on.

Notice Ephesians 5:29

The word nourish means "to train or to bring up to maturity." The word cherish means "to love with tender care." There are 2 points to see here:

1. **This is how the Lord cares for us who are His church.**

The Lord patiently works with each of His children in nurturing them toward spiritual maturity.

Philippians 1:6

⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Romans 8:28-32

²⁸ *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

²⁹ *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

³⁰ *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

³¹ *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

³² *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

Our responsibility is this is to be sure we give our Lord something to work with. We are to gather with other believers, and we are to place ourselves under the proclamation of God's Word.

2. This is how the husband is to care for his wife.

Just as Jesus nurtures the church so a man is to nurture his wife and do all he can to help her along in spiritual maturity. This goes back to what I have said over and over and that is that for a man to do this he must submerge himself in the Word so that he can guide his wife as her spiritual leader.

Notice Ephesians 5:30

This is connected with the end of verse 29. Jesus cherishes and nourishes the church because we are members of His body.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

¹² *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

¹³ *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

¹⁴ *For the body is not one member, but many.*

We who know Jesus Christ as Savior, we make up the body of Jesus Christ. He is the Head, and we are the body. As His body we are here to glorify Him which means we are here to make Him known.

2 Corinthians 5:20

²⁰ Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Notice Ephesians 5:31-32

Herein is the mystery. A mystery in the Bible was something that could not be seen in the Old Testament. The marriage of a man and a woman is a picture of Jesus Christ and His church. Paul here quotes from Genesis 2.

Genesis 2:18, 21-25

¹⁸ And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

²² And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

²³ And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

This is the first blood shed in the Bible. It happened when God removed the flesh from Adam's side to make a bride for him.

This is a picture of the death of our Lord when He shed His blood so that He would have a bride, which is the church. God brought Eve to Adam and some day soon God will catch us up to be with our Bride Groom, Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

There are 2 lessons I want to leave you with:

- 1. Oneness with our Lord penetrates all areas of our lives:**
 - a. There is a oneness of life.**

We share with our Lord the same vital resurrection life.

Ephesians 3:20

²⁰ Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

b. There is a oneness in service.

We are fellow labors with our Lord in the ministry.

1 Corinthians 3:9

⁹ For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

c. There is a oneness of feeling.

Hebrews 4:15-16

¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

d. There is a oneness in blessings.

Ephesians 1:3

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

e. There is a oneness in future glory.

Romans 8:17

¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

2. Our marriages are an earthly picture of the church's relationship with the Lord.