

The Doctrine of Marriage *vis a vis* Obstacles to a Godly Marriage

December 28, 2014



III. Christ and his bride the Church. Eph. 5.21f

A. The only perfect marriage is the gracious marriage of Christ and his bride the Church.

Ephesians 5.15f (KJV)

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another in the fear of God.

²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. ³⁰For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³²This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

What's the difference between "dissipation" and being filled with the Spirit?

What is submission one to another? Why is it mutual submission? Why in the fear of God?

How is Christ the head of the Church? Why does she submit to / obey him?

Why does Christ not need to prove his love for the church? How does the church prove he love for Christ? Must she bear him children? How? How not? How does the church practice birth control? (See Rev. 17.1-6; 18. 7-8)

What does Christ do in light of his church's impurities and weaknesses? Whom does Christ submit to? How is this, them, submission to his wife?

Husbands?

Restate these roles as mutual submission in the fear of God.

What does it look like . . . when a godly husband marries an ungodly wife (Christ and an apostate church)?

. . . when a godly wife marries an ungodly husband (a true believer in an apostate church)?

Define 'ungodly' in this relationship. How can you tell a believer from an unbeliever? Why is this definition difficult to apply?