



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

EPHESIANS 5:21—6:4

LESSON: GOD-HONORING FAMILIES—January 28, 2024

INTRODUCTION:

5:15-20 As the days are evil and the time is short, Christians must "*walk as the wise*" and make the best use of their time. This requires an understanding of the Lord's Will (5:15-17). Stop the habit of getting drunk to an excess, but be filled with the Spirit. ¹Paul contrasts getting drunk with wine which provides a temporary "high." to being Spirit filled, which produces lasting joy (5:18). Although all Christians have been baptized by the Spirit at salvation, all Christians are not Spirit filled. Just as surely as God has commanded all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30), so has He commanded every born-again believer to be Spirit filled. The filling is not a question of having more of the Holy Spirit, but a question of the Holy Spirit having all of us. Speak to each other in psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, singing, and making melody in your hearts unto the Lord. When we are more aware of God and His activities we will always give thanks to God the Father in the name of Jesus.

LESSON

I. EPHESIANS 5:21-24

5:21 **Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.** This scripture is a continuation starting from verse 18. We are to be filled with the Spirit (5:18) —express your joy to one another (5:19) — give thanks everyday (5:20) and then you can submit yourself to another. In a Spirit-filled life we are to submit to one another in the fear of God. A Spirit-filled person does not have a spirit of criticism, envy, divisiveness or selfishness. Instead, we are to go out of our way to minister and serve each other. Our relationship with Christ is the basis for our submission and we are to give reverence unto Him in all we do. "**Submit**" means to *arrange under*. Instead of arranging your affairs the way you would want them, you arrange your affairs under the will of someone else. It is God that you are a servant of. Submission should be in the fear of God; you honor and reverence God that much, that you would not give it a second thought, you just arrange yourself under, in the fear of God. How, you might ask? It starts by offering yourself first to God, letting Him work in and through you continuously.

5:22 **Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.** When dealing with wives and husbands, we must always remember that God's instructions are not to be grievous. In fact, they are easy and light as we are filled with the Spirit of God. God instructs and guides us down the easiest and lightest path possible. It is our flesh that gets in the way. Remember, that's why it talks about us being filled with the Spirit, so we can submit ourselves one to another; and wives to their own husbands; and husbands to their own wives, as unto the Lord. Submission goes both ways because of verse 21— submit one to another in the fear of God! We can't leave that verse out and not think that it does not apply to husbands. 1Cor.11:12 says, "*For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman: but all things of God.*" Just as the principle of submission is supported by the order of creation, the principle of mutual dependency is supported by the order of procreation. Therefore all things are of God and are done unto the Lord and that includes submission. But there is an order as we get to verse 23. But in verse 22, the wife is to walk in a spirit of submission to her own husband as she does unto her own Lord. Everything we do is "**In the fear of God**", and "**as unto the Lord.**" If we just get that down. And in submission we will not always get our way. Why, you might ask?

1. Submit is God's Will because it is **a commandment of God.**

Christian wives do not obey God out of resentment and reaction because of the commandment. They obey the Lord out of LOVE because they love both the Lord and their husbands when we see them as God sees them. **The point is:** the submission that wives are to show to their own husbands is an example of the submission that all

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/ephesians-515/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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believers are to show to one another (Eph.5:21).

5:23 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. Here we come to the order of things. *"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ..."* 1Cor.11:3a. And we're still talking about in submission we will not always get our way!

2. **Submit is God's order for the family** because there's to be a partnership and an order within the family.
 - a. The husband is the head of the wife; referring to the order of function of authority in a partnership. *"...and the head of the woman is the man..."* 1Cor.11:3b.
 - b. Christ has authority over the church. The great pattern for the wife to follow is Christ.
 - c. Christ is the Savior of the body. The husband is to be the protector and comforter of the wife, just as Christ protects and comforts His body.

"...And the head of Christ is God" 1Cor.11:3c. **There is still an order of headship!**

3. **Submit to God's spiritual mystery** (unknown) because **there is oneness**. Christ shows the pattern for the wife, as well as, the church.
 - a. As she submits to Christ, so she is to submit to her husband.
 - b. As she depends upon Christ to be her Savior, so she is to depend upon her husband to give his life, if need be, for her as protector (symbolizing Christ). No one should be able to attack her or hurt her in his presence.
 - c. As she depends upon Christ for companionship and comfort, so she is to depend upon her husband for companionship and comfort; being able to talk; communicate with, and soothe certain distresses in life.

It does not mean that women are inferior to men. It simply means that there is to be an arrangement, an order in the household. Everybody must have such an order, and everybody must have a head. ²A country has a president or a prime minister. A corporation has a CEO. An army has a four-star general. A church has the Lord Jesus Christ, and a marriage has the husband as the head. Two heads in any body or organization would make for disorder. It does not mean that the husband can mistreat the wife. It does not mean that the husband is smarter or more important than the wife. If you are the head then that brings with it, responsibility; what decisions and choices are feasible for the whole family as well as the wife?

5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Sometimes we think that submission is a sign of weakness but headship in a living union where Christ and His church become one, being a sign of love. The church is subject to Christ. The church is the body and Christ has saved the church. He is the leader and all the people are under His authority. Therefore, if the wife is a part of the body, the church, subject to Christ, she is also subject to her own husband in every thing.

³In the time of Jesus, a girl was completely under the authority of her father. A wife was completely under the authority of her husband. A Jewish man, in his morning prayer, would thank God for three things. These were that God had not made him 'a Gentile, a slave or a woman'. By Jewish law, a woman had very few rights. Her husband could divorce her almost as he wanted. It was the same in the Greek and Roman societies. A husband could leave his wife and marry someone else. He could do absolutely what he wanted to do. Divorce was not a rare event. What Paul was teaching would therefore be new and it would seem strange.

But you say, yes, being submissive to Christ will not disappoint me. However, if I put all my trust in my husband by submitting to him, I'm vulnerable. Yes, everyday we're vulnerable to God. He sees our bad side and still loves us; yet with our husbands, it would not be the same; he is not God. But, yes he is to be under God's submission of authority. We are to trust God *"that all things will work together for good of them that love God, who are called according to his purpose"* Rom.8:28. This is another reason of why we should be equally yoked; even in the Spirit. Where there is no submission, there is rebellion. Where there is rebellion, there is rebellion

² <http://www.biblegems.com/EPHESIANS5V17.HTM> Copyright: 2005 by Charles F. (Rick) Creech

³ <http://www.easyenglish.info/bible-commentary/eph-lbw.htm>

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against God. Can we come to the conclusion that we are not always trusting God with our husbands? We seem to know best, and allow thoughts of past situations to get in the way. And lastly being subject to our own husbands in every thing will start by offering ourselves first to God, letting Him work in and through us one step at a time. You know some things that you don't want to do, but the voice inside leads you to do the right thing? Yes, that voice from our old way of living, tells you, "*I don't have to submit to anyone; No one tells me what to do.*" But new life in Christ means we follow the example of Christ who "*made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant*" Phili.2:7. God is still dealing with us all! Praise God!

And may I add: ⁴Just because the husband is the head does not mean that he cannot delegate certain of his responsibilities to the wife. The wife may be better at handling finances, and therefore the husband may choose to hand the checkbook to her for her to control and to balance. But whether he chooses to delegate certain things or not, the Bible makes it very clear that the responsibility of the wife is to be subject to the husband "*in every thing.*" Again, where there is no submission, there is rebellion. Where there is rebellion, there is rebellion against God.

II. EPHESIANS 5:25-33

5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; — Love is the central command to husbands. The love spoken of here is not just sexual love or family love or friendship or romantic feeling, though it governs all of these. It is the unselfish, deliberate love born in us from God. It is like the love God had in giving up His Son, and the love which Christ had in laying down His life for the lost. It is "*Agape Love!*" To bring this into today's life:

- When there is a simple disagreement, he will be more interested in building her up than in justifying himself.
- When he comes home tired, he will not bury himself in the newspaper or TV, but will make room for her to be important in his attention and consider the burdens of her day.
- He will deny himself when tempted, in order to keep his vows to her and to provide an example for her and the children.
- He will take leading responsibility for spiritual training and church attendance. He will not dump his responsibilities on his wife while he indulges his own interests.

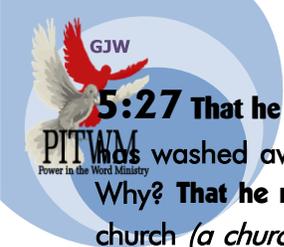
Now does a man like this really exist? Well, only as he is completely led by Christ. He has also presented himself as an offering, first to God, letting Him work in and through him one step at a time.

5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,— The "*he*" here is Christ. Christ loves and gave Himself for the church. And He will sanctify (*consecrate, set apart, make holy*) for sacred service and cleanse (*purify*) His church with the washing of water (*purifying the soul from sin*) by the Word. The Church is represented as the spouse of Christ. And to prepare this Church for Himself, He washes, cleanses, and sanctifies it. God the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to accomplish God's purpose in redemption. A person needs to receive the Word of God. The cleansing comes "by the Word" (Jh.15:3). It is the Word; the Gospel of Jesus Christ that is alive and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to dividing asunder of soul and spirit... Heb.4:12. The Gospel is the Word. In Bible times, before a woman became queen, she went through extensive training, cleansing, and beauty treatment. This is the same as a bride making herself look beautiful for her husband. But as for the church, she cannot do this for herself. The church cannot wash away the marks of sin herself. It has to come by Christ. He sets her apart to be cleansed by His Word. This is the example of the love the husband is to have for his wife.

- The husband's love involves being set apart and cleansed. He sets himself apart for her and for her alone. His word, his action, his vow in the marriage also causes her to set herself apart.
- The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. However, the husband does not hammer the Word of God over the wife's head to cleanse her, but he cares enough to communicate it in a loving manner that will nourish the soul and spirit. The power of the Holy Spirit does the rest. The wife is to grow and bloom as a sanctified and pure flower in God's church.

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5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing;— Christ has washed away the filth of our sins by His blood and cleansed and beautified our lives through His teaching. Why? **That he might present it to himself** (*Christ, the Bridegroom Himself presents the bride to Himself*), a glorious church (*a church worthy, cleansed from sin; a bride without a blemish*). He is the One preparing her; **not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.**

- Spots are from without—the mistakes that tarnish the outside.
- Wrinkles are from within—the friction that rattle the nerves and causing internal decay, which will have to be ironed out.

5:27b ...But that it should be holy (*morally pure*) and without blemish (*immaculate, just like the heavenly Bridegroom*). The only way for the church to be without spot or wrinkle is for it to be grounded in the Word of God. In the case of the marriage of husband and wife:

- There should be no spots.
 - mistreatment and abuse
 - loose and immoral behavior
 - withdrawal and avoidance
- There should be no wrinkles.
 - temper and reaction
 - broken promises and serious neglect
 - severe selfishness and rejection
- They are to be holy and without blemish.
 - As the husband models holiness in his own life, and takes responsibility for the spiritual growth of his wife and family, the wife finds it much easier to become what Christ wants her to be.

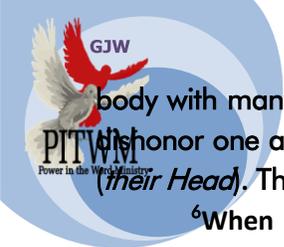
5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. The man who loves his wife is actually loving his own body, knowing that he and his wife are one flesh. If he mistreats her, he is mistreating himself. As he loves her, he is nourishing her and himself. There should be no starvation of love in the Christian home for the husband and wife should so love each other that their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs are met—if both are submitted to the Lord. He must care as much about her needs as his own. If he does that, he is truly laying down his life for her daily, and he will get back amazingly more than he gives up, and amazingly more than he would ever get by selfish demand or by force. She would be on the same team with him, loving and respecting him, rather than bitter and hostile and resistant to his leadership. Few wives could not reject such a love, but would walk hand in hand with their husbands because they see such unselfish and sacrificial love.

5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: — ⁵No man hates his own body. No, he feeds it and looks after it. To love yourself in this way is not wrong. It is necessary because if you do not look after yourself, you will die. And that's dangerous and not practical to the man who hates his own flesh. He would whine up destroying himself in some unnatural way. And that's not the Will of God. He must feed and warm his body with the Word of God. **"Nourish"** means just that: to feed, care and instruct; to see that their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs are met just as the Lord does the church. Surely, Christ would not let the church die after He has given His very life for her. He cherishes; gives tender love, and care to the church.

5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. There is a true union between Christ and His people. Sin separated us from God, and in undoing what sin had done, Christ joins us to Himself. **"Members of His body"** refers to the Church. It is made up of all those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. **"Unit"** means one, therefore **"Unity"** is a state of being one or oneness. Well the church is a **"Unit"** forming one

⁵ <http://www.easyenglish.info/bible-commentary/eph-lbw.htm>
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body with many members with Christ being the Head. The Church body cannot expect to honor Christ while they dishonor one another (*another member*), for in dishonoring one another (*another member*) they do dishonor Christ (*their Head*). This would coincide with verse 29. Now the implication "*of his flesh and of his bones*" is in reference to:

⁶When Eve was formed from Adam's rib, the Scripture teaches: (Gen 2:23 KJV) *And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.* God took Eve from the rib of Adam; and when the church was formed, the Lord Jesus on the cross was pierced in His side by the soldier with the spear, and water and blood came out of His side. The church was formed the same way Eve was. We are one flesh with Christ as we are married to Him, just as Eve was one flesh with Adam when God took Adam's rib from his side and brought her to him, and they were married. There is such an intimacy between Christ and the church, that it is symbolized as us being a member of His spiritual body. Remember in John 6, when the Lord Jesus Christ was speaking of eating His flesh and drinking His blood? This was also symbolic of being such an intimate part of the Lord Jesus. The church as the wife of Christ, are enjoined as one, which is symbolized by the marriage relationship.

5:31 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. "For this cause" - What cause? - The cause of being a member of one body; unity and oneness.

"Leaving father and mother" speaks not only a fact of the marriage state, but also implies that Christ left the Father for the sake of His spiritual Bride. This is God's plan for marriage. I can also see an example of when we came to Christ and left the world's way. Nothing is to come between us and Christ. We are not to look back at our old lives and desire it to be in our new lives. When one lived under the roof of their parents, they did as their parents instructed. Here, we're speaking of joining in marriage— leaving one phase of our lives to enter another phase; of belonging to another and the two becoming one flesh. This process means that the husband is not to compare his wife to his mother or allow the parents to interfere in the marriage. This shows that ⁷the parents have allowed their children to leave. They have ended all their rights over to their children and Christ has now joined the husband and wife to be as one flesh. There are three unions within a true marriage, and that is, Christ being the bond or glue that joins them together.

1. There is the *physical union*: the sharing of each other's body (1Cor.7:2-5).
2. There is the *mental union*: the sharing of each other's life and dreams and hopes, and the working together to realize those dreams and hopes come by being on one accord with Christ and each other.
3. There is the *spiritual union*: the sharing and melting and molding of each other's spirit. When a couple shares God together day by day, God works supernaturally within their spirits, melting their beings and molding them into what He calls one flesh. They actually become as one person. The Greek word for "**joined together**" (*sunzeugen*) actually means *to yoke together*. It is God yoking, God joining, God binding the couple together into such a spiritual union that causes them to become one person. They are joined together in body, soul, and spirit. If we don't allow the above to happen, then there is a problem:
 1. The problem of one or both of the spouses being unwilling to be bound together by the Spirit of God.
 2. The problem of one or both of the spouses being unwilling to break away from dependency upon the parents.

5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. The fact that two becomes one in a marriage is a mystery. But Paul makes it clear that the mystery here is about Christ and His church. It is possible for the church to become one in body, soul, and spirit with Christ being the head. Remember, in the bible a mystery is not something mysterious and difficult to understand, or rather, it is a truth that has been locked up in God's plan for ages until He was ready to reveal it to man. It is a spiritual fact that has to be revealed by God if it is to be experienced by the church. Well, those that were in the upper room were on one accord in one place, were all filled with the Holy Ghost and all began speaking in tongues and each understood the other. That is a mystery. It

⁶ http://www.scionofzion.com/ephesians5_22-33.htm

⁷ <http://www.easyenglish.info/bible-commentary/eph-lbw.htm>

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is a spiritual mystery that can be illustrated only by the great love Christ has for His church. Christ and His church are the symbolic example for the husband. The church and its love for Christ are the symbolic example for the wife.

5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. This is saying: However! It all comes down to, husbands are to love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.

- The husband is to love his wife as being her protector, defender and provider, even as Christ is of the church.
- The wife is to respect her husband’s position; respect his headship; and respect his worth.

SUMMARY:

5:21-33 21 Christians are to submit to one another out of reference of God. 22-23 Wives are to submit because it is the Will of God, the Order of God, and the Oneness of God. 24 The church is subject of Christ, so the wife is subject to her own husband in everything because 25 Love is the central command for the husbands toward their wives, as Christ loved and gave Himself for the church, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word. 27 And then present her to himself a glorious church without spot or wrinkle, but she will be holy without blemish! 28 So the husband’s love toward their wives would be as the husband loves his own body, which means he loves himself and his wife, for it wouldn’t be right to hate his own flesh, 29 but it would be right to nourish and cherish it even as the Lord does the church, 30 for we are members of Christ’s body flesh and bones. 31 And the fact that we are one body, unit, and oneness, the man is to leave father and mother, and be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh! 32 The fact that two becomes one in a marriage is a mystery. But Paul makes it clear that the mystery here is about Christ and His church. It is possible for the church to become one in body, soul, and spirit with Christ being the head. 33 Nevertheless, husbands are to love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife is to exhort and respect her husband!

III. EPHESIANS 6:1-4

6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. We now come to the duties of children and parents. The word **"obey"** (*hupakouo*) means to submit to; to comply with; to hearken; to heed; to follow the directions or guidance of some instruction. When a parent guides and directs a child, the child is to obey the parent. You obey because...

1. **First, obeying parents is a command.** When you tell someone, "Obey", you are not asking them to, but you are giving a command. That is what God is doing concerning children. It is the same as you obey the Lord Himself. **"In the Lord"**, meaning two things:

1. Obeying your parents is right; it is of the Lord; it pleases the Lord; therefore, obey them.
2. There is a limit to the child’s obedience. God will not tolerate abuse. The Lord came to set men free from the abuse and the filth of sin, not to enslave men to it, and especially not to enslave children to it.

"...for this is right", meaning a moral duty. *Obedience is better than sacrifice* 1 Sam.15:22 means obeying with a right heart than wrong sacrifices of what you think is needed.

6:2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;—

2. **Secondly, obeying parents means honoring father and mother.** The word *"honor"* (*timao*) means to esteem and value as precious; to respect and reference them. It is an attitude of love, respect, and disposition of heart that produces obedience. Tragically, this is a rarity today. Too often a child’s response to his parents is...

- talking back
- ignoring
- grumbling
- speaking disrespectfully
- not listening
- putting off instructions
- acting like a "know it all"

In addition to these, there is the dishonor of delinquency, crime, drugs, alcohol, abuse of property, and the list goes on. Too many adult children forget how much their parents have done. Too many children forget the rich experience and knowledge that their parents have gained through the years and that could be of great use to them. And even if the parents failed to be and to do all they should have, we as Christian children are instructed





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to honor them as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. It says that this is the first commandment with promise.

6:3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. Two promises made to children who honor their parents are:

1. Things will go well for the child. It does not mean that the child will never have problems or have to suffer. It means that God will be with the child, strengthen and take care of him so that he can walk through the trials of life victoriously. Whatever confronts him, he will be able to be strong and go through the journey of life. This is both temporal and spiritual prosperity.
2. The child is assured that he will have a long life on earth because his obedience came from the depths of his heart. And only God knows the length of our days.

6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the

Lord. Parents are bound to upset and irritate their children sometimes. It comes with the territory. We upset people, let alone our children. It's in our nature at times. But we are not to provoke them. The word "**provoke**" (*parorgizo*) means to arouse to wrath or anger, to provoke to the point of utter exasperation and resentment.

In Paul's day, the father had supreme authority over the family. When a baby was born into a Roman family, for example, it was brought out and laid before the father. If he picked it up, it meant he was accepting it into the home. But, if he did not pick it up, it meant the child was rejected. It could be sold, given away, or even killed by exposure. No doubt a father's love would overcome such monstrous acts, but these practices were legal in that day.

As we look at today, fathers can provoke children by a wrong spirit and by wrong methods which would incite wrong behavior.

- Failing to accept the child (for who he is or even rejecting the child because he doesn't think he is his, or doesn't want any children).
- Failing to accept the fact that things change. Time and generations do change (1st sibling vs. the 2nd sibling).
- Over-controlling a child (from stern restriction to child abuse; no balance).
- Under-controlling a child (pampering and giving in too much; and not giving love).
- Living an inconsistent life before the child (speaking one thing and doing another). And more...

If left to themselves, children will be rebels, so it is necessary for the parents to train their children. Train them and bring them up in the nurture— "**Bring them up**" is the same word translated "**nourisheth**" in Eph.5:29 (feed, nourish). The Christian husband is to nourish his wife and his children by sharing love and encouragement in the Lord. It is not enough to nurture the children physically by providing food, shelter, and clothing. He must also nurture them emotionally and spiritually. The word "**nurture**" (*paideia*) means the whole training and education of children "**...and admonition**" (*nouthesia*) means counsel, exhortation, and correction. "**...of the Lord**" mean that the Lord's Word is to be the guide for Christian parents in rearing their children. In your time of training, teach them:

- To know love: that he is loved by God and by all who trust God.
- To know power and triumph: there is a supernatural power available to help him.
- To know hope and faith: no matter the trial he can trust God and hope in Him no matter how painful.
- To know the truth of life and endurance (service): living in an evil world he is still to serve by working diligently, making the greatest contribution he can.
- To trust and endure: temptations and pitfalls come to steal his joy and the fulfillment of his purpose, but there is a way of escape as he trust and endure in Christ's plan.
- To have peace: there is an inner peace despite the turbulent waters.

SUMMARY:

Children are told to obey their parents, while fathers are instructed not to provoke their children to wrath but bring them up in the Lord's nurture and admonition (**6:1-4**).

APPLICATION: Remember Christ is the glue in the marriage and in the essence of a family. He does not let go!

