

“First Steps: Walking by the Spirit”

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Scripture

Ephesians 5:15-33

“Therefore, **be careful how you walk**, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish but **understand what the will of the Lord is**. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be filled with the Spirit**, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

So, **husbands** ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. FOR THIS REASON, A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

This mystery is great; but **I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church**. Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

Introduction

Love

Faith

Hope

Grace

The Holy Spirit

What does it mean to be “walk by the Holy Spirit”?

What does it mean to be “filled with the Holy Spirit”?

Are they the same thing? Walking by and being filled with?

Is it a one-time event or is it a continual event?

Paul’s Call to Walk by the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-26

“But I say, **walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.** For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.”

How many of you parents had a time when two of your kids were fighting each other in the same house?

It’s an internal Civil war... Epithumeuo -> to lust after, desire deeply, or “to covet”

The Spirit is a governor, of sorts -> Rental Car speed

What Does it Mean to Walk by the Spirit?

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

“**Now the Lord is the Spirit**, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. **But** we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

Romans 8:12-16

“So then, brethren, **we are under obligation, not to the flesh**, to live according to the flesh-- for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but **if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you **have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again**, but you have **received a spirit of adoption as sons** by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God”

Obligation -> “one who owes a debt” -> KJV says “debtor”

Walking by the Spirit means **to cooperate** in your transformation...not to fight it...

To simply Walk under the guidance of the Spirit

Ephesians 4:29-32

“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but **only such a word as is good for edification** according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. **Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Example: Home Renovation and Wallpaper

How do we Cooperate in Our Transformation?

John 6:63-65

“**It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing;** the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. And He was saying, ‘For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father’.”

Reinforce that Spiritual Focus is Primary

Philippians 2:12-13

“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

God works for **His good pleasure**...not our determined pleasure...

Example: The Honey-Do list... You are working the list for your honey's good pleasure...

Galatians 6:8-10

“For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but **the one who sows to the Spirit** will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **Let us not lose heart in doing good**, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, **let us do good to all people**, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”

Commit to Sow to the Spirit!

Committing to “sowing to the Spirit” means living under the influence of the Spirit, doing good to all people, but treasuring those who are fellow believers

Learning from the Spirit

The Holy Spirit is our Comforter and our Encourager but primarily -> He is our Teacher

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 and 10-15

Paul wrote: “My message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, **but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power**, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

For to us God revealed through the Spirit; for **the Spirit searches all things**, even the depths of God. For whom among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so **the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.**

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, **so that we may know the things freely given to us by God**, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those **taught by the Spirit**, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.”

Being Filled with the Spirit

What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?

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Live with wisdom because the days are evil.

If they were evil then, I wonder what Paul would say about our modern world.

“Making the most of our time”: our days on Earth are fixed, short and numbered.

Understanding what the will of the Lord is. The Greek is *thelema* -> God’s preferred will

Do you know the Lord’s preferred will for your life?

Think about some examples of His will for you!

Examples: Saved. Sanctified. Submissive. Thankful. Joyous. Peaceful. Humble.

Being Filled with the Spirit -> “Letting the Word control you”, thinking biblically

The Spirit’s job in the believer’s life was to bring to remembrance everything that Jesus said

John 14:26

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

MacArthur: “Being filled with the Spirit is living in the conscious presence of Jesus, letting His mind, through the Word, dominate everything that is thought and done”

Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs -> the Word set to music

Always giving thanks for all things -> continual thankfulness through praise

Being **Subject to** One Another: “Subject to” is *Hypotasso* -> “to arrange or place under”

No Believer has superiority over another in Christ

Applying Walking by the Spirit to Relationships

- Wives
- Husbands
- Children and employer/employee relationships in Ephesians 6)

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

Submit: Oooh, scary word for wives here?

Paul already said we should be subject to each other...

Peter wrote that we should be subject to government...

1 Peter 2:13-17

“**Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution**, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. **For such is the will of God** that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.”

Wives should not dominate in a marriage.

Wives should be submissive to their husbands.

This is **not** for the husband to command; it is a willing submission by the wife.

Your own husbands, there is **one man** to whom she willingly should submit.

The husband is her personal, intimate possession just as much as she is his.

As to the Lord: the ultimate reason she willingly submits to her husband is that **she is under the submission to the Lord, and His will is for her to be submissive.**

Christ is the Head of the church (reflecting leadership) and the husband is the head of the wife.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

How did Christ love the Church?

He was the Church's Prophet -> The Living Word: Spiritual Instruction and Guidance

He is the Church's Priest -> Intercessory Prayer and Petition

He is the Church's King -> Provision and Protection (both Physical and Emotional)

He was the Church's Sacrifice -> Gave His Life for the Church

Husbands, how are you doing with this?

Are you worthy of being the Spiritual as well as Physical leader of the marriage?

Do you speak the Word to your bride?

Do you lift up daily prayers for your bride?

Do you provide for your bride, both physically and emotionally?

Do you live in a way that shows your willingness to give your life for her?

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FOR THIS REASON, A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

The husbands love for his wife should be equal to his love for himself because they are ONE!

This mystery is great; but **I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church**. Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

The Family and Marriage was to be God's example for world to see concerning His love for His Church.

The Family was the first type of government in the world.

The mutual love in a true marriage leads people to see Christ in the world.

Our relationships reflect how we view Christ in our lives.

We are to Reflect that love of Christ toward our spouse and others.

They are the greatest tests we face in Walking by the Spirit.

Summary

We Cooperate with Him

We Learn from Him

We are Continually Filled by Him

We Reflect His Influence toward Others

Prayer

Benediction