

A Wife's Mandate

Ephesians 5:22-24 Sunday AM, January 21, 2024

Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-24 (NASB95) Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; 21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. 22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 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. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us. Loving others THIS way demands change of focus—from them, from yourself, to God. To imitate necessitates constantly looking to Him—studying His love with a growing realization of being a recipient of this great love—Christ's love for us so great that it was **an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma**. Jesus' love pleased the Father. Do YOU care to please God? Then look to God and imitate Christ's love. Our passage gives both negative and positive identifiers of that love. And those who live **10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord** recognize that this way of life does NOT happen without careful intention. Hence our passage reminds us, **"be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."** Last week, we saw that ALL this takes place NOT from you and your resources, but from what comes from the Holy Spirit. **"Be filled with the Spirit."** What does that mean? Do you know what too much alcohol in the blood does to a person? Well, THAT'S how controlled you are to be by the Spirit of God. Those controlled by the Holy Spirit will head in the direction of this passage. You will study more, ask more questions, worship and obey more. You will seek His heart instead of following your own. But you will also be freed to sing, **19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord**; For those who love to sing, it is easy to check this off. For those who don't, it's easy to try to find a way around this. But those obeying this directive will have something to sing about, something they must remember which makes creating a psalm or hymn beautiful, but also a helpful tool to use together. Those controlled by the Spirit will not find it difficult to be **20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father**; As we begin, let's ask the Spirit of God to work this heart and these responses in us.

*Hymn #258: We Are Gathered for Thy Blessing

While singing and thankfulness speak of freedom, this freedom is under the complete control of the Holy Spirit who leads us to submit to Christ as our living Head. To submit to Christ necessitates submitting to one another. **21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ**. It's not about you—it's about us—why? Because the same restored relationship God has made available to you has been made available to them, and His desires for us glorifying Him lie in what He accomplishes in and through us together. Not sure what this entails? Just follow His example.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): The Basin and the Towel *Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn **Choir: I Need Thee Every Hour** Scripture:

Hebrews 5:1–14 (NASB95) For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins; 2 he can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is beset with weakness; 3 and because of it he is obligated to offer sacrifices for sins, as for the people, so also for himself. 4 And no one takes the honor to himself, but receives it when he is called by God, even as Aaron was. 5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"; 6 just as He says also in another passage, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK." 7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. 8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. 9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, 10 being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. 11 Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Offering: *Doxology:

Today's passage shows what this submission looks like in the marriage relationship. **22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 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. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.** Notice how many times Christ is referred to both today and in the passage next week referring to husbands. Our passage from Hebrews focused not merely on Christ's role in bringing you back to God through His righteous living and substitutionary atonement, but in His role under His Father. **He learned obedience from the things which He suffered**. He learned what obedience felt like, cost. **In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety**. Being heard by His Father still involved death. Life with God involves something greater than avoiding suffering or death. Sing the banner that goes before every Christian.

*Hymn #184: In the Cross of Christ I Glory

You may be seated. And yet, even with submission to Christ as your focus and fellowship with God as your treasure, there are still so many pieces in the passage leaving us not only with questions, but with the possibility of hardship and pain with no promise of immediate resolution or understanding. This is where we must remember that God's commands come from an eternal God—one who lives not only outside of our understanding of time, but who also is holy in His justice, love, and designs. Don't expect Pastor Jahn to cover every aspect, nor accuse him of insensitivity if his words scrape across your worldview or experience. There are many complexities, but our gaze must first be vertical. Let the rub of the passage cause us to gaze at Christ, submit to learn of Him, and then seek to follow His intent for marriage—which is based NOT on you having a better life together, but rather is God's gift for showing us something of Himself. Sing Psalm 130 as we ask God to help us submit to learn more of His designs.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): I Will Wait for You (Ps. 130)

Message: A Wife's Mandate Eph. 5:22-24

*Hymn #525 (Red): A Christian Home

*Prayer