

## **Bringing the Spirit-Filled Life Home**

Text: Ephesians 5:14-33

In Ephesians 5:18 we are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit. At the end of that verse there is a semi-colon, meaning the sentence is continuing. Contextually, we see the continuation of the sentence which means we are still on the same subject. Verse 19 deals with our music being part of the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Then verse 20 brings out the importance of our thankfulness as conducive to the filling of the Holy Spirit. In verse 21, we come to the end of the sentence. The period at the end of the verse is not denoting the cessation of the thought but is rather launching into further ramification on that point. And the remainder of the chapter deals with the husband/wife relationship. In the next chapter, Ephesians 6:1-4 deals with the children/parents relationship. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is very much tied to our home life. If your Christianity only works at church and not at home, then you are not really walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16). Let's discuss what it means to bring the Spirit-filled life to our homes.

### **I. THE MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HUSBAND AND WIFE**

Ephesians 5:21: "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." Ephesians 5:31:c, "...and they two shall be one flesh." Before God begins to address the family members individually, we see He is emphasizing the mutual responsibility of husbands and wives.

I Corinthians 7:3, 4: "Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife."

It is well known that half of the marriages in our country are expected to end up in divorce. Even the secular world is wondering if we made a mistake in being complacent about this most serious conversation. Diane Medved, Ph.D. said, "In my private practice as a marriage counselor and psychologist, I've helped plenty of struggling couples through separation and 'liberation.' I originally thought that staying together in turmoil was more traumatic than making the break; that striking down taboos about divorce was part of modern enlightenment. I was wrong. As I shifted my professional focus to divorced individuals, the truth was difficult to avoid: treating divorce as "morally neutral" – an option no better or worse than staying married – was irreparably damaging to the very people I wanted to help. Often in tears, the divorced people I talked with described fantasies of an ex-spouse returning or confessed guilt over abandoning a devoted mate. They spoke of being uprooted from their homes, of splitting possessions, of children changed from innocents to confidants or scapegoats. And they mourned a part of their lives never to be recaptured – the family unit now destroyed. I'd ask, "Looking back, do you think you could have made it work?" Women would respond, "He was not romantic. He thought only of himself and his career." Men might say, "She took all my money, and then wouldn't trust me when I was away overnight." But each side would then

conclude, "Knowing what I know now, yes, we could have made it work." Mrs. Medved said those words in 1989. Eighteen years later, firm in her position, she wrote the book entitled, *Don't Divorce: Powerful Arguments for Saving and Revitalizing Your Marriage*. Mind you, this was not the opinion of an old fashioned preacher; this is a voice from the world saying throwing your marriage away is not the answer.

## II. THE ROLE OF THE HUSBAND

Ephesians 5:23, 25, 28-29, 32-33.

These verses show in no uncertain terms, the husband is to love his wife in the same way Christ loved the Church. The husband is the "savior." We do not exaggerate because we see twice the phrase, "even as Christ." This means therefore:

### A. Husbands love unconditionally.

Deuteronomy 7:7: "The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people."

Romans 5:6-8: "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

### B. Husbands love permanently.

Hosea 4:17; Hosea 11:8; Hebrews 13:5b: "...for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." John 6:37. Psalm 89:28-33.

### C. Husbands love verbally.

Romans 10:17; Ephesians 5:26, 27; Hebrews 1:3

### D. Husbands love sacrificially.

John 15:13; I John 3:16

## II. THE ROLE OF THE WIFE

Ephesians 5:22, 24

The two words "submit yourself" are from the Greek word *hupotasso*. In Ephesians 5:24 *hupotasso* is translated "subject." This is a Greek military term meaning to arrange [troop divisions] in a military fashion under the command of a leader. In non-military use, it was "a voluntary attitude of cooperating and carrying a burden.

### A. Wives love faithfully.

In Ephesians 5:22, 24; Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:5; I Peter 3:1, 5 the Bible uses the phrase "your own husbands," or "their own husbands," no less than six times!

### B. Wives love righteously.

I Peter 3:2, 3

C. Wives love quietly.

I Peter 3:1, 4-6

### III. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR PARENTS

Ephesians 6:1-4

The word “obey” comes from the Greek word *hupakouo*, which means to hear under (as a subordinate), i.e. to listen attentively; by implication, to heed or conform to a command or authority: — hearken, be obedient to, obey.

Honoring our parents comes with a two-fold blessing, the quality of life and the quantity of life.

### IV. THE FINAL ADMONITION

Ephesians 6:4

A. Break the will of the child, not the spirit.

Ephesians 6:4a: “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath....”

B. Train the whole child.

Ephesians 6:4b: “...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

According to the Britannica, The word for “nurture” is from the Greek word *paideia*, which means education, or learning system of education and training in classical Greek and Hellenistic (Greco-Roman) cultures that included such subjects grammar, rhetoric, music, mathematics, geography, natural history, philosophy and gymnastics. In the early Christian era the Greek *paideia*, called *humanitas* in Latin, served as a model for Christian institutions of higher learning, such as the Christian school of Alexandria in Egypt, which offered theology as the culminating science of their curricula. The term was combined with *enkyklios* (complete system or circle) to identify a large compendium of general education, hence “encyclopaedia.”

C. Let the training begin early.

The word “admonition” is from the Greek word *nouthesia*, which means the calling attention to by mild rebuke or warning. A principle is implicated that if mild and inculcated rebukes and warnings take place, the child may be delivered from the more severe discipline that comes from misbehavior as an adult (Proverbs 22:6).

-Pastor Pope-