

Getting Started

Read Ephesians 5:15-21 and discuss the difference between being *indwelt* by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9, 1 Cor 12:13) and being *filled* with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18, Gal 5:16-23)

What does the *Spirit-filled life* look like? (Consider 5:19-21)

Discussion

Continue reading in Ephesians chapter 5 (verses 22-33).

- Discuss the teaching in this passage directed to wives.
What does it mean for wives to *submit to their husbands as to the Lord*?
What doesn't it mean?
Why is being filled with the Holy Spirit necessary to live this out?
- Discuss the teaching in this passage direct to husbands.
What does it mean for husbands to *love their wives like Christ loved the church*?
What is the Greek word used for love in this passage?
What would this kind of love look like in a Christ-centered marriage?
- When you consider the Fall and the consequences in Genesis 3, why would wives need to be reminded to *submit to their husbands* and husbands reminded to *love their wives*?
- Respond to this summary of 5:31-33.

“Quoted from Genesis 2:24, Paul reinforces the divine plan for marriage which God instituted at creation, emphasizing its permanence and unity. The union of marriage is intimate and unbreakable. In the NT, “mystery” identifies some reality hidden in the past and revealed in the NT age to be written in Scripture. Marriage is a sacred reflection of the magnificent and beautiful mystery of union between the Messiah and His church completely unknown until the NT. The intimacy and sacredness of the love relationship between believing marriage partners is to be a visual expression of the love between Christ and His church.” -- John MacArthur

- How can being filled with the Spirit change the dynamics in your marriage? In what areas would you like to grow closer the Lord and each other in your marriage?

Prayer