



Life lived in the Spirit The Book of Ephesians

Chapter 4 Spirit Life in the Culture



Introduction and Review

- Ephesians can basically be divided into two parts.
- The first part of Ephesians consists of chapters 1, 2, and 3. In these chapters, Paul makes it clear to the Gentiles how blessed they are to be included in God's Victory Plan meant to squelch a rebellion that started in Heaven
- At the same time, he lets them know that human beings, made in God's image, are being incorporated into the plan of salvation.



Introduction and Review

- To end the rebellion, God has as a plan.
- Part of the plan is to demonstrate to the Heavenly host, that life and strength are with God alone.
- To accomplish this, humanity is created in the image of God, but they are created weaker than the angels.
- Even so, if they will trust God, they will be able to stand against the demonic host.



Introduction and Review

- The first Adam, and the woman, were confronted by the serpent in the Garden of Eden.
- Satan believes he has won, but God had a contingency plan.
- That plan was to come in human form as the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus the Messiah.



Introduction and Review

- Jesus comes and is confronted by Satan after His baptism.
- Satan tries to use Scripture to deceive Him into following him, but Jesus refuses the offer.
- Finally, Satan offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will but fall down and worship Satan.
- Jesus not only refuses the offer but dispels Satan who leaves for a more opportune time. .



Introduction and Review

- The opportune time would be in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- On the night He was betrayed, after instituting the Lord's Supper, went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray knowing what was coming.
- He was so distraught, it says in the Gospel of Luke that His sweat became blood. (A medical condition by the way, known as Hema-tidrosis.)
- Jesus prayed to the Father that He not have to go through the next 24 hours, but in the end Jesus said, "Nevertheless, Thy will be done."



Introduction and Review

- With that, Jesus is betrayed, abused, and finally nailed to the cross.
- But instead, Jesus endures the agony and shame, giving up His Spirit. Before He does however, Jesus says, “It is finish.” A Greek word meaning, complete.
- The rest of the battle plan is up to us who are made in the image of God. We must demonstrate from this point forward that greater is He who is in us, then he (Satan) who is in the world.
- This will be a formidable battle. John makes this clear in 1 John 5:19, where John tells us the entire world is still under Satan’s control.



Introduction and Review

- I believe Paul produced three guides for the church
- The Theological Guide (Romans)
- The Administrative Guide (1 & 2 Timothy)
- The Spiritual Guide (Ephesians).
 - It is Ephesians where Paul gets the Gentiles ready.



Introduction and Review

- In the first part, Chapters 1-3, he makes sure they know just how blessed they are to be brought into the Family of God.
 - In doing so, Paul tells them this is all the work of the Holy Spirit.
- In the second part of Ephesians, if we are to be successful in the remainder of the battle, the Gentiles (that is us) must know how to **DECLARE** the Victory Plan to others and **LIVE** the Victory Plan as a witness to the One who resides within them.

Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Eph 5:1 “THEREFORE,”

- There it is again. Paul is telling us, what follows is based on everything he has said prior to this in Chapter 4.
- Chapter 4 was about training the mind. Paul always starts with the mind.
- Christianity is NOT a mindless religion. We have to train our minds if our physicality is to war against the desires of the flesh.



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:1-2: “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

- First, is an admonition to imitate God based on things he has just told us.
- Paul of course, is merely recounting the teaching of Jesus in this statement challenging us to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect.



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:1-2: *“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.”*

- Father God is well aware that living a perfect life is not possible for us as human beings.
- But if this were not the goal, and Father God said, “Just do your best.” What do you think would happen?



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:1: “*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.*”

- For a goal to be worthy of pursuit, it has to take us to heights we thought unimaginable.
- Pursue heavenly perfection, loved ones, it is a goal worthy of our relationship with the Perfect God, and when you fail, don’t beat yourself up—just ask forgiveness and get up!



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:2: “And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

- If believers would just concentrate on how we love, instead of what we despise, we would begin to soar upward toward the goal of perfection.
- Lest you think this is just a New Testament concept, you are wrong.



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:2: “And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

- Unless you are reading the Old Testament, you cannot fully grasp the New Testament.
- For instance, the concept of loving the neighbor.

Leviticus 19:18: “You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against your own people. But you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.”



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:2: “And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

- “*Walk in love,*” this is the foundation of what Paul is about to present.
- In fact, Paul tells us Jesus did what He did because of the power of love.
- The love of Jesus overrode the pain and suffering of the cross, i.e., Jesus loved us more than He feared the suffering that He had to endure.



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:2: “And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

- Paul called the sacrifice of Jesus, a “fragrant offering.” If you have spent any time in the Hebrew Scriptures, then you know that phrase, “fragrant offering,” is very important.
- For an understand of the connection between the system of sacrificial offerings and the Cross of Jesus, read the Book of Hebrews in the New Testament.



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:2: “And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

- For an understand of the connection between the system of sacrificial offerings and the Cross of Jesus, read the Book of Hebrews in the New Testament.
- Hebrews 13 is where the author of Hebrews, probably Apollos, a disciple of Paul, talks about sacrifice that is pleasing to God. As he moves through the chapter, he makes sacrifice a very practical way to live, in which love plays the key role.



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:2: “And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

- All seven of the points Paul makes at the end of Chapter 4, we looked at last week, are acts of love that can only be made manifest in our lives if we walk in love.
- What is more, the more these acts become a part of our life, the closer we get to the goal of being perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect.
- But as Paul is always wanting to do, he is going to tell us, to walk in love we must avoid some things as well.



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:2: “And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

- In other words, as it says in Exodus 30, one of your assignments, you are NOT to mix strange incense with the required formula.
- Put another way, Paul is saying you cannot claim to be a Christian and live like a Gentile.



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:3-6 “But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:3-6

- We could entitle these verses, “Your former life as a Gentile.”
- **1) Sexual immorality:** it is so easy to point a finger at sexual perversion here, but the acceptance of this as a lifestyle by many Christians has come about because of the refusal to deal with heterosexual activity and divorce.
 - The church essentially went silent on these 2 issues and instead picked up its volume of rebuke on the issue of homosexuality. Thus, presenting itself as hypocrites to the culture.



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:3-6

- We could entitle these verses, “Your former life as a Gentile.”
- **2) Covetousness:** Our whole advertising industry right now is based on sex and greed.
 - This idea conveys the desire to have something because someone else does, or to have the desire to pursue getting as much as you can without regard to what it does to the environment or to the ability of someone else to get it, who really needs it.



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:3-6

- We could entitle these verses, “Your former life as a Gentile.”
- **3) Impurity:** At its base definition, an impurity is something that ruins the nature of something else, e.g., a hair found in your food.
 - Therefore, when Paul says impurity, he is talking about something you have added to your life that has caused a discoloration of your witness.



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:3-6

- We could entitle these verses, “Your former life as a Gentile.”
- **3) Impurity:** At its base definition, an impurity is something that ruins the nature of something else, e.g., a hair found in your food.
 - It could be sexual, or it could be the mixing of religions, OR perhaps by adding the practices of other religions to your understanding, or even delving into the occult.



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:3-6

Focus on the word, “deceive.”

- Deception, it appears to me is the most often used and most effective tool of Satan. The word “deceive,” or its variations like “deception,” appears in every one of Paul’s letters.
- We talked about this in Eph 4:14, but to reiterate, the agent used to cause the fall in the Garden of Eden, (i.e., deception) is rampant in the children of the devil.



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Focus on the word, “deceive.”

Colossians 2:8-15. This is one of the clearest passages that reveals what I am saying:

V8 “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”

- There is nothing wrong with human reason and science. Both are completely compatible with Christianity.
- What we must not do however, is to judge the Word by worldly concepts.



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Focus on the word, “deceive.”

VV 9-10: *“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.”*

- After the warning of verse 8, Paul reminds them Jesus was 100% God/100% human.
- What is more, we need to know that Jesus resides in us through the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Finally, we must never forget that Jesus rules over every authority in Heaven and earth, as we heard in our Ephesians study.



Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Focus on the word, “deceive.”

V15: *“He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”*

- The victory of Jesus is total.
- This verse is a picture of complete conquest by Jesus.
- What is more, this authority over the conquered spirit world, has been given to us as believers, who are Spirit filled.



I. Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:7-14: “Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light.”



I. Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:7-14

- Again, Paul says, “You must not have anything to do with that former way of life. Get rid of it!!!”
- Instead, focus on that which is good, and right, and true.” Those are such beautiful words.
- Meditate on those words, focus on those words, and let them fill your life.



I. Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:7-14

- You are now a child of light.
 - What this means is, there are others in darkness, who live as children of darkness.
 - These people can become a temptation to return to your former way of life. When you start walking as a child of light, you start producing fruit, like goodness, righteousness, and truth.
 - Consequently, you can start discerning what is pleasing to Father God.



I. Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:7-14

- You are now a child of light.
 - We too need to saturate our lives with light, so our discernment grows brighter and brighter. **1 John 2:16** says, ***“For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”***





I. Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:15-21: *“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”*

I. Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:15-21

To be a child of the light means:

1) To meditate on that life and get it firmly fixed in your mind.

- In the Navy, sailors still learn to navigate by the stars. To navigate well, is to get a fix on the northern star. The northern star is even visible from the Southern Hemisphere if you know where to look.
- If you can get this in your mind, it should help you in knowing how important it is to get a fix on Jesus as your North Star. *Jesus is our Polaris in our walk of life.*



I. Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:15-21

To be a child of the light means:

1) To meditate on that life and get it firmly fixed in your mind.

Jesus is our Polaris in our walk of life.

- If we are fixed on Jesus, we can navigate this world that is still in the clutches of the evil one, 1 John 5:19.
- Remember, while we are still in enemy territory, our relationship with the Spirit is essential.



I. Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:15-21

To be a child of the light means:

2) Paul says we must stay alert.

- Do not think for a moment that you can even flirt with your old lifestyle. We have got to convince ourselves that our Gentile life was all darkness all the time.
- To slip back into those ways for even a moment is to give the demonic forces a foot in the door.
- Paul is basing this on the series of Parables Jesus told in Matthew 25. Whether it is the virgins, or the servants and the talents, or the goats and the sheep, when the time comes you can be the surprised thief or the ready and productive servants.



I. Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:15-21

To be a child of the light means:

3) A child of the light will stay in the word and worship daily.

- Do not get drunk with wine. It doesn't say drink no wine, that is a special vow known as the Nazarite Vow.
- The admonition here is against drunkenness. Furthermore, Paul is implying that to be filled with the Spirit, is to be a bit dizzy, a bit giddy if you will. In other words, it is fun to be filled with the Holy Spirit!



I. Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:15-21

To be a child of the light means:

3) A child of the light will stay in the word and worship daily.

- I was water baptized and then received a second baptism of the Holy Spirit. In other words, I knew Jesus but not in a three-dimensional way.
- Paul says, be filled with the Spirit and quote Scripture to each other, sing hymns with each other, and develop what Jack Hayford calls your prayer language, i.e., praying in tongues.



I. Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:15-21

To be a child of the light means:

4) We must develop an attitude of gratitude.

- Cathy and I in this pandemic season, start every single morning in a prayer of thanksgiving. We thank the Lord for our protection, we thank the Lord for rest and peace through the night, we thank the Lord for the new day, a day we have never seen, and we thank the Lord for keeping the pestilence from our doorstep and the doorsteps of our family and friends.
- You will be shocked how different your day will begin if you do this.



I. Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:15-21

To be a child of the light means:

5) We must learn to submit.

- Loved ones, in this 21st Century, there are few things as hard to learn as submission.
- Let us start with a definition:
 - You know you have learned submission when you can serve under someone less gifted than yourself.
 - You know you have learned submission when, knowing you are more gifted than the person over you, you work to help them succeed.



I. Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:15-21

To be a child of the light means:

5) We must learn to submit.

- Submission is the simple act of respecting and honoring the position over you. IT IS NOT however, an act of acceptance of being demeaned and belittled. This is called abuse.



I. Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:15-21

To be a child of the light means:

5) We must learn to submit.

- Jesus tried to teach His disciples in this way: Matthew 20:24-28 ***“And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many***



I. Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:15-21

To be a child of the light means:

5) We must learn to submit.

- Jesus tried to teach His disciples in this way: Matthew 20:24-28
 - As you can tell from this teaching moment between Jesus and the disciples, submission is to be a way of life between believers. It is NOT a mantle worn by women at the beaconing call of men.



I. Living as Spirit-Filled Individuals

Ephesians 5:15-21

To be a child of the light means:

5) We must learn to submit.

- Jesus tried to teach His disciples in this way: Matthew 20:24-28
 - Nowhere in the Scripture does it say that women are to be in submission to men.
 - The fact is, Christianity is a forward-looking faith that shocked the culture. Women were property in this era. Christianity said women were made in the image of God and men were to be in submission to them, just as women were to be in submission to men.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

- **The family unit is the most important unit while we are still in enemy territory.**



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

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 - It is the primary way of spreading the light



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 - It is the primary means of evangelism.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

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 - It is the primary way of spreading the light
 - It is the primary means of evangelism.
 - ❖ The number of Christians grew exponentially when the family units were larger.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

- **The family unit is the most important unit while we are still in enemy territory.**
 - It is the primary way of spreading the light
 - It is the primary means of evangelism.
 - ❖ The number of Christians grew exponentially when the family units were larger.
 - ❖ When we were told that 2 children were the optimum family size to sustain the plant, I believe we fell something good at the expense of something better.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

The family unit is the most important unit while we are still in enemy territory.

- **With marriage and the family failing at an appalling rate, it is very important to get this right**



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

**The family unit is the most important unit
while we are still in enemy territory.**

**Ephesians 5:22 “*Wives, submit to your
own husbands, as to the Lord.*”**



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

- The family unit is the most important unit while we are still in enemy territory. Ephesians 5:22 ***“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”***
- Recall from Session 2, I told you the original manuscripts did not have chapter and verse numbers?
- Here is a place where it really matters.
 - I do not know why the editors separated Eph 5:21 from Eph 5:22, with a heading no less, unless it was male bias on their part.
 - Listen to the difference going from verse 21 to verse 22 without the heading.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

The family unit is the most important unit while we are still in enemy territory.

Ephesians 5:22 *“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”*

- Here is a place where it really matters.
 - Listen to the difference going from verse 21 to verse 22 without the heading.

Submitting to one another out of reverence to Christ. Wives submit to your own husband as to the Lord.”



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

The family unit is the most important unit while we are still in enemy territory.

Ephesians 5:22 *“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”*

- The only submitting women are to do is to their own husband and that is in the context of believers submitting to one another.
- The only point being made is the assignment of the husband as the spiritual head of the family.
- But even this becomes null and void if the husband is not a believer.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

The family unit is the most important unit while we are still in enemy territory.

Ephesians 5:22 *“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”*

- Why is the husband the spiritual head?



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

The family unit is the most important unit while we are still in enemy territory.

Ephesians 5:22 *“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”*

- Why is the husband the spiritual head?
 - Well, someone has to be the head decision maker.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

The family unit is the most important unit while we are still in enemy territory.

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- Why is the husband the spiritual head?
 - Well, someone has to be the head decision maker.
 - When a decision has to be made, and the husband and wife are at odds about the direction, someone has to make the decision.



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- Why is the husband the spiritual head?
 - Well, someone has to be the head decision maker.
 - When a decision has to be made, and the husband and wife are at odds about the direction, someone has to make the decision.
 - But husbands, if you have an ounce of brains, you will on occasion, go with the wife’s desire on the direction you should go.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

The family unit is the most important unit while we are still in enemy territory.

Ephesians 5:22 *“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”*

- Why is the husband the spiritual head?
 - But husbands, if you have an ounce of brains, you will on occasion, go with the wife’s desire on the direction you should go.
 - Most decisions a husband and wife make should be consensus decisions, i.e., both agreeing on the decision.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

The family unit is the most important unit while we are still in enemy territory.

Ephesians 5:22-24 *“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.”*



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

Ephesians 5:22-24

- Unless asked to do something immoral or illegal, to be in submission is to give the authority to someone else. This is for this reason it says, “...*in all things.*”



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

Ephesians 5:22-24

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- You cannot give occasional or partial submission.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

Ephesians 5:22-24

- Unless asked to do something immoral or illegal, to be in submission is to give the authority to someone else. This is for this reason it says, “...*in all things.*”
- You cannot give occasional or partial submission.
- To walk as a witness in the culture to Holy Spirit living, is to submit in all things, trusting that your husband is not going to be a jerk.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

Ephesians 5:22-24

To the wives, it is not hard to submit to a loving, compassionate man who is looking out for the wellbeing of your family.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

Ephesians 5:22-24

To the wives, it is not hard to submit to a loving, compassionate man who is looking out for the wellbeing of your family.

To the husbands, to be in command is a weighty and difficult role to walk out. But even if you are in command, you still must earn the trust of your wife and children. In fact, you must be willing to engage in mutual submission and to die for them if necessary. (This includes dying to self.)



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

Ephesians 5:25-33

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

Ephesians 5:25-33

- FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! LOOK AT ALL THOSE VERSES!!!



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

Ephesians 5:25-33

- This is an impossible admonition of Holy Spirit living is for the husband?
- Who can do this?
 - ONLY the man who:
 - 1) ...is a believer



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

Ephesians 5:25-33

- This is an impossible admonition of Holy Spirit living is for the husband?
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 - 1) ...is a believer
 - 2) ...is filled with the Holy Spirit.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

Ephesians 5:25-33

- This is an impossible admonition of Holy Spirit living is for the husband?
- Who can do this?
 - ONLY the man who:
 - 1) ...is a believer
 - 2) ...is filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - 3) ...stays close to Christ, nourishing his relationship with Christ by a consistent reading of the Word and praying for his family.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

Ephesians 5:25-33

- This is why, the husband is the spiritual head of the family...NOT the authoritative head...but the spiritual head.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

Ephesians 5:25-33

To the husbands: If you are the spiritual head, you have assumed the active responsibility to grow in your faith. Further, you are to love your wife like Jesus loves church, i.e., you should be willing, 24/7, to die for your wife. Do you think the Holy Spirit means this? Three times the Holy Spirit has said this in this section. (Which may also speak to how thick-headed men can be.) Finally, husbands, you are also to be in submission to her as a fellow believer. (v 21)



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To the wives: All I can say is, it is not hard to respect a man who walks the Spiritual walk of life in fulfillment of this all-encompassing admonition, even if he fails, like I did, from time to time



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

Ephesians 5:25-33

- Finally, in verse 32, we are told of the importance of the family unit.
 - It is so profound; it even represents the mystical union of Christ and the Church.
But...



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Couple

Ephesians 5:25-33

- Finally, in verse 32, we are told of the importance of the family unit.
 - It is so profound; it even represents the mystical union of Christ and the Church.
But...
- The Holy Spirit role for women and men does not stop here:
 - Again, I do not know why they separated Ephesians 5:25-33 by creating a whole new chapter.
 - Ephesians 6:1 is an absolute continuation of the end of chapter 5.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Family

Ephesians 6:1-4

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Family

Ephesians 6:1-4

- The Greek word translated “parents,” conveys the meaning of “parents in the Lord.” In other words, just because a man provides the sperm and the woman an ovary, DOES NOT necessarily qualify them for the title, “mom,” or “dad,”



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Family

Ephesians 6:1-4

- The Greek word translated “parents,” conveys the meaning of “parents in the Lord.” In other words, just because a man provides the sperm and the woman an ovary, DOES NOT necessarily qualify them for the title, “mom,” or “dad,”
- The person who loved you, sacrificed for you, taught you right from wrong, and nurtured you; **THIS IS YOUR FATHER OR MOTHER** to whom you owe obedience.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Family

Ephesians 6:1-4

What about the father that violates the first part of verse 4, or the mother or father who is abusive?



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Family

Ephesians 6:1-4

- The call to “honor,” is connected to the title, “birth parent.” What is more, it is limited in its scope.
 - Physically abusive parents have lost much of the “honor obligation” owed to them.
 - Honor to them, should happen only if it is safe.



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 - Physically abusive parents have lost much of the “honor obligation” owed to them.
 - Honor to them, should happen only if it is safe.
- But...with honor, comes a reward like no other Command. This Command to honor, is the only Command to promise long life in the land.



II. Walking as a Spirit-filled Family

Ephesians 6:4

The man's role in Ephesians 6:4 grows even larger, although it is still under the title of Spiritual Head of the Family:

“Do not provoke your children to anger.”

- When we create anger in a person, we open the door to satanic activity. We literally become the father who gives his children a snake, literally, instead of bread.



Finally, loved ones, I need to address two situations.



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- First, more and more, we are seeing children without spiritual direction.
 - Believers, we need to step up fast, and start extending our covering through a ministry of presence and prayer, i.e.,
 - We need to start getting actively involved in the lives of children, and in our prayer closets, actively praying for children.



Finally, loved ones, I need to address two situations.

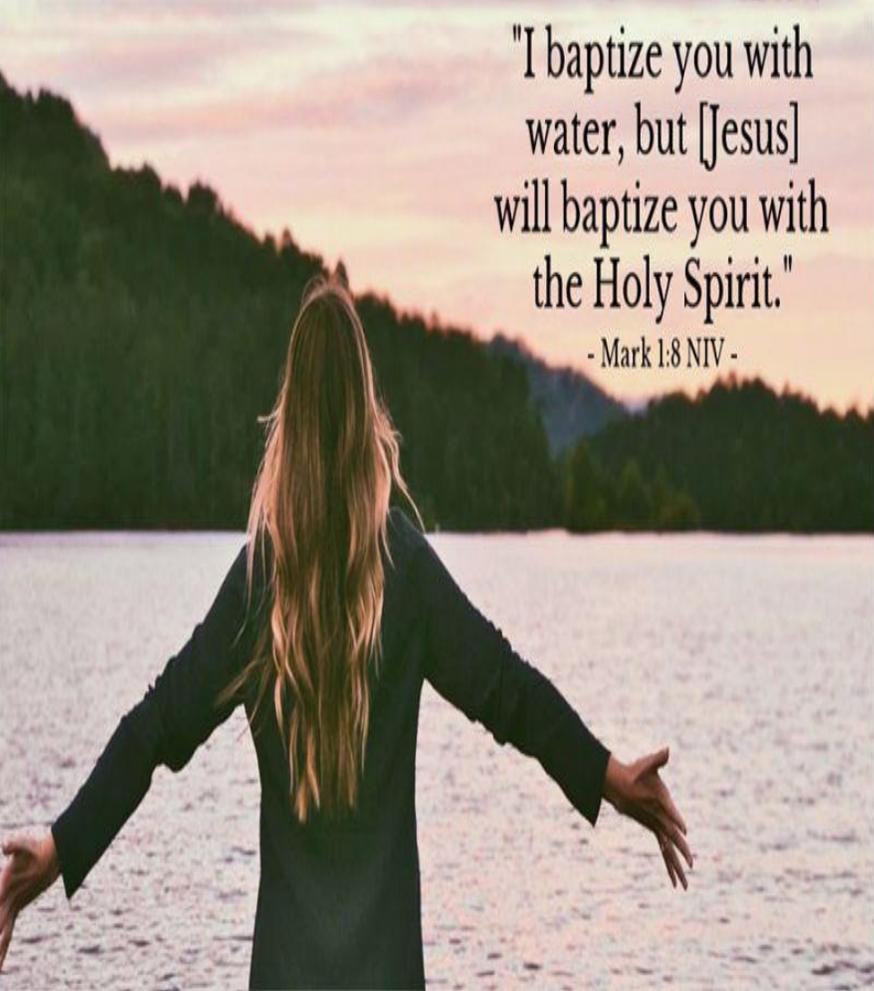
- Second, I would like to raise and answer an important question. Tonight, we heard that wives are to submit to their husbands and the husband is the spiritual head of the family.



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- What about women who are single?



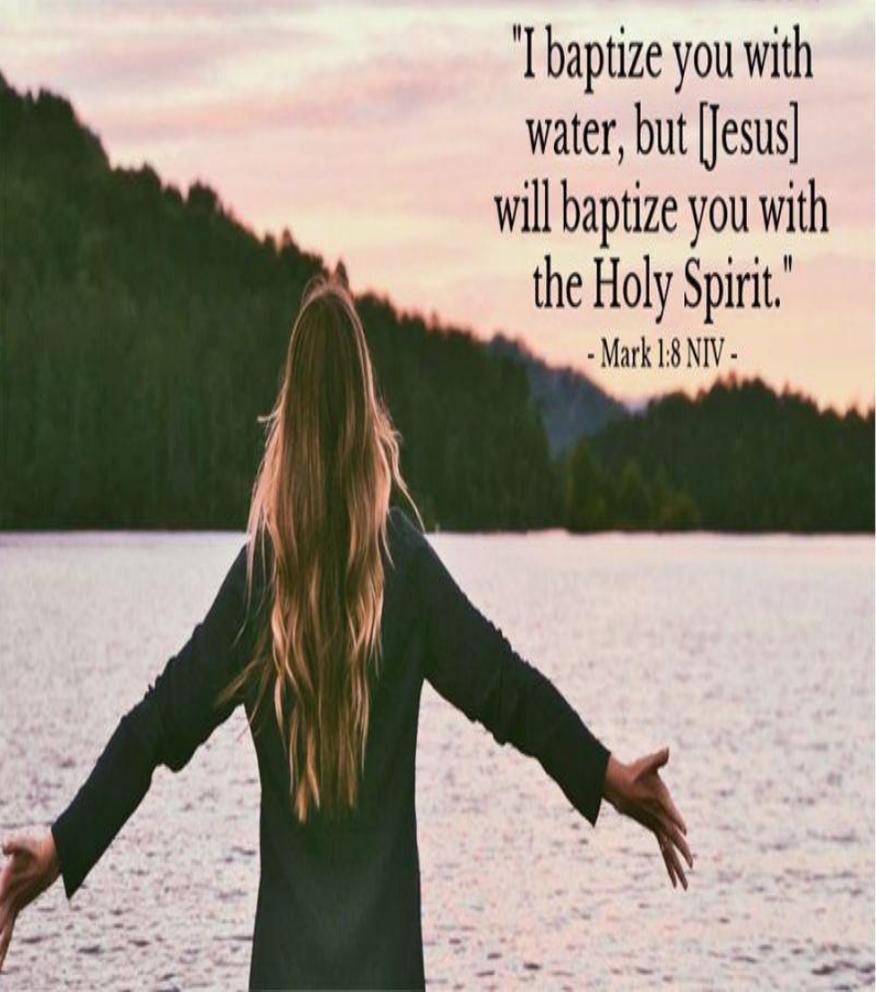


"I baptize you with
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- Mark 1:8 NIV -

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1 Cor 7:34-35 & 38, "...the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord... So then (the one) who marries does well, and (the one) who refrains from marriage will do even better."

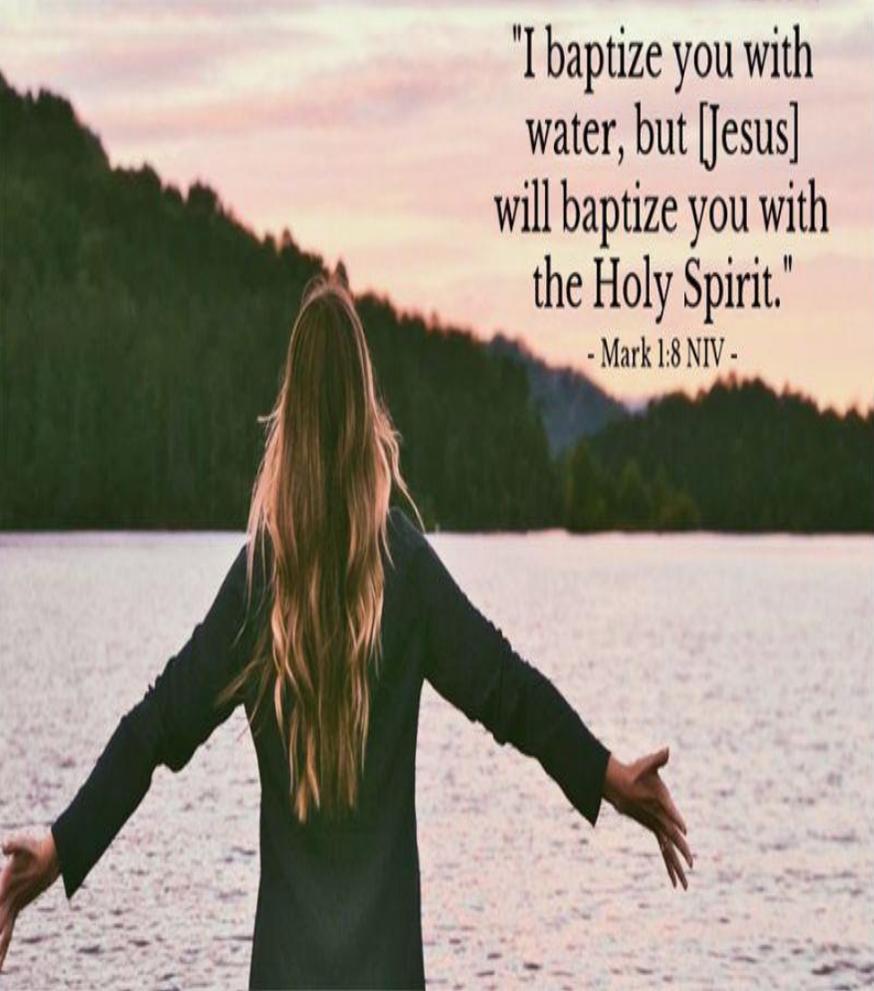


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- In other words, your singleness is a gift.
 - This is not to say that it is easy to be single. It is not.



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Finally, loved ones, I need to address two situations.

- In other words, your singleness is a gift.
 - This is not to say that it is easy to be single. It is not.
- But, for you in your singleness, it is a matter of training the mind to know and accept with every fiber of your being, that Jesus is at the table with you, and Jesus is there to celebrate what you are discovering in His Creation.



- Therefore, if you were called to the single life, rejoice and be glad, your spiritual head, is none other than Jesus, the Christ.