

HOW GOD USES MARRIAGE TO ILLUSTRATE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

Christ and the Church

Members of His Body

Two Shall Be One

Ephesians 5:22-33



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Divine Viewpoint

www.divineviewpoint.com

August 1983

CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

In Ephesians 5:22 through chapter 6:4 we have the family concept as the result of the filling of the Holy Spirit as stated in verse 18¹. So we know when a believer accepts Jesus Christ as Saviour and when they're in fellowship and filled by the Holy Spirit, they can sing unto the Lord psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs. They can participate in being thankful for everything, knowing the principle of Romans 8:28. We also know we have factors in family life.

In verse 22, we start tonight and these things we're going to mention can only be accomplished by a believer in fellowship at the time and controlled by the Holy Spirit. IT CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED BY AN UNBELIEVER. This is a monopoly of Christianity, but it cannot be accomplished by a believer out of fellowship, either. It's strictly accomplished by believers who are in fellowship and are controlled by the Holy Spirit.

So let's take the first one, for example, verse 22. It says, "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands as unto the LORD." I want to show you something interesting. Sometimes you don't see it when you're studying one verse at a time.

Verse 22 is talking about marriage, what we have called Right Man and Right Woman, whereby **God has a man and a woman designed for each other**. In verse 23, we have a principle again of marriage as two believers designed for each other. Then in verse 24, we have an illustration of Christ and the Church. Christ here, is portrayed as the man and we as believers as the woman. Then in verse 25, we have a combination of the two. First marriage and "Even as Christ and the Church."

Then we have Christ and the Church in verse 26. Christ and the Church in verse 27; Right Man and Right Woman in verse 28; Right Man and Right Woman in verse 29 plus Christ and the Church; then verse 30, Christ and the Church again; then verse 31, Right Man/Right Woman; then 32, Christ and the Church; then 33 Right Man/Right Woman.

Now I don't even have to teach this passage because this will tell you right here, by this repetition, that marriage is a Divine Institution and also that marriage is strictly the **same relationship**, the **same principles** that we have with the Lord, and you can see it reiterated all the way through here. So, this whole last section of Ephesians verses 22 through 33, is talking about marriage and is using the illustration as Jesus CHRIST and the Church.

Now, remember that all the way through, and you can see it yourself as we go along. But as we go along each verse you may get lost in the shuffle and miss it, but you can see that the first two verses are on marriage. The third one uses Christ as the illustration with the Church. The next one is marriage and Christ and the Church. Then Christ and the Church, Christ and the Church, marriage, marriage and Christ and the Church, Christ and the Church, marriage, Christ and the Church, marriage. All of them are illustrations and we'll go slow with them.

Now in verse 22 it says, "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands as unto the Lord." Verse 23, "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. Therefore as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." Then the women

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are off the hook. Then the men come in and it says in verse 25, "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it."

Now we're talking about Christ, "That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word." Again about Christ in verse 27, "That He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot nor wrinkle, or any such thing, but that is should be holy and without blemish." Verse 28 going back to marriage again, "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself." We're talking about the men, the ladies are off the hook.

Verse 29, "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it." Then the illustration, "Even as the Lord, the Church." "For we are members of his body." Christ and the Church again, "of His own flesh and of His bones." Verse 31, marriage again, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." That's from Genesis 2:24 and keep that verse in mind because it will come up in a principle a little later on.

Verse 32 "This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the Church." Christ and the Church again. Verse 33, "Nevertheless let everyone of you in particular so love his wife even as himself." marriage again, "and the wife see that she reverence her husband." So you can see how the passages are going back and the forth and the Holy Spirit keeps on interchanging marriage with our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. It's a tremendous principle.

You know one of the first principles that ever happened in the garden, was marriage. That was even before salvation became an historical fact. Yet today we have people disregarding this and saying it no longer exists. So we'll just take these slow and go with them because there are a lot of principles here, some of them we haven't covered before and some we have.

So verse 22, "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands as unto the Lord." Now, you can't do this unless you're a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. You can't do it unless you've accepted Christ as your Saviour. You can't do it unless you're controlled by the Holy Spirit. In our context, Ephesians 5, "Be filled with the Spirit" is the challenge and these are the results. So it's impossible for the unbeliever to do this. It is impossible for a believer out of fellowship to do this.

Now the word "submit" is the same verb we've had before when we were told to submit to authorities in a local church and the word "submit" recognizes the principle of constituted Divine authority in Divine Institution #2 and #3. Divine Institution #2 is marriage, Divine Institution #3 is family.

Now the next word that you have is "Wives submit yourselves unto your OWN husband." I want you to underline OWN, and not somebody else's, and that has a lot of ramifications. But I want you to know that the word "husbands" is dative of advantage. See the Greek language has dative of disadvantage and dative of advantage. You have to recognize the principle regardless of what old maids have to say. IT IS AN ADVANTAGE FOR A WOMAN TO HAVE A HUSBAND period! So generally speaking, to the average female a husband is dative of THEIR advantage.

Now I want you to notice immediately in this verse 22, that the wife is not, NOT commanded to love her husband. **Not commanded to love her husband.** You can't find a verse in the Bible where it says for a wife to love her husband. She's never commanded to do so. In fact, **a woman cannot love a man unless the man produces that response in her.** There's no way that she can do it. Furthermore, if she doesn't respond mentally, then everything else is a farce. Because we'll see that love is a mental attitude, even in this passage. **And love being a mental attitude has many overt expressions.**

We think of love and immediately the next thought that comes into most people's

mind is sex. Sex is one of the expressions of love, but please remember that sex is an expression and it is not the real thing because **love is a mental attitude.**

There are other expressions of love also. Men especially fail in this concept. They fail to realize that love is a mental attitude and they do nothing to stimulate the mental attitude of the wife and therefore they have a very difficult situation, if not an impossible situation. **Some husbands never know why their wives don't love them.** They can never understand why apparently they don't get along too well. **It's because they never started at the basic point that love is a mental attitude and everything else is an expression of that mental attitude.** "As a man thinketh in his mind so is he." A woman who is properly loved responds in many ways, overtly and thoughtwise and she does all those little nasty things that have to be done around the house. All those little things that go on and she does them gladly and happily because of love. **But if she doesn't have that mental attitude which is a response to her husband's mental attitude then it becomes a chore and becomes a pain in the neck.** It becomes a very difficult situation for her.

Now when it says here in verse 22 for the wife to "submit", men are not to get all high and mighty because **this submission is a response based on a mental attitude love** and it isn't too far from the military word. You see this word "submit" is HUPOTASSO, and it's used in the military life.

Now I don't want you to confuse the military life with marriage, but I want you to see the principle from a military standpoint. A man commands, for example, any kind of organization, whether a platoon, a battalion, or a company, or a combat team, or a division, or a corps, whatever it is. This means that he must be able to give an order and have it obeyed. Now I don't mean simply to give an order and have it obeyed under ordinary circumstances like basic training, or a parade ground situation. **It's the abnormal circumstances that bring out this factor in disci-**

pline and training in command and the ability to command under abnormal conditions. The command, for example, to keep moving on a hill when you're being fired upon and the command to open up on a target 200 yards away over to the right between certain trees, the command to set up a machine gun nest, you see and so forth. When stuff is flying all around under abnormal circumstances and people respond to commands, then they are properly led and they're properly trained.

What am I saying? Well, that's how this word "submit" was used in the military. Now when we transfer it into the marriage situation **then a woman submits to a man as a result of his initiating mental attitude love towards her, where there are difficulties and trials and problems as far as circumstances are concerned, she does it out of a mental attitude called love, because that man has properly loved her.**

Now the circumstances may be difficult. There may be trials; there may be suffering, but she still does that. Now it's all right when things go along very nicely as long as certain things may be true, depending upon certain individuals. They're receiving certain things and they have so much money and so much of this and so much of that and so much position and prestige and as long as their husbands occupy a prominent place in the herd and all the rest of it. Whatever reasons persons use for getting married apart from love. **But in the last analysis the only thing that can make a marriage grow is a mental attitude love. This mental attitude must start with the man and the woman must respond to it, and if it doesn't start with the man, then it's no good at all; right from the start.** And if the man is so constituted that he's more animal than rational, it's no good.

There's a tendency among many men to confuse love with sex, rather than one being the logical result of the other. The result is that we have a lot of animalism and very little love. In fact, most people cannot define, describe, or in any way indicate what love really is because they don't know what it is. That

old song "What Is This Thing Called Love?" still hasn't been answered. **Like so many other things, love is a mental attitude.**

Now this word "submit" sounds like an awful yoke that has been put on the woman. But that isn't true, not at all. Remember when you come to principles like submission and you talk about yokes, remember **the Lord's yoke is easy. He said "My yoke is light" because He's done all the work.** This word submit is something she does normally. She does this easily. She does this happily. She does this freely and with animation when she is properly loved. The only command to love in this passage is to the man. The man is commanded to love the woman. The woman is not commanded to love the man. **The woman is a responder in every way.**

Now, of course there are substitutes for mental stimulation but they will not cut it either. Sometimes people go for parties or a few drinks and that won't cut it. Discos won't do it. Drugs won't take the place of it. Punk rock won't take the place of it. Now we have a new one, flash dancing. That still won't cut it. **They're superficial systems.** They won't last. They'll run out of gas.

Now how is it possible to have a mental attitude love and maintain it as people get older and as they change physically? Actually the kind of love that should go between a man and woman in marriage is the kind of love that gets stronger as the man and woman get older. **Because the basis for it is the mind and when the mind develops spiritually as well as mentally in the areas of response and in the areas of expression and they increase as the marriage advances it should be better.**

What happens today? Most people run out of gas and they hang on because they have children and they hang on very grimly and they grit their teeth and try to stick it out and some do and some do not. The husband spends more time working and the wife becomes more prominent at some clubs where women get together and they hustle around and have parties and play bridge and the men have parties and don't play bridge. And

they do other things and they still live in the same house. They try to hold things together for the sake of the children, for the sake of society and that's no good.

The whole thing is rotten from the foundation because this isn't built on love which is a mental attitude. Love should become stronger. The thing that makes love become stronger, and this is the beauty of two Christians, **the older they become as they both grow in the Lord they should find a love which should become stronger as they grow in the Lord and it might even surprise and shock them in their later ages.** They'll find that their love is so marvelous in their expression and they can have this in their advancing years regardless of adversity or anything else that has existed. As a matter of fact, there's no way for them to even know it because there's nothing written about it. If it hits them it will probably shock them.

But today we have a different situation. We have attacks on love in advancing years. We have tragedies of one kind or another, like *Epidus the King*, which is one of the early Greek tragedies of the 5th century. If you remember the story, Epidus killed his father and married his mother. There's a whole lot of that sort of thing and the tradition has been handed down from one generation to another through drama.

Today we have morbid stories, we have murder stories and many of these things that are cranked out today through the TV, the movies and various media. The general idea is and we see it all the time, the older man if he's foot-loose and fancy-free, should marry a real young girl, and that's ridiculous. You see an elderly lady and she's lost a wealthy husband and she's now escorted around by a gigolo and she's trying to recapture her youth. You see it all the time and that's really disgraceful. Recapture her youth, when she can have something so marvelous, so wonderful by growing in GRACE by the knowledge of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Why does she want to recapture her childhood? People are fighting it all the time.

I know and I've read of people who have had operations on their faces to remove wrinkles. Somehow they associate wrinkles and getting older, losing their hair, and a double chin, a protruding midsection, and all the rest of it as just horrible and awful things. Now you may have one or two or three of those things, but the principle here is very simple. You, too, will get older. Believe me you will get older, unless the Communists grab you first. But the older you get as a Christian, the more you should discover the wonderful things that are found in this word "love."

Now this word "submit" that we have is not difficult at all. It is the easiest thing in the world because God commands it. "Wives submit to your husbands." He said it, I didn't. You know if the LORD tells you to do something, **it's easy!** If it isn't easy, it isn't God. If He says, now you've got to walk three paces forward, turn to the left, open the window, cough four times, lay on the floor and I'll give you the Holy Spirit. NO WAY! If He tells you to do something, He's given you the equipment to do it with, and also the desire. When a woman has someone like the Lord to respond to properly, it will be no problem.

While it starts out with the words "women submitting," that's not as bad as it appears. It's not some slavery or bondage. **This is something wonderful and gracious and this is something God has ordained** under Divine Institution #2, marriage, where the woman was taken from the man and **the man is empty without the woman and where the woman was part of that man and when she goes back to that man in marriage, they fulfill and complement and implement each other.** "The twain shall become one." A compound unity (Genesis 2:16-24). And that's where we get the principle.

And this verse says, "in the fear of God." "Women submit unto your own husband in the fear of the God." This, of course, refers to Divine discipline. **There is perpetual misery to any woman who for any reason or another cannot put herself into this category of submission.** And this can be accom-

plished quickly by the filling of the Holy Spirit, providing all things are involved. Both are believers, both are positive, both are in fellowship, and the man is initiating love to the woman and she responds.

Now verse 23, "For the husband is the head of the wife." See here is authority. Here is Divine authority. Here is divinely constituted authority. The husband is head of the wife and the word "is" is a present active indicative. It's a verb of absolute status quo, which means "always is." And the word "head" means "ruler."

Remember in Genesis also when the Lord said to the woman "Your desire shall be to your own husband and he shall rule over YOU." **That's Divine constituted authority. He's the ruler of the wife.** Now women if you're in single bliss and you cannot submit to some man, then stay away from marriage. Stay away from the whole concept, because you are your own authority until such time as you get married. If this is not palatable to you then stay away from it. You have free will. You have volition so you say "no thank you, not today, I think I'll pass on this deal."

The husband is the ruler of the wife and then we have the analogy here in verse 23 "even as Christ is the ruler of the Church." All you have to do is put the husband and Christ on this side of the ledger, heads, and on this side you put the woman and the Church. Then you have a perfect analogy. That's the Bible teaching the Bible. That's how the Holy Spirit teaches so that you need no man teach you. The Bible explains the Bible. Is Jesus Christ the Head of the Church? If I gave you an exam, if you didn't say "yes," I'd give you the answer "yes He is."

Then this verse says in marriage the man is the head. It doesn't say he is? It says he is! Now, if a woman can't accept that, stay single, don't marry him. Very simple, stay single. Now the analogy is so clear here it doesn't need much amplification.

The rest of phrase needs amplification "He is the Saviour of the body," and the body is the Church. Christ is the Saviour of the

Church. Everyone who is in the Church, the body of Christ, is saved. That's the Church universal. I'm not talking about this local church. I'm talking about believers all over the world. The analogy then is this: Going into marriage the husband is the saviour of the wife's body because her body is not complete without her husband. So the analogy continues, she can't save herself, as it were, he must. Then the animation and the femininity of the woman comes, of course, in marriage through her response to her husband. So for those men or women who are in, status quo single, stay that way until you can do this.

Verse 24 "Wherefore as the Church is subject unto Christ." "is subject" is a present tense, habitual, middle voice means we as believers are benefited by submitting unto the Lord. "Therefore as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything." All right, that's the women. Now the women can rest and we get to the men in verse 25.

Verse 25, "Husbands love your own wives." Now notice three things about this word "love." I'll give you four things. First I'll put it down and I'll spell it out later. The first thing I want to tell you about it is the present tense. Present tense is keep on doing it, habitually. The second thing I want to tell you about this word "love" is it's an active voice. The active voice means that the husbands do it. The husband is the initiator here of love.

The subject is love. Three, the imperative mood. This is a command. **This is an order from God.** It says, "Husbands keep on loving your wives" and this is not an order to all husbands. This is to husbands who are born again, their wives are born again, they are in fellowship, he's initiating love and the wife is responding. Fourth, this is Divine love. It's not for all husbands. Divine love, that's for Christians only. Only a Christian husband can love in the sense of this word here. And the Greek word for love here is AGAPE and the verb would be AGAPEO. This is Divine love and only a believing husband can produce Divine love. To produce this he must be

not only be born again, he must be filled by the Spirit and that's Galatians 5:22, 23 and Romans 5:5. Galatians 5:22 says, "The fruit of the Spirit is love." Romans 5:5 says, "The love of God which is shed abroad in our hearts BY MEANS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT." For his wife to respond, she also must be FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT. **He's filled with the Spirit and he's initiating love, but in order for her to respond, she has to be in fellowship too.**

Now when this exists, there is no jealousy on the part of the woman. For example, when her husband leaves and goes to work and is engaged in business and other things in life, she's fulfilled by him and actually he makes her love for him overflow and she appreciates his other activities, like business. Now if he is always home and is always there, of course the whole picture would change and lose out. A lot of people get married and the guy stays home and she goes to work, like putting him through school and all this. It never works out. He's home too much.

Now this is Divine love and it needs a little amplification. **Divine love is always based on GRACE. In other words, you don't make your wife earn your affection.** That's the first principle you must understand about Divine love. This thing about the quickest way to a man's heart is through his stomach, is for the birds. Or for the canine world. But it isn't true. **The quickest way to get to a man's heart is for the man to love the woman and for the woman to respond to the husband's love.** That's the quickest way. So if he loves her with a Divine love, whether she's the world's best cook or not, it doesn't make any difference. We still have Jo Jo's. People fight over food and I can't believe it. But the mistakes she makes do not become the basis for constant picking.

I don't know if you know this or not but men are naggers too. Some of the most vicious nagging comes from men and not from women. Women are naggers in a lot of things, but so are men. Some men are constantly nagging their wives about all sorts of things. They're never happy, they're never

satisfied. Nothing ever pleases them. Now that's not loving with Divine love.

Some men don't understand why their wives run away. They don't understand why they get mad, or blow their cork. They suddenly become active in some club and are never home. It's the simplest thing in the world. **Men have been nagging them for years.** You can't live and love with love like that and with the love that Christ loved with.

Do you know one of the worst groups that ever assembled themselves about the Lord was the disciples, but the Lord loved them nevertheless.

So this word for Divine love also means LOVE THAT NEVER CHANGES. If she burns the toast, this doesn't mean he will love her any less. If she does something wrong, if she tears up something around the house: breaks a lot of things: she forgets to put oil in the car and all of a sudden there's a strange noise in the transmission; it's not the basis for reminding her of it for the next five or ten years and chewing her out all of the time. That's not Divine love. This is not human love. The Christian husband has this ability to produce Divine love. How? **The filling of the Holy Spirit produces that.**

Now think for a minute as men, how many times have you actually torn some woman apart? For what? Nothing really. Something was wrong with the cooking, something was wrong with the car; something was wrong with the house; something wasn't done; something wasn't done exactly properly, so what? Fifty years from now, five years from now, **what difference does it make?** I'll tell you this, it makes a lot of difference if in five or fifty years from now, you're still living with that same woman and you're still talking about the same thing and you see there's no mental growth there and that love doesn't grow and so men come along into a bitter old age and the honeymoon is over. He no longer looks like Robert Redford or Don Juan and he's looking at this woman who doesn't care anything about him at all, and she's a perfect stranger. They've been married for 25 years. The kids are all

grown up and they're married and now two strangers are peering at each other over breakfast, and it starts with the man.

In every marriage the man is at least 51% responsible for the marriage. "Husbands love your wives." Because the woman is still the responder. That's the way God made her. Don't blame me. He did it. And God isn't going to change His Word or His mind. No matter who the crackpot is, or whoever the cranky man is, or what kind of women's lib there happens to be. Let's face it; some men are going to have most miserable old ages simply because they have never discovered all these wonderful things that God's Word has for them.

Now this can only be rectified by the Filling of the Spirit. Some of the hardest habits in the world to break are nagging. You don't realize it but **the man who constantly nags his wife is a man who really hates her.** He uses his wife to satisfy his physical desires and as a housekeeper and a maid but that's about it. I know Christians who live that way. That isn't the Christian Way of Life. Some animals can do better than that.

So this word "love" is a very important word, like "submit" is very important. You have "submit" to the woman and "love" for the man. Love is Divine Love, not human love. So the man who nags his wife for ten or 25 years will reap every ounce of it. Divine love always operates on GRACE.

GRACE overlooks somethings, and forgets, and doesn't make an issue out of petty things and little things. Consequently, Divine love is something that grows and grows and it now belongs to those members of the human race who are filled with the Spirit. With the help of the Lord and many other things, the longer people are married, the happier they should be and not vice versa.

Now verse 25 has the analogy. It says, "Even as Christ also ONCE AND FOR ALL loved the Church." I want you to notice the change in the translation I made. The present, active, imperative for the husband. "Husbands keep on loving your wife." habitu-

ally. "Even as Christ." Then you have an aorist tense ONCE AND FOR ALL, "loved the Church." and once and for all "gave Himself for the Church." "Husbands keep on loving your wives, even as Christ once and for all loved the Church, even as Christ once and for all gave Himself for the Church."

Now there is an expression of love. In other words, **what is this thing called love? Giving!!!** "As Christ once and for all GAVE Himself." GIVING - I don't mean money. I don't mean giving presents. Christ didn't give money or presents. I don't mean giving material things. Those things are all right, but that's way down the line. When it says for a husband to love his wife, **he must first of all GIVE.** What does he give? I'm going to tell you two words that are not in the 20th century anymore: **thoughtfulness and consideration.**

There are certain times when women are by nature, upset, when women are more nervous than at other times. There are certain times, for example, pregnancy and so forth, when women need more understanding and need more thoughtfulness. And the first way in which love expresses itself, is in giving **thoughtfulness, in providing a mental attitude of security and mental attitude of peace and blessing in the home.** Instead of making an issue and a fight and yelling and screaming and carrying on.

So what is the issue then? GIVE. **Give thoughtfulness, give courtesy, give consideration, give in some cases, forgiveness.** Forget some things. Often if a man can forget the woman's mistakes and **not** bring them up the woman will learn from her own mistakes and that's exactly what God does with us. "Even as Christ."

A part of love is forgetfulness. I never saw a married couple yet who came in with a problem that ever took Philippians 3:13 which says "Forget those things which are behind." They come in the door and they say, "He did this and she did this." Well, what about Philippians 3:13? "Forget those things." Well, "You know, what she did ten years ago?" "You know what he did five years ago?" Here

we go, but never use Philippians 3:13. "Yeah, I'm a Christian. I go to church all the time." But not one application.

Catch your wife doing something wrong, hold her feet to the fire, don't let her up and make her cook and wash your feet. Uh uh. God said, "I will not remember your sins and your iniquities no more. I have put them behind My back. As far as the east is from the west." Wouldn't that be nice on the refrigerator, instead of Farah Fawcett or Jane Fonda? Wouldn't that be neat? So you say "Honey, I know you bent the fender, so what? Forget it. That's only a car. We still have each other." FORGET IT! No, hold her feet to the fire. "I'm gonna make this sucker pay for this. I got her now."

When we confess our sins as believers, God forgives us and takes the discipline away. Why? **We've learned from our own mistake. Let your wife learn from her own mistake and let your husband learn from his own mistake.**

I want to make one statement. When you know the Word of God, then men will learn something about women because **women are a part of the Word of God.** You know God writes about women. People are always writing books about women and they're right here. What makes a woman tick? What makes her respond? What turns a woman into a wonderful person and a wonderful companion? Even though there's a change in her age and her physiology, **love doesn't decrease.** IT INCREASES! It multiplies.

What in the world provides all of that? It's a part of the Christian way of life and in one word, the Word of God does it. "As Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it." **The result of loving is giving, and first of all it's mental giving. It's giving and providing many things. IT'S EMPHASIS ON THE GIVER, NOT THE GIFT.** Materialistic giving is included too, of course, but not as important. "He that provides not for his own family is worse than an infidel." And that word "provide" has nothing to do with money.

Verse 26, "That he might sanctify and cleanse it by the washing of the water of the Word." Now the word "sanctify" is a word that means to be "set apart." This is an aorist tense. When a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is exposed to the Word, you see it says "washing of the water by the Word"... when a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is exposed to the Word of God anytime that he assembles himself for the hearing of the Word, takes in the Word of God, active voice goes with the meaning of the word; the believer is set apart at that moment as a result of "growing in GRACE by the knowledge of our Saviour Jesus Christ." He's set apart in the sense that he's heading towards maturity.

But the subjunctive mood here indicates that this is potential. Some will and some won't. Whether this person is set apart or not depends entirely upon one thing... the daily function of growing in GRACE. **So the Word is to the believer is what the right man is to the right woman.**

Now we have another analogy. In verse 25 we have Right Man/Right Woman. In verse 26 we have Christ and the Church which is called here the body and on the Earth the Church is called the body of Christ. And the body is set apart. The Lord Jesus Christ has provided the Word. The Word is communicated which results in maturity in the soul. So we have this principle then "that He might sanctify." set apart. This is experiential sanctification and this has to do with one thing: the daily function of taking in the Word.

Notice it says "sanctify and cleanse it" and the words "cleanse it" mean to purify, and it has to do with the function of being in fellowship and controlled by the Holy Spirit. Before you can be sanctified in the sense of being mature, you must be under numerous occasions in which you are filled by the Spirit. In other words, every time that you hear the Word, the action of the aorist participle precedes the main verb and the main verb is sanctify and the sanctification has to do with growing in GRACE leading to maturity. The aorist participle has to do with the filling of the Spirit.

So we can say this: YOU CAN GROW UNDER THE WORD ONLY WHEN YOU'RE FILLED BY THE SPIRIT. So we have "cleansing" here, but the cleansing is an aorist participle and the action of the aorist participle has to precede the main verb. It has to come first. **There can be no function of growth under the Word apart from the Spirit-filled life,** which means 1 John 1:9. So sanctify and cleanse.

Then you have that little word "it". "Sanc-tify and cleanse IT." That's a feminine singular and that's talking about the Church, which is feminine and singular. "It" and Church are both feminine singular. It should be translated "that He might cleanse HER." It's talking about every believer in the body of Christ.

How is this cleansing going to take place? Well, if you come under the teaching of the Word and you're growing in GRACE which demands the filling of the Spirit and so there's no set apartness from cleansing until you're in fellowship and until you hear the Word. The Word of God cleanses the believer when the Word of God is taken in.

Cleansing has another concept in our context here. It has to do with this marriage principle of Right Man and Right Woman. **The only true cleansing when the Right Man is with the Right Woman is when she responds to him.** See, "husbands love your wives" in verse 25; and there's love directed towards one person and that's the Right Woman.

So we have the same concept here, the Word. The Word can only go into one type of person and that's the believer in the body of Christ. Every believer in this age. The believer becomes the recipient of the Word and the Word is the expression of the Lord's love towards us, just as the Right Man makes love to the Right Woman and she responds. So, the believer responds to the Word of the Lord, and the Word is said to be the seed and the Word must go into the human spirit where the seed becomes production.

That's what the Bible calls in James 1:25 "the impregnated Word of God," and the con-

cept of cleansing as far as the Word is concerned is the filling of the Spirit. And cleansing as far as the analogy is concerned is that the Right Woman can only respond to the Right Man, and when she responds to the Right Man, she's clean. When she responds to another man, she's unclean.

So the cleansing is the fact that the Right Woman is responding to the Right Man and this is analogous to the filling of the Spirit making it possible for the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ to respond to the Lord through His Word.

All the way through this passage we have our basic analogy, Right Man/Right Woman, and these analogies are obvious. The cleansing is an aorist, active, participle. The active voice indicates that the believer must confess his own sins and be restored back to fellowship and that's the privilege of the believer's priesthood. He must do it in that point of time prior to the intake of the Word of God. **Taking in the Word is that which expresses the love of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

How is this cleansing going to set apart this believer? Notice this verse says, "by means of the washing of the water." And with the water is an instrumental case in the Greek and it means "by means of washing by the water." And that has to do with the Word of God.

Water is used four ways in Scripture. One of the ways in which water is used is literal water like the Jordan River. Another way in which water is used is figurative. One of the figurative ways in which it is used is Isaiah 55:1 where water is used for salvation, "Ho everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters and drink." Then there's another figurative use of water and that's the Holy Spirit. That's found in John 7:37-39 "Out of His innermost being shall flow rivers of living water, this spake He of the Spirit."

The third use is the one we have here in Ephesians 5, the water of the Word which refers to the Word of God going in to the believer and becoming a part of the human

spirit and it refers to the function of "growing in GRACE by the knowledge of our Saviour Jesus Christ."

So this says, "by means of washing of water." By means of the water. By means of the Word. Then we have an instrumental case with the word LOGOS and love can be initiated then by the Right Man. In this case Christ is the Right Man and we have a picture of Christ and the Church. How does Christ demonstrate His love toward us? How does Christ demonstrate His love to the Bride of Christ? We're always thinking in terms of superficiality like love is a touch, or love is a look, or love is an embrace, or love is many things. When you talk about loving the brethren, you usually have all kind of concepts apart from the mind. But again, LOVE IS A MENTAL ATTITUDE. Love is a physical attitude. Love is a lot of things. But all of these things do not express the love of the Lord Jesus Christ to us.

His love towards us all during our time on this Earth is expressed only one way. He's not present. Christ is the Initiator just as the Right Man is the initiator. Christ initiates to us. So **the expression of His love is HIS WORD.**

So our response. You see the Right Woman is called the responder. And our response as the Church is called EKKLESIA which is in the feminine gender. The soul is PSUCHE, that's the feminine gender and **so we respond to Christ through the Word.** So the **human spirit** is actually the womb, pardon the expression, which is described in James 1:25; the "impregnated Word." That's the place where production occurs, which is analogous to pregnancy. We have all different types of production in the believer as a result of being impregnated by the Word. We have a frame of reference; we have exhale towards the human race; we have maturity inside.

So, there's the analogy. The relationship between Jesus Christ and the Church is the same as the relationship of Right Man and Right Woman. So, Jesus Christ is analogous to the Right Man. He is the aggressor. He is

the aggressor in salvation. He went to the Cross. He took on our sins and He's the aggressor as far as loving the Church. We didn't first love Him. We love Him because He first loved us. Who initiated that? He did.

Therefore, it's not the experience we have, it's the response to the Word that we have. The response to the Lord, who is called the Bishop of the soul. We are designed as born-again believers, we have a relationship; we're married, as it were; and we're to respond to the Word, just as a Right Woman is designed to respond to the Right Man. **When the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is positive to the Word, then he begins to respond and he continues to respond until he reaches maturity in the soul.**

In category one love for the Lord, this includes the fact that you're very relaxed towards God. You know, you don't blame Him for things. You have a capacity for love for Him and you build up this relationship through your response to the Word. **Response to the Word makes it possible for us to have a relationship with the Lord; it also is the same area where we can have relationships with people and things.** You see, your response to the Word is the key.

But in the age of apostasy that we're in, everyone goes in the wrong direction. Everyone then emphasizes some experience. Something they've done for the Lord. Some system; some point system; some legalism.

So our cleansing in this life is two-fold. First of all, fellowship, or confession of sin and being restored back to fellowship and secondly, "GROWING IN GRACE by the knowledge of the LORD Jesus Christ" and heading towards maturity. **Maturity in the soul indicates the believer is daily functioning and responding to God's love.**

He's responding daily to the Word and he's responding daily to the Bible and this response occurs over such a long period of time that he's now mature; just as in the case of Right Man and Right Woman.

The Right Woman responds over a period of time until she becomes the most fantastic thing. So the believer becomes the glory of God by his continual response to the Word, even as the woman who responds constantly to the man becomes the glory of the man; and we as believers become the glory of the Lord. And how do we do it? By responding to the Word. How does the woman do it? By responding to the man, because of the Word. Corinthians says, "the woman is the glory of the man."

These principles are fabulous. If you have any questions about marriage, these principles will answer them for you. This is a good concentrated section because one time you're talking about a wife, then a husband; then you're talking about Christ and the Church; then a husband and wife and Christ and the Church; and they're so interchanged that after a while you'll not know if it's Christ or the husband, or if it's a believer or the woman. You can see the analogy and it's so great how God has taken marriage and shown that.

People talk about marriage today like its something where you move in with someone and if you don't like it you move out and throw the keys in the pool! They've missed it completely.

The thing I like about it is it's written down in the Word. You can read it. It's understandable. Everyone knows about male and female. We know our desires. **God put them there and He's provided for them so we won't miss it.**

MEMBERS OF HIS BODY

We're in Ephesians 5, and we've been noticing the intertwining of two categories. In verse 22, it talks about marriage and we studied that passage. In verse 23 again, it talks about marriage and in verse 24, we have the relationship, the principle of marriage between Christ and the Church. In verse 25, we have Christ and the Church. In verse 26, we have Christ and the Church again. Verse 27, Christ and the Church. Verse 28, Marriage. Verse 29, Marriage. Verse 30, Christ and the Church. Verse 31, Marriage. Verse 32, Christ and the Church. Verse 33, Marriage. So I guess from the repetition of that, you can see that the principles are intertwined.

Now in verse 27, where we stopped last time, "That He might present it to Himself a glorious Church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing that it should be holy without blemish." Verse 28, "So ought men love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man yet hath hated his own flesh but nourisheth it and cherisheth it even as the Lord the Church." There's that analogy again. "For we are members of His body."

Don't read the next verse "Of His flesh and of His bones." I heard a guy do a commentary on that and it doesn't even appear in the original language. That verse is one of those verses when you hear someone on the radio do it, laugh because you know the guy didn't do his homework. Verse 30 reads; "for we are members of His body" period. And the other does not appear until further on down the line.

Verse 31, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother." You should underline that one because if most guys would leave their fathers and mothers when they get married, then the wife wouldn't have to raise another child. It's a Biblical principle. "And shall be joined to his wife and they two shall be one flesh."

Verse 32, "This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the Church."

Verse 33, "But nevertheless let everyone of you in particular so love his wife even as himself as the wife that she reverence her husband." Now I don't want you to go reverence your husband, by bowing down and crossing yourself. The word really means RESPECT.

I'll tell you something. We'll never get to that verse tonight. I want to tell you that's a key word in marriage, because **if you don't respect him, there's no way you're going to receive anything from him. The only way we're able to receive anything from the Lord is because we respect Him. If you lose respect and trust in a man, there's no way you can respond to him.** That's one of the basic principles in Christian counseling, not psychology.

Now in order for us in Ephesians 5 to appropriate these principles, it's necessary to take up the principle of why 2 Peter 3:18 says, "Grow in GRACE by the knowledge of our Saviour Jesus Christ." I want to give you some principles on how it's possible to live the Christian way of life, have a relationship, marriage. Also later on we'll see the family in Chapter 6, children, parents, fathers, and so forth.

Now there's only one way to do it and that's Number One. This book of Ephesians is written to believers. The challenge here is "be habitually controlled by the Holy Spirit" Ephesians 5:18. And as a result of this and the constant "growing in GRACE by the knowledge of our Saviour Jesus Christ," you will be able to have this type of relationship.

So, I want to give you some points on the principle of how it's possible for a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ to GROW. The first principle is that we have to remember that **every believer is designed by regeneration to respond to the Word.** In other words, the moment that you accepted Christ

as Saviour, a new creature in Christ, you have a new birth. At that moment every believer is designed by regeneration to respond to the Word. That believer is not designed to respond to the Word on the basis of human ability. **It's not human ability that is the basis for responding to the Word.**

Therefore, human IQ and spiritual IQ must be distinguished. **Human IQ is the result of works.** Human IQ is the result of human ability. So we have human IQ and we also have spiritual IQ. Human IQ, like works, is rationalism, empiricism and spiritual IQ is GRACE. **So, we actually have GRACE vs. WORKS, even in IQ.**

Human IQ is actually taking a test and dividing it by your chronological age and coming up with a number which determines your human ability in the field of perspicacity. How'd you like that sentence? Wasn't that great? I got it right off a Wheaties box. Now when you go to school and they give you an IQ test, that's what they do. They come up with a number by taking a test and they divide it by your chronological age and it determines your human ability in the field of perception.

Spiritual IQ is something that God has designed billions of years ago for every believer. See, that knocks the tar out of those guys that think they're so smart. You're dumb and they're smarter than you, so they're more spiritual, or they're so intelligent that they can grasp the Word quicker than you because you only went to the third grade. No. That's not true at all. Human IQ has nothing to do with it.

In GRACE, in Eternity, God found a way to take a person who's one point above an idiot, all the way to genius and to provide the Word for them so they may respond. Every believer is the Lord's, as it were. Every believer is the Lord's Right Woman. You see this is the analogy that's coming up here.

So every believer then, is a part of the Body of Christ. We read that in verse 30. And the body is said to be the Church. So the analogy of Right Man and Right Woman.

What is the body? When a man finds his Right Woman, her body is his body. It's an extension of his body. This is the analogy.

The Right Man initiates love to the woman, just as he would to his own body. The woman is his body. The believer in the Church Age is Christ's own body. And Christ provides for his body, as a Right Man, now put this down, **SHOULD** provide for his body, his Right Woman. "He that provideth not for his family is worse than an infidel, especially for those of his own household."

Now that's the analogy here and when a Right Man loves a Right Woman, do you think that he somehow is going to neglect her? Well then, you would have to say that Christ would neglect you. See, you can't say that. Not at all. He'll find a way to provide for her. That's one of the principles.

Never marry someone who doesn't have responsibility on the job. That's a dead giveaway. **If he can't take care of himself, he sure isn't going to take care of you.** Jesus Christ has not neglected you. Billions of years ago in Eternity Past He found a way to provide for you, His body.

Now this is apart from the Old Testament saints. They are **not** the body of Christ. Only those believers in the Church Age, from Pentecost to the Rapture. During the Church Age period, every believer is a part of that body of Christ. This anticipates the direction in which we're going in our passage, because beginning with our next verse, verse 27, we're going to see the principle of the body as far as Christ and the Church is concerned. In verse 28 it will be applied to Right Man and Right Woman. Right Man and Right Woman is the basis for this analogy.

Now you must remember that as far as precedent is concerned, chronological precedence, the Right Man/Right Woman relationship existed in Innocence. Before the fall, Right Man/Right Woman existed in Innocence. From that time of the creation of the woman, Right Man and Right Woman has always existed as a principle. There are people that say because someone hasn't waited, or

appropriated Right Man and Right Woman, it no longer exists. That's not correct. Right Man/Right Woman existed before the fall and when they did fall, they still had Right Man/Right Woman. That didn't abrogate it. See, so don't let anyone kid you about that principle. It's like saying, "Here is salvation and you don't want it, so it's no longer available." No! It existed all during the time of the Age of Innocence, and when the fall of man occurred, the principle continues and it forms the basis for many different categories in the Word, including Old Testament doctrine.

You see, in the Old Testament you have a relationship between the Lord and Judah, and that's analogous to Right Man and Right Woman. You have a relationship between Christ and the Church in the New Testament and that's analogous to Right Man and Right Woman. **Right Man and Right Woman was the first basic relationship in life.** The very first. That was the number one relationship. **First was with God.** Jesus Christ came in the garden every day. But there was also a relationship between Adam and Eve from the very beginning. The basis for the analogy for every relationship type of doctrine. Therefore, it forms the basis for the analogy in this passage here.

Now in responding to the love of Jesus Christ, that's the only way that a believer can respond. He has to be positive to the Word of God and that's his response to love. **If the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is unfaithful, it's because he becomes apostate and he rejects the Word and goes negative in that area.** Often when people neglect the Word of God, they're unfaithful in their own relationships in life with people. So you can't afford to neglect the Word of God for a second. The Word of God is your life, NOT EXPERIENCE.

People always talk about having an experience, some glowing experience, some lovely experience, some pleasant experience. **Experience is always the result.** Listen, when a Right Man finds his Right Woman and he initiates love and she responds, **that's the experience.** Here's another princi-

ple for you. **That couple does not need any experience prior to that time.**

Now we have a new attitude today on the part of this generation and it says, "If you're ever going to have a good marriage, if marriage is important to you," then people say, "all you have to do is have a lot of sexual experiences now." That's what the new fad is. The more experience you have, the better you'll be. A woman comes to her husband and she says, "I'm sorry that I haven't had an affair or two, so I can be a better wife." Ugh! The principle would be if she said she'd had none.

But you see, you don't need experience. You learn that from the Word of God. The Word of God is the thing that counts. If you have the Word and you're heading toward maturity and you find your Right Woman and she's mature, you'll have some experience. It'll be the **explosion of the maturity of your souls.** You'll have a glorious experience. Out of that glorious experience the woman will become the glory of the man, just as the Word received in the human spirit becomes the glory of the Lord! **You glorify God by the Word. You glorify God by growing in GRACE;** therefore, this point two says, **growing in GRACE is designed to fulfill the purpose of the utilization of the Word and the reception and utilization of the Word.**

Now our third point is human IQ, which is excluded in growing in GRACE. Human IQ has always been regarded as a factor in life, but **it's not a factor in learning the Word of God** because this would imply that a low IQ believer cannot learn the Word. There's nothing in the realm of the Word of God that a low IQ believer cannot learn. He can learn it just as fast as a genius. **They both learn it the same way, through the filling of the Holy Spirit and the function of growing in GRACE.**

Point four. Therefore, there must be a provision whereby a person with a low IQ and a genius have the same chance at growing underneath the Word. And you have the same response to the Word and you

must understand the importance of the Word. Once you've accepted Christ as your Saviour, I suppose you know that you have had it; because you are now designed by regeneration to respond to the Word and you cannot respond to false ideas. That's like making love to the wrong person which produces trouble and ends up with callouses on your soul and a seared conscience.

So false doctrine and experiential doctrine, the tongues movement, the second blessing crowd and all those people are looking for some ecstatic experience. **Responding to the Word of God will give you ecstasies and the false won't do it.** This is like being out of the Right Man/Right Woman relationship and being unfaithful.

So false doctrines and experience, you can't respond to those things as a born again believer. **You're designed to respond to the Word and the Word is the only basis for your development as well as your whole life, and all your relationships are based on the Word.** No Word, no relationships in life. So, point four tells us **the GRACE provision for the reception of the Word.** In other words, we have everything that's needed to grow. The formation and the preservation of the Canon of Scripture, the Bible. We have the Bible and it's put in its permanent form and we have everything we will ever need. God provided the writers, he provided the information and the preservation after the Canon was completed in 96 A.D. So God provided the Word for us so we can grow.

Secondly, God provided the authorization of local churches and this is compatible with the priesthood of the believer. You're gathered as believer priests and you have privacy to listen or not to listen; to take in the Word of God, or not to.

Then thirdly, God provided spiritual gifts as communicators and he's the communicator of the Word and he feeds the people so they can "grow in GRACE by the knowledge of our Saviour Jesus Christ."

We also have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which is the way in which through which we have the filling of the Spirit go we can grow in GRACE and function because **the Holy Spirit guides us and teaches us all Truth.**

We also have the principle of fellowship, that's restoration which guarantees the filling of the Spirit and gives you concentration. Someone asked, "What is so good about confessing your sins and getting back into fellowship?" Well, it gives you concentration. It gives you comprehension. It gives you an opportunity to cycle the Word of God from the pages of the Bible into your human spirit. Also we have a human spirit provided by God at the point of salvation and that's the target area for the Word.

You have a priesthood. You're a priest. You have privacy to take in the Word. You have a soul and your soul can function by taking it in an exhaling it also. Everything is provided for us. So in checking out this list, we have the Word of God; we have the authorization of the a local church; we have a pastor-teacher; we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; we have techniques whereby we can get in fellowship; we have the human spirit; we have the Holy Spirit; we're all believer priests; we have a soul to function with. So if you run down that checklist, then we here at Houston Bible Church are functioning properly before the Lord. That's a good check list.

We have communication of the Word of God. We have reception. Once you know it, you go positive and transfer it by faith to your human spirit and that's the basis for production. That's the objective. That's reflecting the glory of God. How do you glorify God? Why through growth and maturity. You say, what about prayer and witnessing? They're results, not causes, results which guarantee that your witnessing and prayer and other functions will be production of Divine Good.

Now verse 27 is where we are in Ephesians 5. "That He might present it to Himself a glorious Church," "That" introduces a purpose clause. "Presentation" here is an inter-

esting word. “That He might PRESENT it to Himself a glorious Church.” Interesting because its PARHISTIMI, that’s the word for “present.” It’s an aorist tense and I want you to watch this very carefully. This will determine how your Christian life goes. If you recall your salvation; the time in which you accepted Christ as your Saviour, I’m not talking about where, the day, or the hour, but just the concept; when you were lost and without hope, without Christ, without eternal life and you at one time made a decision and accepted Christ as your Saviour. If you recall your salvation, the aorist tense of PARHISTIMI means “dedication.” It was used in the ancient world for a man being presented to a woman. That’s the way this word PARHISTIMI was used. That was the marriage and that was the consummation of the marriage.

In our passage in chapter five, we are talking about Right Man/Right Woman and the first physical relationship was a very interesting and a very determining principle. From that one principle Right Man/Right Woman can be determined in a moment; because the first contact that you had with the Word, you were either positive or you were negative. And the first contact was at the point of salvation, when you heard the Gospel.

At the point of salvation, the Word of God was meaningful to you, or it was not meaningful to you. Someone said you can have eternal life by accepting Christ as Saviour. Now at that moment that was either meaningful to you, or it wasn’t. Many people emphasize experience and that rosy glow rather than their attitude towards the Word of God at the point of Gospel hearing.

So this aorist tense picks up the point of time here and often if you can recall what happened in salvation, the principle of your attitude at salvation, this will express your attitude throughout your entire Christian life, apart from some very radical changes. Just as when the Right Woman, here, is dedicated to the Right Man at the point of the consummation of the marriage.

When we accepted Christ as Saviour He initiated love to us; we responded, and that’s a relationship. That’s a point of time; that’s the dedication. When a Right Woman is dedicated to the Right Man at the point of the consummation of the marriage, **her response at that time will often indicate how that relationship will go.**

I have counseled some people and on the basis of that principle, their marriage lasted one hour. Either the guy was an animal, or the woman was taught something by her dear aunt to be mysterious or what have you, and they never made it an hour. And they’ve been paranoid ever since. This is a good principle. Her responses at the time will often indicate how the relationship will go. A tremendous response.

Sometimes the crying of a woman is sheer happiness. You know some guys don’t understand that. A woman’s got a tremendous apparatus. If she’s in a jam, she cries. But sometimes it’s happiness. You have to be discerning. Sometimes it’s something entirely different. But everything that’s involved when a Right Woman responds to Right Man will often determine the rest of the course of that relationship, with its ups and downs.

There’s always a basic response. So that say, 10 years or 20 years later there may be disagreements, there may be spats, or arguments, or difficulties, and misunderstandings, lack of information leads to misunderstandings, so what happens? Twenty or thirty years later we have F.A., a Fierce Argument between a Right Man and Right Woman. Then the Right Man initiates love and becomes aggressive to the Right Woman and because of that built in relationship, she responds and that’s the end of Fierce Argument.

The pattern was set and that’s the aorist tense of the word PARHISTEMI, which means a presentation or a dedication in a point of time. And the analogy here is between Right Man and Right Woman. The analogy is to the beginning of our Christian life. When people respond and realize the value of the Word from the very start, they’re

going to have a fantastic relationship with the Lord. If they do not, then their relationship is going to be disastrous. Just as Wrong Man and Wrong Woman in marriage is a disastrous situation, **there is no substitute for the Word of God.**

Someone asked me if there was going to be a class, I said, "I don't care if it snows. I can come here and if no one comes, then I'll go home." They're all excited about hurricanes. I lived in Florida for 15 years and I counted them, I've been through 39. I couldn't care less. You know, the only thing it's good for is business. You can't buy a candle for anything. I told a guy to go around the corner to the Catholic church. They've got a million of them over there. And there's none in the stores. People are going nuts. Help me make it through the night. This is great. I wish it would hit Cuba. That was my prayer. I missed. Hit them! He didn't want to do it that way.

Now this is interesting; "that He might present it." The word "it." "The Bride to Himself." You can see the analogy, here. Please notice, "to Himself." It's a reflexive pronoun. It refers to Christ as the Groom. Now since the body isn't complete in the Church Age, because the Church Age isn't over yet, the Rapture is the completion. So the body is being filled up until the Rapture. So now, since the body isn't filled in the Church Age, we're not looking at the completion of the body. The Church Age is the age of the formation of the body. It's still in formation.

When the body goes up, it becomes the Bride. The body is not the Bride yet. Jesus Christ is not going to marry an old sin nature!

So, at the Rapture of the Church, you drop your old sin nature like a tank on an airplane. When you get a resurrection body, then He has the marriage. You didn't think He'd be foolish enough to mess around with your old sin nature, did you? No way! That's the spots and the wrinkles. You thought they were facial. No that's what's coming up.

So the analogy is here. This is a period of the Church Age, as it were, the courtship.

We met Him at the cross. The Church Age is the period of the courtship. At the Rapture of the Church we marry Him. This is the espousal period, and the consummation is at the Rapture. Get the significance of that!! I don't want to get too racy for you, because the last time we were on marriage why it rained also. Remember? It was getting too warm in here.

Now tonight we're doing it again and we've got another storm. Maybe we should X-rate it. But you see the consummation is the Rapture. That's the marriage. It's the resurrection of the Church. When the Church receives a resurrection body, the body is completed and the marriage takes place in Heaven. Someone said to me "I thought all marriages were made in Heaven." I said, "No, we make some." There is going to be a marriage in Heaven, that's the Rapture of the Church.

So during this period, the Church Age, how will it be determined how this marriage will go? Well, one thing, **the way you respond to the Word of God.** The Word is the Lord initiating love to you, toward His body. And this is where the verse says, "that He might dedicate it to Himself."

Then it says "glorious" which means splendid, gorgeous, glorious, DOXA. This is used in Luke 7:25 for gorgeous or glorious clothing. The glorious clothing of the believer at the point of the Rapture is the resurrection body. See, it's going to be a glorious Church. Now a body, then a bride.

Notice it says, "not having" and the word "not having" is "not having and holding" and it's the word ECHO. The word "spot" is SPILOS and that's where we get our English word spill. SPILOS refers to a moral stain. It refers to the function of the old sin nature and "not having," refers to the removal of the old sin nature at the point of the Rapture, or when experiential sanctification becomes ultimate sanctification.

The next word is wrinkle, RUTIS is that word. **This bride will not have wrinkles, which refers to HUMAN GOOD.** I'll tell you this, everyone asks what's it going to be like

in Heaven? The passage coming up in our study of Psalms very shortly that says, "There will be pleasures forevermore." That's enough for me right there. But here's one right here. Here's another one. It's going to be nice in Heaven; there's going to be no moral stain, **no old sin nature and no human good** or any such things. In other words, all aspects of the old sin nature are going to be removed in the future. **But our only protection from the old sin nature now while we're in the Church Age is the Word of God.** So if you neglect that you're in bad shape.

Then we have the word "but," which is a conjunction of contrast; and this is a contrast between a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ in time, the body here on the Earth, and a believer at the Rapture of the Church as the bride. "But" takes you as a believer from here in time with an old sin nature functioning before the Lord; and then shows you after you're gone. That's where the "but" is. "But that it should be holy and without blemish."

"That it should be" is an absolute status quo, but it's in the subjunctive mood, so we go back to time now. See in the future, we're going to be the bride minus the old sin nature. We're going to have a resurrection body minus human good. And we have a subjunctive mood of the verb "to be." Right now the subjunctive mood says it's potential. Maybe Yes, maybe No. **It depends upon your attitude in time**, whether you are holy or not, now.

The word "holy" is HAGIA, which means ceremonially, and this, of course, means that we can be now, through the Word, and will be a reality then through the direct action of Jesus Christ. In other words, you can be in fellowship in time with an old sin nature and have it controlled by the Holy Spirit and grow in GRACE. But in the future, by a direct action of the Lord Jesus Christ, you'll no longer have that old sin nature. "But that it should be," the body ceremonially, "holy" in perfect garments "without blemish" and that's the removal of all traces of the old sin nature. **All**

of it is going to be completely and totally removed, including human good.

Now verse 27 gives us the intention of the Lord Jesus Christ and gives us His objective. His objective, Christ, at the end of the Church Age is to have a marriage. The Church is the bride and includes every believer between Pentecost and the Rapture. That means He's going to care for the body during this interim period, during this angelic conflict. Since these things in the future are going to be without spot and without wrinkle or any such thing, we're going to have these glorious things in the future.

What are we going to have now, before the Rapture? What can we have now? See this Rapture will be in a moment of time. He's going to present us in a marvelous way, but in the mean time, as they say in the movies, back at the ranch, before the presentation, now what do we have as a manifestation of His love? We have the Word of God. We have the Word in writing, we have the full Canon of Scripture. But it's not going to help you there. **It has to be usable inside of the human spirit.**

So in verse 28 we go back to the analogy of Right Man and Right Woman. Let's review for just a second here to show you where this is going. In verse 26 we have the perspective. What do we have today? We have the washing of the water by means of the Word. We have the Word of God. What do we have in the future? Verse 27, we're going to be the bride. Verse 26 the Word is for the body. Verse 27, the resurrection for the bride. Verse 26, experiential sanctification; verse 27, ultimate sanctification; verse 28, we go back to the analogy. So he produces the analogy again, the completion of it.

"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies." Now the word "ought" sets up an obligation. **There's a Right Man for a Right Woman.** It sets up an obligation. **The man must be the initiator and the aggressor.** The man must be that, because it's present tense, continuous; active voice, he's got to do it himself; the indicative is the reality of it. It indicates an obligation which is perpetu-

ated from the time that the Right Woman is discovered. **A man has a perpetual obligation.** He must **keep on.** It's a present tense.

The word for "man" is not ANTHROPOS, a generic term, it's the word ANER, to indicate NOBLEMAN. **When you find your Right Man, he's a nobleman, just not an ordinary man.** That's the word for "hero" in the Hebrew. This word ANER and the Hebrew word GABER are the same, and they're noble in that sense. And they're called "heroes" in the New Testament.

It says in Jeremiah, "A female shall encompass her hero." I'm not going to tell you what that means, you may blush. Here you have ANER in the same connotation. **For every woman there is a Right Man and that Right Man is ANER in the Greek language and ANER means "nobleman" or "hero."** The interesting thing is once you find your Right Man, once a hero, always a hero. You heard that opera "My Hero," well here it is. **God designed a hero for you.**

Sometimes your hero will act and make noises like a, what shall we call him, a so-'n-so. Sometimes he'll act and make noises like a hero. But whether he's a so-'n-so or a hero, he's YOUR hero and he's designed for you. **God issues each female in the human race one hero.**

This expresses that wonderful relationship because ANER, here, has an obligation. See, the word "ought" is a verb and it's a verb of obligation. **And it means "to owe," to have an obligation.** It's a present tense, active voice. The Right Man owes this to his Right Woman. And it's an indicative mood which is a reality of Right Man/Right Woman.

So ought the hero, the ANER, the Right Man, the nobleman. Now what's his obligation? It's expressed in the present, active, infinitive of the word "love" and it's AGAPAO and that's the key at this particular point. Present tense, loving; active voice, the subject produces the action of the verb; the infinitive denotes that this is God's purpose. The husband or the Right Man produces the action of

the verb. **His capacity as a believer to do this stems from his growth in the soul.**

In other words, the Right Man's attitude towards the Right Woman's body is what is mentioned here, which is AGAPAO. It's love, but it's a mental attitude love. **It's love in the mind, which is the absence of pride and bitterness and vindictiveness and implacability.** So your hero has a mental attitude of love, not towards your soul, but towards your body. You say, well all the guys do that. Nope, uh uh.

Many of you ladies may have developed, or will develop, later on in life what I have titled "body insecurity." That means wrinkles, change of your general form, aging as it were. Well, here it is, a Right Man will have a mental attitude love towards the body of the Right Woman, so that when the inevitable happens, you still have that glow, that reflected glory.

Now ladies, if you're honest, you ought to know that every day, I'll whisper it to you, you get one day older. It's true, I wouldn't lie to you, but you can't win an election when you say "Ladies, you're getting one day older." Men do too, but it doesn't show as much on men in most cases. The reason it doesn't show is because the man really doesn't have to think about it, unless he's one of these idiots who are mixed up about muscles. Then he shows it, then he's in trouble.

Now this man has a mental attitude toward the soul of the woman, but that's not covered here. The whole passage is talking about body. **He shall love his own body, like Christ loved His Body.** The analogy here is the body. He has a mental attitude love toward the body of a Right Woman, and you'll never guess why. Not because she's lifted her face; not because she's past 30 and looks like 20. **His mental attitude towards her body is because God put something in her body that doesn't change,** even though she does. It goes with the territory. If you have your Right Woman, you'll know all about it. And if you don't, I guess this is where you can say ignorance is bliss.

But the body is not going to remain the same. It gets older and wrinkled. Yet the mental attitude of the man doesn't change.

Why AGAPAO here for love? Why the body? Why mental attitude? Now, let's get it. The mind of Christ today is what? The Word of God. And the Word is for the believer. **As long as a believer is on this Earth and the Word is available, there are some wrinkles in this life.** And there are some stains in this life, and there are some seared consciences, and there are all those "past feeling, empty," types. **But the Word heals it all.**

Believers are the Body of Christ on this Earth and the Word is then mental attitude love, because the Bible is the mind of Christ. This analogy can be carried all the way.

When you see an older couple, Right Man/Right Woman, I have one to mention, and they may look to a youngster like they're horrible, because they're 70 or 80; but the couple that are involved, the man sees her, his Right Woman, and their relationship has been so fantastic down the years, that it's fine. That's the analogy here and that's why you have this with the Lord. **You can have it with the Lord if you want it by the daily intake of the Word.**

So it says here "So ought the hero, the ANER: **he has an obligation, keeps on having an obligation, to keep on loving**, a present, active. The Right Man produces the action. Infinitive: it's God's purpose in Right Man/Right Woman, it's God's purpose in the Church Age.

And please notice, "as." "As" introduces a second analogy. "As their own body." What does it mean "THEIR OWN BODY?" Does it mean his body? The man's body, that he ought to love his own body? You know better than that. That's not what it's talking about. We are the body of Christ. The woman's body is the man's body. No, it's the Right Woman. **Her body is his body.** It is an extension of his body.

Genesis 2:24 says, "The two shall be one flesh." **So the Right Man loves the Right Woman as his own body because**

he has a mental attitude towards her body. He has a mental attitude towards her soul, but this emphasizes her body, and the reason for the analogy again, is that Christ has a mental attitude for the believers which are His body. And he has a mental attitude towards her body and it never changes, just like Christ's attitude towards us, His body. And it never changes when we change every moment on the moment.

Her body changes, but his mental attitude doesn't change. Now that's Right Man/Right Woman. If you have a Right Man, your body's going to change, but his attitude isn't, because in your body is a design by God and his attitude will never change and that's the security that you have. Now you can go home. Facelifting won't do it. Mud packs: OUT! Sauna baths: goodbye. Exercise: fine. Jane Fonda and her dancing bears: OUT.

This is where it is right here. The only thing that's going to help ladies is the Right Man's mental attitude.

Now, "as their own bodies." Now I had to look at this passage. Many people teach this as the man's body. But the man's body is the woman; taught in Genesis 2:24 and we have, or will see in Ephesians 5:31, "and of the twain He made them one." So the body of the Right Woman really belongs to the man. **He is the custodian of her soul and he is the custodian of her body.** This emphasizes his attitude towards her body and the custodianship over her body is **both soul fellowship and sex love.** And this is analogous of presenting of the Word of God to the believer.

Now the principle is given at the end of verse 28, "He that loveth his woman." There's no such word as "wife" in the Bible. Now that's the first time you probably ever heard it. There's no word for "wife" in the Greek or the Hebrew language in the Bible. It's always "woman." That's interesting, isn't it? We could go into a deep discussion on that. The word is GUNE, from which we get gynecology, "He that loveth his woman." This is a present, active, participle. "He that keeps

on loving his own woman, keeps on loving himself. That should be self explanatory. Why? Well, we got it in 1 Corinthians 7.

1 Corinthians 7 always helps us with the mechanics. We've got a couple minutes left, so if you'll just turn there a second, I want you to take a look at the first part of 1 Corinthians 7 from the standpoint of the doctrine of Right Man/Right Woman. A lot of people get 1 Corinthians 7 mixed up and confused. Like there's a passage in there that says, "It is better to marry than to burn." And the kid comes home and says, "Hey Mom, I'm burning so I better get married." No, that's not what it's talking about. **The burning here is the burning for Right Man/Right Woman.**

In 1 Corinthians 7:1, "Now concerning the things you wrote unto me." "It is" is not in. He just says, "Divine good for a man not to touch a woman." I want to read that verse again for you. I know a lot of you won't put it over your icebox. It says, "It is good, Divine Good, for a man not to touch a woman." You say, oh gosh, we should all be celibate. Why? Because there is a Right Woman.

Verse 2, "Nevertheless because of fornication," literally the word "avoid" is not there either. "Because of fornication, let every man have his OWN woman." I don't know how clear you can be! Not **A** woman. His **OWN** woman. And let every woman have her own woman. Oh, I caught you didn't I? "Have her own husband." That just knocked out homosexuality and lesbianism and bestiality. I'll be the last angry man in Houston.

Here it is: What does it say? That's a passage on it, isn't it? I caught you though, I misread it and you popped up. You're pretty sharp. "Let every woman have her own husband." What do you think the word "husband" is there? ANER, nobleman, not husband. There's no such thing as husband and wife. It's man and woman. ISH and ISHAH. ANER and GUNE. So we have GUNE and ANER. Next time you get married, put it down there.

Now please notice, he's dealt with the problem of fornication in chapter six of

1 Corinthians. He gives the principle behind it. There's a Right Man for a Right Woman; therefore he should have and hold his own woman and the woman should have and hold her own man. By the way, "have and hold" there is that word ECHO, which is a tremendous word.

Now, how do they do this? We have ECHO twice. Have and hold, have and hold. Verse 3, "Let the husband render unto the wife," Right Woman, "due benevolence." That's sex. The English translation just tries to not tell you about it, but that's physical love. "And likewise also the wife unto the man."

Notice the woman is not inactive. There's a response there, the woman to her man. You know women think or are taught that you're just supposed to lay there and do nothing and read a magazine and whatever you're supposed to do. I want you to notice the verse here. People forget in Hebrews 13 it says, "The bed is honorable in all things and undefiled before the Lord." People are really messed up. Notice again that **the woman is not inactive. You know there's no way that you could be inactive if you have initiation from your Right Man.** There's no way. If you're inactive, there's something wrong in Denmark.

Verse 4, why are both actively involved? The man is the aggressor, but both of them are active in this relationship. Why? The woman does not have authority over her own body. It's now **his body**. She does not have authority. That's why the man is the authority in marriage. That's why the man is the authority in the relationship between the two. She doesn't have authority over her own body, but the husband, the man. **The man is the aggressor.**

The man and the woman are differently constructed. The woman is loaded in her body with erogenous responses. If you're looking for a more elaborate high-class word for "erogēnous responses," you know, if you go to one psychologist, he says erogenous and that's \$75.00. If you say erogēnous,

that's \$150.00. So I covered them both for you.

But the man and the woman are designed entirely different. She's loaded with erogenous responses. He's not. He is limited in an area like that. There's a difference in the construction so that the man would be the aggressor. But that does not mean that the woman is passive. For notice the rest of the verse. "So likewise the man does not have authority over his own body, but the woman." Why? Because he's incomplete. "But the woman." So this is a description in principle of the relationship between Right Man and Right Woman.

Now verse 5 goes on to deal with other problems. This much is pertinent to our anal-

ogy. Now let's go back and look once more at this verse. Verse 28 of Ephesians 5. The man has an obligation. The man has an obligation to keep on loving his own woman as his own body. "He that loveth his woman loveth himself." In other words, the man who initiates love is completed by the woman and benefited by her as she is benefited by him. It's a mutual thing.

We have to stop because our time's up. Verse 29 says, "For no man ever hated his own flesh." Now I want you to be careful and follow in sequence because "his own flesh" is his mental attitude towards his woman's body again. See, it's the same thing all over again. See, this passage is emphasizing **body**. Other places emphasize the **soul**.

TWO SHALL BE ONE

We're in Ephesians chapter 5. We start tonight in verse 30. Remember when this particular chapter was introduced, in case we lose context with it; in Ephesians 5:18 it says, "Be filled with the Spirit." If you have accepted Christ as your Saviour and are in fellowship because of having confessed some sin in your life, then these are the results. The things we are studying now are the result, the manifestation of a Spirit-filled life.

Ephesians 5:30 says, "For we are members of His body and of His flesh and of His bones." Verse 31, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall be joined unto his wife and they two shall be one flesh." Verse 32, "This is a great mystery but I speak concerning Christ and the Church. Nevertheless let everyone of you in particular so love his wife even as himself, and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

Now before you make a reverend out of your husband, I'll have to stop you, because the word isn't really "reverend," it means "respect." Don't make him a reverend because as soon as someone introduces you as reverend, everybody gets white, stops smiling, so don't make him a reverend. That word really is respect and we'll get to it.

Verse 30, "For we are members of His body and of His flesh and of His bones." That last phrase in verse 30, "of His flesh and of His bones" is not found in the original manuscripts. Someone added it because it comes further down in the verses. This passage simply begins by stating this, "For we are members of His body." And that's the entire verse in the original language.

Now the phrase "we are" is important because it is a present, active, indicative. I want to show you the words "we are." You have "we are" and it's a little stronger and it's this Greek word EIME. "We are" tries to explain it in the English but it doesn't do it justice be-

cause it's a present tense, which means continuous. In other words, whatever he is stating here this is a habitual thing.

Now the word EIME is an absolute status quo verb and this means "we are, we keep on being and we always will be and there never be a time when we won't be." That's how we have to explain this verb EIME. Now you see how many words it took me to say that but in the Greek language they just say EIME, present tense and you've said it all. Whatever it's talking about in Ephesians 5:30 says "we are." "We always will be this." And there never will be a time when we won't be this.

This means that no matter what background you have, no matter if you've ever gone to church or not, if you have Christian parents or not have Christian parents, or are of one particular race, or come from the north or south or the east or Africa, India, or whatever it is. If you're a human being and sometime in your life you made a decision to accept Christ as your Personal Saviour. You said in your mind, "I realize that Christ is the Saviour of the world; I read a verse one time that said, 'I am the way, the Truth, and the life, and no man comes unto the Father but by Me.'" Now I want to have eternal life, so I've accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour." The moment that you say that you've accepted Christ as your Saviour, this means that you have eternal life and you can't lose that eternal life.

Now you may break fellowship with God in time because of some sin, but **you still have eternal life.**

Now this is going to explain another facet of this. It says, "We are members of His body." The verb, this means absolute status quo, and this means we will ALWAYS be members of His body. We become members of His body when we accept Christ as Saviour. In other words, all the Christians in the Church Age are the body of Christ. After we

leave here and the Rapture occurs, we're caught up to be with the Lord, then we become the bride of Christ. So all the time that we're here on this Earth, during the Church Age, you are a member of the body of Christ. It doesn't mean that you're a member of any particular church. It means that you've accepted Him and that you're a member of His body. Now that's what this verse is saying.

People often say, as believers, "Why am I here?" You know sometimes you get disgusted about circumstances that happen in your life, and you say to yourself or someone will say to you, "Why am I here?" Or you may say, "What am I doing? How can I possibly be of any service to God?" Well, it begins right here. It doesn't begin with running out and doing something.

Now we know that witnessing is commanded by the Scriptures. We're all supposed to do the work of an evangelist. **But your primary function before the Lord is not witnessing.** Most people think that it is, but it isn't. Now, worship is commanded by Scripture, "assembling yourselves together," and so on. **But your primary service isn't even worshipping.** Prayer is commanded by Scripture. We're told to come to the throne of GRACE boldly so we can find help in time of need. **But our primary service also is not prayer. And our primary service is not even in church attendance, or in a church program, or in many other things that are construed today, as Christian service.**

Your service to the Lord begins with your attitude toward the Lord. That's where it starts. And your devotion to Him. **Your devotion to Him depends upon your position in Christ.** So when you ask yourself the question, "What am I; Why am I here?" We have to begin with the phrase in Ephesians 5:30. This is what we are. **You are members of His body.** That answers that question.

Now, "members of His body" in context here, we have two principles in this passage of Ephesians 5. We're talking about marriage of Right Man and Right Woman, and we're going back and forth showing the analogy between Christ and His body, which is the

believers in the Church Age. Now, "members of His body," in verse 30 explains in the analogy, the principle of a Right Woman. The Church is called the body of Christ in verse 3. Just like Right Man is to Right Woman, so is Christ to His body. We're prepared for this particular phrase because of our previous study. We saw last time in verse 28, that a man should love his wife as his own body. "He that loveth his wife, loveth himself," the Scripture says.

Now, verse 30 here says that the body is the Church and the Church is composed of all the believers, not just some particular denomination. The word "body" means this to you and me as believers: if you have personally received Christ as your Saviour, at the moment of your salvation you have received some 34 things from God. You may not know that. One of them is the fact that you have been entered into union with Christ.

The word "body" as well as the word "church" refers to every person who has accepted Christ as Saviour in the Church Age. So, whatever your purpose in life may be, prior to your salvation in Christ, you're now a **member of the Body of Christ.** Being a member of the Body of Christ, it immediately brings up the analogy of marriage. In other words, in our relationship with the Lord, we're the bride, He's the Groom, which is the analogy of a man and a woman.

Now it's been some time since we studied the principles of marriage from Genesis 2:20-24, in which we found there in Genesis 2, that Right Man/Right Woman was the original design in mankind. From the creation of woman, until the fall of both man and woman, we have what is called the Age of Innocence. During that period there are two recorded principles in regard to the history of mankind.

In other words, what happened in the Age of Innocence when there was Adam and Eve? Well one: the man and the woman, Adam and Eve, had a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and we know from Genesis that Jesus Christ visited them everyday in the Garden; and secondly, they had a

relationship with each other. And this relationship that they had was designed by God. So their relationship included both the soul and the physical body. Both the physical, and also the mental. Their spiritual relationship, as far as the Lord was concerned, was intact with God and the relationship that they had with each other was perfect because God had designed it and joined them together.

Now one principle which we have mentioned in connection with their relationship was that **the body of the man and the body of the woman were designed for 100% happiness.** Man and woman are designed in marriage physically and through physiology and the soul for 100% happiness.

When man was created, it was Adam. And God put Adam to sleep. The man actually took a nap before they finally entered into a relationship. While he was asleep, God took a part of that man, and from that part, woman was created as we have studied, and know. Apparently, Adam had no particular happiness as far as a relationship with a woman was concerned, until he went to sleep. The Lord caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and by the removal of his rib, as it were, there was also the provision of this happiness that was designed for marriage. **While he was asleep, God gave him that capacity for happiness in marriage and we say it's 100% because when God unites two people, it's perfect.**

In creating the woman he created a responder with all her responses, with all the paraphernalia necessary for her to be a female and He designed her for just one male. There's was only one Adam. She was designed by God also, with this 100% of happiness. Now the man is called in the Hebrew language ISH and the woman is called ISHAH. They were designed to have this happiness.

Now let's just assume for a moment, the Age of Innocence (before the Fall), and this is strictly an assumption to make the point. Let's assume that Innocence lasted a thousand years. Now, I'm not saying that it did, I'm just assuming it to make a point. We

don't know how long Innocence lasted. The Bible doesn't tell us how long it lasted. What the Bible doesn't say, we can't teach. I'm just using this as an assumption to make a point.

So let's assume the Age of Innocence lasted a thousand years to make this point. In other words, this is the time Adam and Eve were in the Garden in a perfect environment, before they fell. So for 1000 years ISH, man, and ISHAH, woman, had a physical relationship. They're married, and the purpose was recreation and they hadn't come to the point of procreation yet, because that didn't happen until the Fall. So, what can I say in a Bible class? They had a good relationship as husband and wife.

Now you ask yourself a question. Why did they want to mess it up with children? You know, if you have a perfect situation, why would you want to intrude on that relationship and have children? They had everything going for them. Everything! They had a soul relationship with each other. They had a sexual relationship with each other. They had the best human relationship anyone ever and they had a great relationship with the Lord because Jesus Christ came every day and they functioned by listening to Him giving the Word and they responded to it.

Now here is a fantastic principle. In Innocence you have perfect environment. There are a lot of ways to describe perfect environment. If I gave you a test, how would you describe perfect environment? Well, I know the first thing that you would say, "Get rid of my mother-in-law." See that would be perfect environment for some people.

But I want to tell you what perfect environment is described as in Genesis, in the Age of Innocence. One, Jesus Christ providing the Word of God to them every day. Secondly, they had a perfect relationship, 100% happiness. That's the way that Right Man is designed for Right Woman. That's the way that the Right Woman is designed for the Right Man, 100% happiness. If you had an index, it would be 100% that God had designed for you.

So when God said, in Genesis in the eating of the tree, "In dying thou shalt die." He also gave them some things that they should stay away from and that was the tree. **Why fool around with a tree, when you have everything going for you?** Who wants to mess with a tree? You know, Arbor Day. You've got a perfect relationship with God in Innocence. You have a perfect relationship with your woman, soulful and physical and it's lasted for a thousand years. The Age of Innocence, just an assumption.

What happened? Why did Adam go negative to the Word of God? Why did Eve go negative to the Word of God? I can't suggest that Eve got bored. If you're in perfect environment and you've got the man that God has designed for you, you've got 100% happiness, how can you be bored? Do women get bored with something like that? I don't think she got bored. I really don't. If you think about it for a minute, **if you've got God's design for you and you have 100% happiness, how can it be boring?** You're not interested in anything else, especially trees, apples, or strawberries, persimmons, or whatever there was. Women get bored with men today. I can understand that. They're bores! Very simple. But not then. You've got perfect environment, you've got a perfect design, you've got the Lord walking with you in the Garden all the time. You don't have to work, no union, no IRS, whey!

What was the problem? She wanted to be promoted. Women's Lib started in the Garden. You thought it started with Bella in New York City. No, it didn't. It started in the Garden. She wanted to be #1. She was #3 on the totem pole. Jesus Christ, Adam, then Eve. God is #1, man is #2. God rules the universe and man ruled the Earth and the woman said to the man, "Yes, my lord" daily.

I think that Eve would have been a great candidate for women's suffrage. I never believed in women voting; don't throw anything. I never accepted women's Suffrage. I think it was the beginning of the downfall of our country, because a woman voter is like a grenade with the pin pulled out and you're

counting 1, 2 and you're at 2 and it goes off at 3. You'll never know which way she's going to go. And so **politics has reduced itself to how to get the women voters.** What does it take? What has happened in our country? Many men with brains have been eliminated because women don't vote for men with brains, as a rule. They vote for a mouthful of teeth and what they call "appeal." What they mean really is "sex appeal."

So the woman went first because she thought she was low on the totem pole, and she thought she could reverse it. Satan was smart. Satan was a genius. When Satan came into the picture he said, "Honey, this relationship that you have with God and your man is no good. You ought to be ruling the roost. You ought to be ruling the whole deal. God is afraid that you're going to become as smart as He is." That's what Satan actually said to her.

"Why, if you eat of that forbidden tree, you'll be as smart as ELOHIM, and you'll know as much as He does." So she said, "If I can be as smart as God, then I'll take over. Satan revolted against God by going negative to the Word of God, so what does the woman do? **She does exactly the same thing that Satan did.** She's going to go negative and she's going to upset the whole apple cart. So she partook of the fruit and it wasn't much of a problem because she was in the sharing business and she shared it with her husband, and he accepted it, and both of them were immediately spiritually dead.

Even though they are now sinners, they were in the Age of Innocence; Innocence is over. Now they're sinners. You know the first thing they tried to do after they became sinners? For a thousand years in the Age of Innocence, they had been naked, and they had tremendous 100% happiness, soulfully and physically. And now what do they do? They put on clothes. Now that's silly. See if you can visualize the picture. It's like he looks over and he sees this woman with a fig-type apron on and he says, "Who are you?" For a thousand years he's seen her without that fig

leaf. "Have I ever met you before; have we been introduced?" A thousand years of Right Man and Right Woman and with fig leaves on Adam probably said to her, "Who dat?" He probably couldn't even recognize her.

Well, these people did two things after the Fall. They put on clothes and their sexual relationship now changed from 100% happiness. It started to go downhill. The purpose of sex was still 100% recreation, but now also included procreation. This time when they do the same thing, it'll be the fact that they will be fruitful and multiply.

God knew all about the Fall and we still have this design of Right Man and Right Woman to protect the human race from becoming a mass of idiots. Do you know if you don't accept this principle, that the human race ends up in idiocy? If you have ever studied idiocy, you can find it any night you want to. I can suggest some places you could go.

You know that many times when there is intermarriage in the human race, we have illustrations from various rulers in Europe. Idiocy crops up all over the place. I imagine if you have studied psychology, you see the two famous families of criminals in this country. All you have to do is trace them out today, and they produced literally thousands of criminals. Everyone has to study in psychology these two families and when you trace them through you have their family trees. You'll find out as you check their family trees, that they were hung as being horse thieves; they're in jail for this and that; and some of them end up in insane asylums because of intermarriage.

Here's the point, **God has a plan.** If everyone was Right Man and Right Woman, even though we all have an old sin nature, we would be a very vigorous race. **Something happens when you get Wrong Man/Wrong Woman.** You get children just the same, but **there is generally a downward move all the way.**

Therefore God has two ideas in the Right Man/Right Woman concept after the Fall. The

relationship with God can continue, but now it's no longer innocent. Now the relationship with God, it must be Christ as Saviour. Then the relationship between male and female, the human race, continues, but **it must be Right Man/Right Woman.**

Now they have an old sin nature and the purpose is still recreation and procreation and the objective is still 100% happiness, possible under this concept, but there is also the principle of family and the perpetuation of the human race. So there's a two-fold purpose now. You see, in Innocence there was only a one-fold purpose. There were no children until after the Fall.

In Right Man and Right Woman as we've studied it in this chapter, the Right Man becomes the initiator of love. "Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it," Ephesians 5:25. The Right Woman becomes the responder and she's a responder of love. And it's fitting that the Church is the body of Christ, the body is used to indicate response. Response is found in the body of Christ. In Genesis 2 it says, "They two shall be one flesh." Adam says, "This is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh." That is body, and that is physical.

The Church is called the body of Christ because the Church is designed and is made up of believers. The moment you become a believer, you receive a human spirit designed for you to respond to God. You also get the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit and that's designed for you to respond to God. You have a pastor or a shepherd who's communicating the Word to you, and the Word communicated to you is designed for you to respond to God. So the communication of the Word, plus Ephesians 5:18, the filling of the Spirit. Then there's a relationship between the believer and the Lord Jesus Christ as there is a relationship between husband and wife. We have seen this throughout this passage.

Now it's declared very clearly in regard to the Church in verse 30 here. "We are members of His body." Now if you do not think that that's connected with marriage, I

want you to turn, if you would, to Genesis 2:24, in case you've forgotten that passage and just hold your place here. There is a connection here and you may need this review to see this connection because Paul is now making the connection. The connection between **Christ** and the **believers** which are called the **body**, and the **Man** and the **Woman** in marriage. You know, a lot of passages of Scripture deal on our relationship with the Lord, along with the concept of marriage, even as far as family goes, and children. There's a relationship here also.

Now Genesis 2:24. At the end of verse 23 it says, "She shall be called ISHAH, woman, because she was taken out from the man." and that's where the 100% happiness index begins. Then it says, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother." Now remember that because that's going to be quoted by the apostle Paul in Ephesians 5. Why does it say "a man shall leave his father and his mother?" **Because he makes decisions with regard to his woman. The woman makes decisions with regard to her man. Not with regard to their parents. The man is therefore responsible.**

So then we know something. **Maturity begins at the point of marriage.** Maturity in the sense that **you are now fully responsible for your own decisions** and your parents are not any longer responsible. What I'm saying is this principle of marriage and forsaking mother and father means that **when you marry you have to have enough responsibility to make your own decisions and stand behind them and don't go back on your parents for their decisions, or their money.** CUT THE APRON STRINGS!!!

There are more problems with marriage with believers in counseling than anything in the world. Some dear mother won't let her son go and the daughter-in-law is not worthy, and so forth. This is strong, but it's accurate and beneficial. So, the man is therefore responsible. Maturity begins at the point of marriage; maturity in the sense that you are now fully responsible for your own decisions. **Your parents are not responsible.**

Then the verse says, "And they shall be one flesh." Now that's the merging of their bodies. Here is the fulfillment of that happiness in marriage. Then notice it says, "they were both naked." I'll tell you something about this. Does that say "they were both naked?"

You know I was thrown out of a school for saying that, for reading that verse? It was at Texas A&M. We were talking about marriage and I was trying to bring out the point that when you have your Right Man or Right Woman, Hebrews and this passage say it's relaxing. There's nothing to be ashamed of. The Lord's there and everything else is fine. The woman was sitting in back of the class and she reported me and that was the end of the class. I was never allowed to come back. but, does that say that? That's all I said.

Notice the next phrase, "And in their nakedness they were not ashamed." Now I didn't write this in case anybody asks you. They were not ashamed of their own nakedness. Why? Because they were designed for each other by God. They're in Innocence. They were never uptight about it until after the Fall. When did they put on the leaves? After the Fall. They were both naked. And I want you to notice the verse says the man and his woman, and it says they were not put to shame.

Now this is a physical relationship in all its beauty and all of its glory. When God does something and joins two people together, **no man definitely can put it asunder.** This is 100% operation happiness.

Now back to Ephesians 5:30. I just wanted to show you that because Paul's going to quote that. In Ephesians 5:30 it says, "We keep on being members of His body." **The Church is compared to a woman responding.** Well, how can you say that? Ephesians 5:31 in context. "For this cause," the Greek says "answering to this," which means answering to this or "comparable to this." And then we have a quote from Genesis 2:24. "Answering to this, man shall leave his father and mother and be joined unto his

woman and they two shall become one flesh."

Now put it all together, in context. Verse 30, we are **members of His body**. That's spiritual. This is referring to every believer in Jesus Christ in the Church Age from Pentecost to the Rapture. Then he says, "An-
swering to this, the fact that we are **mem-
bers of His body**, "a man shall leave his fa-
ther and mother and shall be joined unto his
own woman and they two shall be one flesh."

Before we get to the exegesis of verse 31, let's notice the impact of verse 31. **The believer at the point of salvation is de-
signed to be a responder to the Lord**, and he's designed to respond to the **lovemaking**, as it were, **of God. God initiates love to every believer. The lovemaking of God is the Word of God communicated to you.** In other words, God makes love to you through the communication of His Word and the Word of God communicated in 1 Corinthians 2:16 is the **mind of Christ**.

I don't know if you know it or not. It's a lost art. I don't know if I should corrupt you or not, but **love is made by words**. Did you know that? It's a lost art, but it is. Before there is any handholding, there's conversation. We have lost the art of conversation.

I was in a restaurant with a fellow the other afternoon, and this waitress was just pitiful. She thought that all she had to do was throw this plate at you and she would be tipped. Well, I'd been in places where I had to wait on people for years and you can't make money that way. So I just said to her, "Ma'am, did you ever think about cultivating a customer?" She said, "Say what?" That was the end of that. There's no more conversation anymore. I said, "Don't you enjoy your line of endeavor?" She didn't even know what I was talking about.

Conversation has stopped. But you see the Lord initiates to you and He initiates love to you. God loves you. **He initiates to you by WORDS. LOVE IS MADE BY WORDS.** And the Bible is the **Word of God the Fa-
ther**. Lovemaking is made by the communi-

cation and by the mind because the Word of God is the **mind of Christ**.

The Word of God is also said to be the **voice of the Holy Spirit**. So the Word of God must be communicated. The **Lord makes love to you through the Word which is His mind**. In other words, God initiates love to the believer through the communication of the Word and the believer responds to Him by 2 Peter 3:18, "Growing in GRACE by the knowledge of our Saviour Je-
sus Christ."

Now in James 1:25, the Word of God communicated and received is called the "en-
grafted Word." But it's really the "ingermi-
nated Word," and there in James 1:25 it says, "Receive the ingerminated Word."

In other words, the Word of God comes into the human spirit for **production, inger-
mination**. And there's **production towards God** and there's **production toward man-
kind**. And you know when there's a relation-
ship children are produced. So, you as a be-
liever responding to the Lord, the Word of
God produces children. **Children are pro-
duced when the Word of God goes into
the human spirit**, and as a result children
are produced.

What kind of children? Well, you have a
frame of reference about the Lord, so you
have **frame of reference children**. You ex-
hale to God. You put your faith in the Prom-
ises of God. You say, "Yes, God, I'm believ-
ing your promise." That's exhale to God chil-
dren. **That's claiming the promises chil-
dren**. You exhale to mankind; you encourage
other believers. You tell the unbeliever about
Christ. That's exhale to the human race chil-
dren. Then there are children, as it were, that
the Word builds up in you and you become
mature. So there are all different types of
production children in your life. **All this is a
response to God.**

In a relationship between a Right Man
and a Right Woman, the Right Woman
doesn't take charge. **She's a responder**.
The man initiates. She says to the man, "I
can't cook." He says, "So what, we still have

Wendy's." She says, "I can't clean house." He says, "Well, we've got some people that have just come over the border. They'll do it for almost nothing." She says, "But honey, I can respond to you." He says, "Let's go!" **Forget about the cleaning, the cooking and let's go.** See?

Now you see a woman is a responder and that's exactly what this passage is saying. We don't start out by witnessing about Jesus Christ. You don't start out by any of these things. You start out one way and only one way. **You start out by taking in the Word of God.** And you don't start out by worshipping. You're not capable of worshipping. **The moment that you accept Christ as your Saviour, there's only one way for you to start and that is by your very own personal intake and application of the Word of God.**

Then there is production. There is the impregnated Word as a believer. **That's how you produce and have children.** If you start out by witnessing; if you start out by doing things; you'll never make it. It'll be human good. It will be "wood, hay and stubble" all the way. That's the analogy right here. When you stop responding to the Lord, **it's because you stop taking in the Word of God.**

Now we have a beautiful analogy here. Here is the passage in Genesis 2:24 that we just turned to, that is quoted here. In what Age is that found? Well, I told you it was the Age of Innocence. And in the Age of Innocence man had two things. One, he had the Word of God every day from the Lord Jesus Christ; and two, he had recreation with his Right Woman every day.

The analogy is now brought into the Church Age where we now find ourselves. If you're going to respond to the Lord, you must recognize the analogy which was brought in from the Age of Innocence, and you have 100% on the index of spiritual happiness. It depends upon you taking in the Word of God and transferring it to your human spirit through your growth in GRACE. We see this all through these passages as they are progressing, and only through that

Right Man/Right Woman can you realize that 100% happiness index.

Let's take up some things that will cause a person not to have that 100% happiness with their Right Man or Right Woman. You'll never go any higher than 8% or 10% by fornication, Wrong Man/Wrong Woman. You'll never go any higher than 2% through any autoerotism. You'll never go any higher than 3% through homosexuality, and you'll never go any higher than 1/2% through bestiality. In other words, **anything outside of marriage, there's no way you can go any higher than 10% perhaps.**

That's why in the ancient world, the Phallic Cult was designed to give you that particular happiness. Yet, the Phallic Cult as we have studied it, the statue of a beautiful woman, Venus or Ishtar or Aphrodite or Diana, then we have this fat man, Baal, sitting on a furnace for a children sacrifice. Finally we have the Phallic symbol on which autoerotism was practiced.

All these things, children being thrown in the fire, and the women would be aroused when they heard the children screaming and when they were aroused by it they would have an orgy, and there would be five to 50 men standing there to make love to them as their children were screaming. All of this was designed to produce this 100% happiness. But it will never get any higher than 1%. Why? Because God says one man, one woman. That's why!

Even though they might not achieve 100%, there can possibly be some negative attitudes and there may be callouses, **but the man has to be a wonderful man all the way around as the initiator, and he's going to have to provide so many things, both from the standpoint of the soul, and from the standpoint of the body, that the woman can be a total responder to him and they can do a fantastic number of things together without being ashamed.** And they can have a wonderful relationship.

So, verse 31 "Answering to this, the man." Now this is the human race and this

word “man” is ANTHROPOS instead of ANER, because this is true for both unbeliever and believer. Generally, when you’re talking about Right Man and Right Woman, you have the Greek word ANER for nobleman. But here ANER is not used and ANTHROPOS is used because the Right Man/Right Woman is designed for both Christians and non-Christians.

So it says in this passage, “For this cause man (ANTHROPOS) shall leave.” The word means to depart according to a fixed standard. It’s a future, active, indicative. It means to depart according to a fixed standard. Future, active, indicative. It means leaving in a sense of maturity. The standard is KATA. The norm or standard is maturity. **When a man marries, he begins to take full responsibility for all of his own decisions.** This begins with this quotation in Genesis 2:24, “A man shall leave father and mother,” and **Adam had no father and no mother.**

I often thought about that. You know, there’s a segment of our society that has a hard time. I don’t know if any of you have ever run across them, but they’re called orphans. People have a hard time when they’re growing up in orphanages because they feel like they’ve been left out. There are some principles in the Word of God that can handle that.

Here’s a situation right here. Adam and Eve had no father and mother. In that sense they were orphans, but the Lord was good enough for them. When you accept Christ as your Saviour, God is your Father and you’re no longer fatherless or motherless. Remember Jesus Christ when the crowd was around Him, they said, “Behold your mother.” He said, “My mother and father are those who believe on Me.” **That was the relationship.** So whenever you run across someone that is an orphan and has suffered in that environment, make sure you give them some of these principles.

I want you to notice here that Adam and Eve had no father, no mother and they had the Lord in the Garden all the time. They were not fatherless. They were without par-

ents, but they had God as their Father through Jesus Christ. The principle in Genesis 2:24 does not pertain to parents, **but taking responsibility for one’s own decisions.** When you marry someone, take responsibility for your own decisions.

So the quotation in Genesis 2:24 confirms that marriage is a Divine Institution and this, of course, is based upon one Adam and one Eve, one Lord, and one Church. Father and mother today, refers to Divine Institution #3, which we will discuss in Ephesians 6:1, beginning with the phrase “Children obey your parents.”

If you’re interested in child raising, why come back next Wednesday and I’ll show you what the Bible says about what we should be doing with our children.

But in the meantime in this verse it says, “Answering to this shall a man leave his father and mother and be joined unto his woman.” “Shall be joined.” I want to give you that word. But I want you to remember that when I give you this word, we’re talking about Adam and Eve as Right Man and Right Woman and the Lord has joined them together, designed by the Lord for each other, they’re married.

Now this word here, “shall be joined,” you’ll know what it is immediately. It’s the words PROS and KOLEO. That’s the words “shall be joined.” The word PROS means face to face and KOLEO means to be united to, to be joined closely, and that’s used for the consummation of a marriage. The sexual act. PROS means face to face. Face to face here, means the unity of souls before the unity of bodies. “He shall be joined face to face with his woman.”

Again we have the prepositional phrase PROS plus the accusative, the word “woman” and that’s the word GUNE. Face to face with his woman, not wife. There’s no word for wife. There’s no word for husband either in the Greek or the Hebrew language. So it’s WOMAN and MAN.

“And he shall be joined to his own woman, face to face with her and they two,

Right MAN/Right Woman, shall be." That's the word EIME again, absolute status quo, future, active, indicative: absolute status quo. The future tense indicating that this has to do with the fact that **the Right Man must first of all enter the soul of the Right Woman.**

See, PROS KOLEO, the verb refers to the physical act of sex, but PROS with his woman is a separate preposition, PROS plus GUNE. That refers to the soul relationship. **There is first of all a relationship with the soul and then the "two shall be one flesh," future.** Which came first, the soul or the body? **The soul first.** Remember in the Song of Solomon, the woman said "Whom my soul loveth." That's where it is. "One flesh." of course means the union of their bodies for 100% happiness and that's the objective.

Now let's get a corrected translation here in this verse, "Answering to this the man shall leave behind the father and mother and shall be united face to face with his own woman and the two shall be." future, from the soulish relationship, "the two shall be into one flesh." That's the consummation.

Now this anticipates the analogy in the next verse, which **every believer is in union with Christ through the baptism of the Spirit.** So everyone is one with the Lord and should respond to the Lord. Verse 32, "This is" talking about the doctrine of Right Woman, "a great mystery."

Let's get the word "great" first. It's an adjective and it's the word MEGAS, and it means "great of quality." It means this is important, this is prominent or outstanding. The word "mystery" is the word MUSTERION. MEGAS MUSTERION is great mystery and it means very important or a quality, very prominent, very outstanding. The word "mystery" or MUSTERION means to be initiated into a fraternity. That's the way it was used with the Greek. The one who was initiated into a Greek fraternity was called a MUSTES. And that was initiate, someone who pledged a Greek fraternity and had now been instructed in the doctrine of the frater-

nity. He was called a MUSTES and he was learning the doctrine of the fraternity.

The doctrine was taught under the word and this is the word MUO. This is the doctrines under it; therefore, to be instructed into certain sacred teachings. So it refers to the doctrine of the ancient fraternities, normally known to the initiated; but unknown to the outsiders.

In other words when you were initiated into a fraternity you would get these secret things. In this case what we're talking about in this passage, the outsiders, the ones who are not in the fraternity are the Old Testament prophets, who did not know the doctrines pertaining to the Church Age. Other outsiders include Satan, and all the fallen angels who are kept in the dark until Operation Footstool, until Christ was seated at the right hand of the Father.

The Gospel is never a mystery and never was. The Old Testament writers understood the Gospel that Christ was going to come and die for the sins of the world. They also understood the fact that Christ would be resurrected and He would be ascended. They also understood the Tribulation. They also understood the Millennium, **but they had absolutely no understanding of the Church Age** and therefore whatever doctrine that pertained to the Church Age would appear in chronology of the Old Testament, there would be a gap there. There's always a silence. So this word "mystery" for MUSTERION, refers to doctrines pertaining to the Church Age.

The Doctrine of Right Man/Right Woman is no mystery. The great mystery is the relationship between Christ and the Church. That's new. They didn't know that in the Old Testament, but they had Right Man and Right Woman in the Old Testament. They had it from Adam and Eve. So it's no mystery; the mystery is about the Church and Christ. **The Church is His body.** Christ is the Right Man, the Head of the Church, and this was a mystery.

So he says, "But I speak concerning Christ and the Church." That's the explanation of the mystery. It's a great mystery. It's the great mystery that's found in Colossians 1:25, 26; Romans 16:25, 26, and we studied it in Ephesians 3:1-6. In this context, the mystery is the exact analogy between Christ and the Church as illustrated by Right Man/Right Woman.

So at the point of salvation God the Holy Spirit enters every believer into union with Christ. That's called the baptism of the Holy Spirit. And it's like a marriage. At the point the Holy Spirit enters us into union with Christ, the marriage between Christ and the Church is consummated. **The actual ceremony will occur in Heaven at the Rapture.** Then the believer has a resurrection body. But now every believer is the body of Christ; this is on this Earth. In this relationship we actually have the Word as the Lord initiating love to us.

You know when people talk about love, they talk about maudlin sentimentalism. They talk about good deeds, but they never talk about the initiation of the Word of God as love, the communication of the Word or its reception. And yet **the key to love is the communication and reception of God's Word.** Christ has provided it and we are the recipients.

So to make sure we understand the great mystery he says, "I speak with reference to Christ and the Church." So, the doctrine of Right Man and Right Woman was known in the Old Testament, but the doctrine of the relationship between Christ and every believer in the Church Age was **unknown** in the Old Testament. So, a known doctrine, Right Man/Right Woman, is used to illustrate the great mystery, **the relationship between Christ and the Church.**

Here it is in closing. You've read a lot of things about Adam and Eve. One of the principles about Adam and Eve, they were teaching in seed-form a mystery doctrine that would come on later in the Church Age. Their relationship was pointing to our relationship with the Lord. Now that's a breakthrough for you. **So, Right Man/Right Woman is still on the board and it's still honorable before the Lord and it portrays our relationship with Christ.** Now **that can never be nullified, ever.**

Buddy Dano, Pastor

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