

## What the Lord has Done, and is Doing for His Church

### *Ephesians 5:22-33*

#### Introduction

1. **Revelation 22:17** – the invitation the bride of Christ extends demonstrates her blessed state. She does not loathe her betrothal to Christ but is joyous to the extent of calling others to join.
  2. The image of the husband/wife relationship was used by the Holy Spirit to indicate the great love and care Christ has for His body, His church – **Ephesians 5:22-33**
  3. We must never forget what He has done for us, and what He is actively doing for us. As such is understood and appreciated the relationship grows sweeter, and our service to Him will not be one of grudging obligation, but cheerful submission.
- I. Loved Her and Gave Himself for Her
    - A. He Loved the Unlovable
      - a. Love – *agapao* – not emphasizing affection – love of action which is expressed based on the value of its object and its need.
        - i. “The love required must be deep-seated, thorough-going, intelligent and purposeful, a love in which the entire personality – not only the emotions but also the mind and the will – expresses itself.” (Hendriksen)
        - ii. **Cf. Philippians 1:9** – love of knowledge and discernment.
      - b. Not based on mere affection:
        - i. **Matthew 5:43-48** – love commanded for enemies – a love which acts contrary to where pure emotion may lead (**v. 43** – hate).
        - ii. We were enemies – **Romans 5:10**
      - c. **John 3:16; Ephesians 5:25** – God loved, and Christ loved.
    - B. He Paid the Ultimate Price
      - a. **“gave Himself”** – what He did was in the best interest of the church.
        - i. **Philippians 2:3-8** – Christ the ultimate example of humility, and service toward another’s interests.
        - ii. **Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 1:18-19** – the purchase price was His blood (life).
          1. No greater love – **John 15:13**
      - b. **“for her”** – the church.
        - i. **Ephesians 5:23** – savior of body.
        - ii. Only those part of the body are saved – **Acts 2:38, 40-41, 47**
  - II. Sanctified and Cleansed Her
    - A. The Purpose (of Him giving Himself for her...sanctify and cleanse)
      - a. Sanctify – *hagiazō* – “set it apart” (marginal, NKJV) – “signifies to set apart for God, to sanctify, to make a person or thing the opposite of *koinos*, ‘common’” (VINE)
        - i. Negative – set apart from rest of world – common.
          1. **Colossians 1:13** – out of power of darkness.

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- a. Power of darkness – **Ephesians 2:1-3** – sin, way of world, submission to Satan, disobedient to God, subject to wrath.
  - i. **“just as the others”** – no different than the rest of the world
  2. **John 17:14-19** – in the world but not of the world – different. (Like Christ was)
  - ii. Positive – set apart to God.
    1. Israel – **Exodus 19:3-6** – special treasure above all, priests/holy nation – service of God. (**cf. Romans 9:4 – “the service of God”**)
    2. **1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10** – partake of special service to God. (Privilege!)
- b. Cleanse – a necessity to being sanctified.
  - i. **John 15:3; 17:17** – clean because of abiding word – sanctified.
  - ii. **2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1** – separation from what is common, or unclean – unclean because it is opposed to God (**vv. 14-16** – lawless, darkness, Belial, unbeliever, idols – God is pure)
- B. The Process – **“with the washing of water by the word”**
  - a. **Word** – Spirit’s instrument – **Ephesians 6:17** – sword.
    - i. **2 Thessalonians 2:13-14** – salvation, sanctification by Spirit, belief in truth.
  - b. **Washing by word** – **Titus 3:5** – washing regeneration, renewal of Spirit.
    - i. **John 3:3, 5** – born of water and Spirit.
    - ii. **1 Peter 1:22-23** – born of word. (NOTE: Purify – cleanse – **Ephesians 5:26**)
    - iii. Word commands baptism, baptism washes away sins.
    - iv. **1 Peter 3:21; Hebrews 10:22** – answer (inquiry) of good conscience, hearts sprinkled from evil conscience, bodies washed pure water.
- III. Nourishing and Cherishing Her
  - A. Has not left the church – betrothal, and preparation for the wedding feast.
    - a. Betrothal (more binding than our engagement)
    - b. God’s blessings – then legally husband and wife.
    - c. Interval between betrothal and wedding feast.
      - i. Dowry paid if not already. (**Acts 20:28** – blood of Christ)
    - d. Preparation and procession for wedding feast:
      - i. Bride prepares and adorns self.
      - ii. Groom in best attire, friends accompanying, proceed to home of betrothed.
      - iii. Receives bride, and proceeds to place of feast.
    - e. Wedding feast. (**cf. Matthew 22**)
  - B. The Bride’s Preparation
    - a. Christ to the church:

- i. **Nourishes** – *ektrepō* – to provide food (BDAG)
- ii. **Cherishes** – *thalpō*; probably akin to θάλλω *thallō* (to warm); to brood, i.e. (figuratively) to foster. (Strong)
  - 1. **1 Thessalonians 2:4-9 (v. 7)** – how Paul and companions treated Thessalonians – tenderness, gentleness, selfless care.
- b. Christ is working to present bride to self – **Ephesians 5:27**
  - i. Glorious – *endoxos* – “pert. to possessing an inherent quality that is not ordinary, glorious, splendid” (BDAG)
    - 1. By God’s standard – **Ephesians 3:20-21**
    - 2. By Christ Jesus – **Ephesians 1:22-23** – fullness of Christ, fills all in all.
  - ii. No spot/wrinkle, holy w/out blemish – **cf. 1 Corinthians 5:7** – purity in church.
- c. How the bride is prepared:
  - i. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – His word thoroughly equips us.
  - ii. **Ephesians 4:11-16** – Christ left gifts, those who reveal and teach His word.
    - 1. **1 Timothy 3:14-15** – know how to conduct self in church.
  - iii. **Revelation 19:7-8** – The Bride makes herself ready.
    - 1. **Philippians 2:12-13** – we work, and God works in us.
    - 2. **1 Thessalonians 2:13** – God’s word effectively working in us.

#### IV. Leading Her

##### A. Headship of Christ

- a. **Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23** – Christ is head of the church.
  - i. Authority
  - ii. Preeminence – “a being of high status” (BDAG)
    - 1. **Colossians 1:18** – head of body, preeminence.
    - 2. **Colossians 2:6-7, 9-10** – rooted in Him.
    - 3. **Colossians 3:17** – doing all under His authority.
- b. Authority is for our benefit – **Ephesians 5:23, 25** – head, love, sacrifice.
  - i. **(vv. 26-27)** – to present her holy.
  - ii. Headship is not about oppression but directing in the true way which leads to salvation.

##### B. Submission of the Church

- a. Christ is not a figurehead. His authority is real and must be submitted to.
  - i. CONSIDER: If Christ really does not care what we do, and how we do it, then is there any real authority He possesses?
  - ii. Unless everything we do is headed by Christ – that is, with the direct authority of Christ – then He doesn’t really possess all authority (**cf. Matthew 28:18**).
- b. Church submits – **Ephesians 5:22-24**

#### Conclusion

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1. Christ has done so much for His church and continues to do so much for her.
2. There must be an understanding that all Christ commands is for our good.
3. We must willfully submit to Him always as He seeks to prepare us for the great wedding feast in the end.