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### The Body of Christ, The Church

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## THE BODY OF CHRIST -THE CHURCH

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS  
NUMBER 65  
EPHESIANS 5:30-33

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EPHESIANS 5:30-33 "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

With these verses we bring to a close the study of Chapter 5 of Ephesians. In this chapter Paul's main theme has been an analogy of the doctrine of "Right Man and Right Woman" as it is related to "Christ (the right man) and the Church (the right woman)".

Remember the correct translation of the verse we studied last Wednesday night--"THAT HE MIGHT SANCTIFY HER, THE CHURCH, HAVING CLEANSED HER BY MEANS OF THE WASHING OF WATER BY MEANS OF THE WORD OF GOD." This is a spiritual inner washing and it is accomplished by the Word of God flowing into the soul.

So at this point, let us review the doctrine of grace perception.

1. Every believer is to respond to doctrine.  
In the doctrine of grace, let us remember that every believer is designed, by regeneration, to respond to doctrine. But he is not designed to respond on the basis of human ability. Therefore, let's make a distinction between human I.Q. and spiritual I.Q. Human I.Q. is the result of human ability. Spiritual I.Q. is the work of God's grace in your life. By being positive toward Bible doctrine, we open the door for God to enter the soul and greatly expand and magnify our spiritual I.Q.
2. The purpose of grace.  
Grace is so designed that it takes doctrinal truth and causes it to expand and magnify Christ within you.
3. Grace makes all people equal.  
Now all people are not equal either in ability or circumstances. But grace excludes human I.Q. as being the basis for learning doctrine. The person with a low I.Q. can learn doctrine just as well as the person with a high I.Q., provided both are on positive signals toward God.
4. Grace picks up the slack.  
Therefore, grace provides for what we lack in I.Q. and causes all to be able to respond to doctrinal truth. Regeneration causes each believer to be able to respond to doctrine. False doctrine therefore, turns you off, because in your soul, your regeneration experience has caused you to respond only to true doctrine.
  - a. The Canon of Scripture.  
The Canon of Scripture has put in written form everything we will ever need for living the Christian life. God provided the writers and the information and with his protective Spirit, has preserved the Word ever since.

- b. The authorization of the church  
Christ founded the church which is made up of individual believers. Each individual believer is privileged to take in doctrine or not take it in. It is up to you.
- c. The gift of communication.  
The gift of communicating doctrine has been given to the pastor-teacher and this makes it possible for you to listen and learn.
- d. The inner adequate power.  
The indwelling of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for you to live the grace life every day. There is no other power on earth that could make this possible.
- e. The way to stay in fellowship.  
By the use of 1 John 1:9, the rebound technique has made provision for every Christian. When a sin is committed, the believer can confess that sin and be assured that at that moment the sin is forgiven and fellowship with God has been re-established.
- f. The storage battery of the believer.  
Every believer has a storage battery in his life and this is where doctrinal truth is stored so you can exhale faith toward God in every experience of life.

EPHESIANS 5:27 "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." "That" introduces a purpose clause. "Paris temi" is the aorist tense of the words "might present her (the church)" unto himself a glorious church. In Genesis 2, God did this when he presented Adam (the right man) to Eve (the right woman). Then in the Christian life, it is the presenting of the truth of the Word of God to the believers who make up the church. So the only way to have a glorious church is for the members of the church to respond to doctrine. Please notice this--the church is to be presented to Christ. The church is his body now, and when she is presented to Christ, she will be his bride. The word for "glorious" is "endoxos" and it means gorgeous, magnificent, and amazing. This word is used in Luke 7:25 for glorious clothing. The glorious clothing of the believer at the time of the rapture of the church is the resurrection body. Now a body, then a bride. Not having any "spot" and the word is "spilos" and it means for the first time we will have no stain of sin on us. "Or wrinkle" is from the word "rutis" and it means the bride will have no wrinkles, and the wrinkles refer to human good. One reason Heaven will be so glorious is that there will be no moral stain there and there will be no human good there, just divine good. "Or any such thing" refers to all other sinful things that come from the old sin nature. Our only protection now from the old sin nature is Bible doctrine.

"But" is a conjunction of contrast and this contrasts the believer in time with the believer in eternity. "Holy and without blemish" means that when we move into the presence of God, all sin, all human good, all moral stain, and the old sin nature are all gone forever. This verse, therefore, gives us the intentions of the Lord Jesus Christ for his church and the people who make up his church.

The Wedding

Christ's objective at the end of the church age is to have a marriage, a wedding. He is the groom and the church is the bride. Therefore, during this period of the intensification of the angelic conflict, Christ is constantly looking after his own body, his bride-to-be. He is going to see to it that that bride will have no spot or wrinkle or any flaw. Now to keep us in the right path and to keep us moving on toward that holy objective he has set for us, his church, he has given us perfect doctrine and this is the only thing that will preserve us.

EPHESIANS 5:28 "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself." This verse states again this same analogy. Right man and right woman and this relationship is based on agapao love, mental attitude love.

EPHESIANS 5:29 "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church." As we grow older, our bodies change and they deteriorate but God continues to love us with a perfect love.

EPHESIANS 5:30 "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones." The last two phrases "of his flesh and of his bones" are not in the original. So this verse says, "For we are members of his body." The words "we are" come from "eimi" which is the absolute status quo verb. This means at the moment of conversion we become a part of his body and will remain a part of his body forever. This statement simply sets forth our position in Christ. So when someone asks you who you are and why are you here, you can answer, "We are his and members of his body." The word body as well as church refers to every born again believer of the church age in this intensified stage of the angelic conflict. What you were before is not too important. You are now a member of his body and being a part of his body immediately brings into view the analogy of right man and right woman.

Back in Genesis 2:22-24 we studied God's original plan for man. That plan was one man for one woman, one right man for one right woman. Adam and "Chawah" or Eve as we have come to call her. Now even back in the Garden of Eden in the age of innocence, this man and woman had a relationship to Jesus Christ. He came and talked with them and walked with them and taught them in Bible class every day. They also had a relationship to each other and they lived together in sexual happiness. So their relationship to each other involved both their soul and their body. The man was the aggressor and the woman was the responder. Now we do not know how long this period of innocence lasted, but it was God's way of showing the pattern that would prevail for the whole human race.

MAN'S FAILURE

With perfect environment and perfect sexual happiness and a daily visit from the Lord Jesus Christ to teach the Bible class, you would think that the man and the woman would have been supremely happy. But in spite of all this, they went negative and spoiled this perfect status. Satan moved into that situation and persuaded the woman to eat of the fruit. Satan persuaded her that if she would just eat of that fruit, she would be as smart as God, and therefore, smarter than her mate.

Then to add to the problem, she ate of the forbidden fruit, and all the time she was deceived and confused and didn't have the slightest idea of the real significance of her act. She offered the forbidden fruit to Adam and he ate with eyes wide open and with perfect understanding of the implication of his act. But look how gracious and gentle God was. Even in their new fallen state, their sinful state, God continued his same pattern, right man and right woman. God based his relationship with man on two ideas after the fall.

1. Man could become a believer and could have relationship with God, but could only do this by having faith in Jesus Christ.
2. Man and woman would continue to live together sexually, but now added to their sex life was the procreation of children and the perpetuation of the human race.

Just as the woman was to respond to the man in her body, so this analogy teaches us that the body of believers, which is the church, is to respond to Jesus Christ.

If you think this is not what Paul is talking about here, notice the very next verse.

EPHESIANS 5:31 "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." This is a direct quote of Genesis 2:24. Both verses mean the same, with one exception. Genesis 2:24 was given under the age of innocence, and Ephesians 5:31 was given under the age of guilt, but in both ages the same union prevails, the union of right man and right woman.

#### EVERY MAN

The word for "man" in verse 31 is "anthropos" and this means every man, both unbeliever and believer. The word for "leave" is "kataleipo" and it means to depart according to a fixed standard. This "leave" is a future, active, indicative and that means at exactly the right moment the mature man and woman should leave father and mother and take responsibility of their own decisions and on this foundation build their home. They shall "be joined" and this is from "proskallao" and it means they consummate their marriage and become physically one.

EPHESIANS 5:32 "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Here now is the analogy. "This is a great mystery." The word for great is "Megas" and it means great in quality. The word for mystery is "mysterion." This is the word they used for being initiated into a fraternity. The one initiated into a fraternity was called a "mustes." He was the one who was learning the doctrine of the fraternity. The doctrine taught by the fraternity was called "mueo." The doctrine was known only to those who were initiated, but unknown to all outsiders.

Now get this point. In the Old Testament the doctrine of the church was unknown, hidden, never mentioned in Old Testament scripture. This is why this verse says, "This is a great mystery." Now the gospel was not a mystery, and never was. They knew about Christ in the Old Testament, and about how one day he would die on the cross, and how he would be raised up and how he would ascend and then one day return to the earth. They knew all that. But between his ascension and his second return to the earth, the Bible said: not one word in the Old

Testament, and therefore, that is why the church is called "The great mystery." Every time the Old Testament scriptures came up to the church age, they remain silent and just jump clear over all the church age and pick up the story with Christ's second coming. So the church age is called "The great musterion." This is also taught in Colossians and Romans 16:25-26 and Ephesians 3:1-6.

Look at the content of this mystery.

1. In the church age every believer, at the point of salvation, is entered into union with Christ. That was a mystery in Old Testament times.
  2. The baptism of every believer in the church age with the Holy Spirit was a mystery in Old Testament times.
  3. The wedding, the marriage of Christ and the bride (the church) at the time of the rapture was a mystery in Old Testament times.
- He ends this verse by saying, "I speak with reference to Christ and with reference to his church."

Look at this analogy spelled out

Right man and right woman was God's plan for man from the beginning right down to the end of time. This was not a mystery, and every person in the world would be involved with this plan of God. But right man (Christ) and right woman (the church) was the plan for the church age and was a deep mystery until it was revealed for church age saints to understand. The same idea of right man and right woman prevailed in every age, but only right man (Christ) and right woman (the church) would be revealed to church age saints.

EPHESIANS 5:33 "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." This may be one of the most difficult verses in the New Testament to understand. It is poorly translated here, but let us try to see exactly what Paul is meaning to say here.

He is saying there is only one standard--

There is one standard for man and that standard is right man, and right woman.

There is one standard for Christ and the church and that standard is that Christ and the church were made for each other.

Man is to love his wife as he loves himself.

Christ loves the church as he is loved by His Father.

The word "reverence" is mentioned here and it is from "phobeo." The word "Phobeo" is translated "Fear" and also "reverence." Here it doesn't mean fear, but it means reverence. This is a response to her right man and the word here is not "anthropos" but "aner" and this means nobleman, this is her right man.

So this verse should read as follows--

"However, each one of you believers, according to the standard of one (just like Christ and the church are one) are commanded to love with a mental attitude love your own right woman; and the right woman will then be able to reverence and respect her own right man."