

Ephesians 5:22–24

"The Spirit-Filled Life of the Spirit-Filled Wife"

What does the Spirit-filled life look like? What is the first battleground of Spiritual warfare? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. In these three verses, we find the glorious role God has given Spirit-filled wives in displaying the power and reign of King Jesus.

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Ephesians 5 beginning in verse 22. And going through verse 24, these are God's words. Submit to your own husbands as to the Lord. For the husband does the head of the wife? Has also Christ is the head of the church. And he is the savior of the body. Therefore just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

So far the reading of God's word, you'll remember from last week and verses 18 through 21 that the prohibition the negative command do not be drunk with wine was followed by that's the pudding off and then the positive command but be filled with the spirit. And so now in the next section up until he comes back to how we are battling against spiritual forces in the present darkness and you remember he said earlier we were darkness, but now we are light and he is talking about how to walk as children of light, well we walk as.

We walk as children of light by being filled with the spirit so what's the spirit called life look like where is the spirit spiritual war waged and so we'll find that it's waged in marriage and parenting and in the workplace wives and husbands children and parents employees servants and masters so every day ordinary life is the battle.

Ground as we seek to walk as children of light and do the opposite of what the devil wants as we fight the spiritual war against the demonic realm how you do that is if you're a wife. I mean a godly wife how you do that is if your husband by being a godly husband if you're a child, how do you think?

By being godly children. So that when you obey and honor your parents, you're fighting spiritual battle. And this is what we need to be filled with the spirit for you say, I have a hard time. I want to obey or I don't want to lie, but I keep disobeying or I keep lying say yes.

Because you are fighting also against your own flesh, but you must not fight in your own strength be filled with the spirit. This is why it's not surprising that when we come to what wives are supposed to do in the three verses before us this afternoon that describes something that many many wives in the churches say well, that's impossible.

And rather than say but it is what God says and he has given me his spirit who applies to me Christ so that I can do it and bring glory to my father of light walking as a child of light instead of saying that many of the women in the churches say that's impossible and I hate it and anybody who teaches it plainly so we will reinterpret and explain it to mean the opposite of what it says and will take vows about it out of our wedding ceremonies and if someone explains.

The this passage in a wedding will have him explain that it means the opposite of what it says and all sorts of rubbish like that, but we must not do so because if this is a spiritual war. And if it's walking as children of wrath or children of the devil.

Or. Whether we're going to walk like that or walking as children of God and children of light. Then there is actually very much at stake in getting this correct. So. In this letter the spirit filled life starts with the spirit filled life. So much rests upon you ladies in God's design.

He originally designed you to be fruitful and multiply for you to be a helper and encouragement the only thing that was not good in the first six days of creation was resolved by your creation in order to complete the creation of mankind. And you were to be the helpers of your husband and the nurturers of your children and now that we are sinners being redeemed by grace you are to be the helpers of your husband and also especially in grace and the nurturers of your children and also especially in grace.

And so the spirit filled life starts with the spirit filled. Wife. Godly, cheerful and diligent in her. Obedience. In her submission. Now the scripture summarizes this word this godly obedience is cheerful obedience is diligent obedience and the one word submission the whole of the wife's relation to her husband is summarized wives submit to your own husbands as to the Lord.

Someone say well submission isn't the only thing that wives do that's right, it's not the only thing that lies to. But it is the one word that when the apostle by the spirit was going to summarize the wife's role in the marriage that he chooses to use. And so it is a good comprehensive summary.

Now that's very countercultural and not just in post-feminism secular America. It's very countercultural in the church. Because the fleshly desire to control the husband. Is the same as sin's desire to control Cain. It came from the fall. Remember when God was telling Eve the consequences of her sin, he says your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you because ah see headship is from the fall, well it was from the fall then why is it commanded here but it's not from the fall because if you go another few verses in Genesis, you have God talking to Cain.

He uses the exact same language to talk to King about sin. Sin's desire is for you but you must rule over it. Now did sin want to have a nice happy affectionate time with gain? No, it desired to control him just like the desirable wife to control her husband is from the fall and when he said but you must rule over it was he telling came that he should have headship and and firmly and lovingly lead his sin.

No he was saying you must dominate it crush it. Don't allow it to be itself. And. So that's what happened in the fall. So when he says wives submit to your honor own husbands as to the Lord, what's he saying saying wives? Conduct yourself in your marriage in a way that is opposite.

What came into the world through the fall? Don't let the devil enjoy the fruit of his tempting. Eve to fall into sin so that she would want to control her husband. You kill that desire to control your husband and by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit filling you you joyously joyfully submit to your husband when you get married.

Now good thing you start out as children because as we'll hear in a couple of weeks you get a lot of practices children submitting to your parents and it should be godly and it should be cheerful and it should be diligent so that those 50% of children or so who grow up to be wives and not every girl gets married but the the children who grew up to be wives they will have had practice

and the submission is going to be a little bit different than when you were a child because it is submission to a husband.

Okay, so. Submitting to the Lord Jesus is also counter-cultural wives submit to your own husbands as to the Lord and so sometimes you'll hear people say, oh people will never go for this you can't teach this kind of thing it just irritates them and offends them well the same ones that are irritated and offended are irritated and defended by the command to submit to the Lord Jesus that you're not your own that you have a master and your goal you are to live for his goals.

For your life and according to his rules having pleasure in the things that please him and finding your purpose in him and the purpose of God has assigned to you and so when it says wives submit to your own husbands as to the Lord it helps us a little bit because we say well, it may not be popular with the world and it may go against the the fleshly desire of the remaining sin within me, but so the the exact same thing can be said about submission of Jesus and so the, Opposite says here in verse 22 wives submit to your husband's as to the Lord.

Okay, so don't give in to people who try to do away with submission in marriage this submission means obedience. Titus to five older women or to teach the younger women to obey their husbands, it means obedience it means yielding to instruction that means yielding to direction. If you're going to submit to your husband is you submit to the Lord you can't take away the idea of obedience and following his direction or else you'll take those things away from your submission to the Lord there of similar kind but they're not only of similar kind.

The submission of the wife to her husband is part of her submission to the Lord now that's helpful. Because that means that if your husband wants you to do something that the Lord doesn't want you to do, what do you have to do? You have to do what the Lord says because it's submit to your husband as unto the Lord it's part of your submission to him and also means that when your submission to your husband is difficult because he may be difficult and you look at first beater two and three last part of first.

Peter two and the first part of first Peter three, he says, Submitting to a husband who is disobedient to the word is so hard that the pattern for it is Christ being submitting himself to the suffering of crucifixion. Okay, so it can be very painful and very hard but if you submit to your husband as unto the Lord.

Then you remember that the Lord is worthy and the Lord is able. So I've submit to your husband. John husband's as to the Lord for the husband as ahead of the wife as also Christ is that of the church and he is the savior of the body okay, so your husband does not worthy in enough himself to be submitted to.

And your husband is not able. To make you or enable you he doesn't have the ability to enable you to submit to him, but Jesus is worthy. Of your submitting to your husband and Jesus is capable as powerful to enable you to submit to your husband so your submission really is to Christ and as a response to him and his salvation independence upon him and his power your submission is as part of your submission to Christ, so that's a godly submission.

It's part of your walk with the Lord when you become a wife it's it's not just you know, following a particular design because that's the way it is it's something that you're offering to him independence upon him so the first place that is godly submissions second place, it's also cheerful submission.

If you are doing it as a response to the Lord if it's submit to your husband's as unto the Lord and it reminds you that Christ is the head of the church and that Christ is the savior of the body it's it's really pulling in there's images from Psalm 45 and the joy that you have in belonging to the Lord Jesus and the joy that you have in having an opportunity to respond to the Lord Jesus.

We love him because he first loved us and this is love that we keep his commandments and we don't find them burdensome and so not only as a part of your gobliness but it must be cheerful you must not consider your submission burdensome when you find submission hard it's not because the submission itself is a burden it may be because the circumstance your husband is a burden the Lord does give us burdens that he carries us through and carries us in but the duty to submit is not.

A burden the resistance in our heart is a burden remaining sin is a burden we want to get rid of that but in this is love that if we love him keep his commandments and they're not burdensome so the life submission should be godly as part of her walk with the Lord it should be cheerful something that she loves to do for him.

And it should be diligent. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ verse 24, so let the wives be to their own husbands in. Everything. Now the obvious thing about the word everything is it doesn't leave anything out. Okay, so just as we are submitted to Christ and everything which means what Am I submitted to Christ and how I eat?

Absolutely when I eat I eat as someone who has been bought by the blood of Jesus and it affects how I eat. I never do anything in which or never go anywhere where at I am not someone who belongs to Jesus once a husband and wife get married once a man in a woman you may become husband and wife become one flesh.

You ladies when you get when you get married then for the rest of your earthly life together as long as you both shall live in everything you do you are his wife. And whatever does him good whatever serves him well what whatever his leadership of you is and his desires and preferences all of those things you're always factoring those things in you always want to reflect well upon him wherever you go because you're never just your own person anymore.

You're still an individual but you're an individual who's a wife. And so you defer and consider what brings him honor in everything you do wherever you go lives are subject to their husbands and everything. You notice if you're looking at verse 24 in your New King James the word let and be are inserted there, but it's therefore just as the church's subject to Christ so wives to their own husbands.

In everything. It's a fact of how God has designed marriage, not just an instruction. So, We need to be filled with the spirit to live the kind of ordinary life that we're going to be hearing that the end of chapter five beginning chapter six and you hear about this design for marriage and design for Christian marriage.

You think that's a very different than what the world thinks it's very different than what my flesh wants and I can't get my heart to feel and live like that and say, right? You can't. Look all the Holy Spirit can. That's why it's part of the Spirit filled life.

It's prayer. Hmm.

Our father in heaven pray. For my wife and my daughters. We pray Lord for the other ladies and girls that we know. That you would. Grant to them to be filled with your spirit. So they may love

Christ to not find his commandments burdensome love to obey his commands and love to be his subjects.

And so we pray that if they are married when they come to be married that you will have been growing them in this walk with him that as godly and cheerful and diligent. So that when they come to be married. They can be godly in their submission to their husbands.

I think we cheerful their submission to their husbands that can be diligent and their submission to their husbands. Who pray Lord that you would help us not to be ashamed of you or your word. But to rejoice in your goodness to us to depend upon you by faith and that you would indeed fill us with your spirit.

For all of the different parts of our living as those who belong to you, which we ask in your name. Lord Jesus. Men.