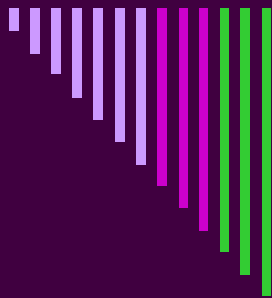


# **EPHESIANS**

## **Chapter 5:17-33**

**Jim Hoffman**

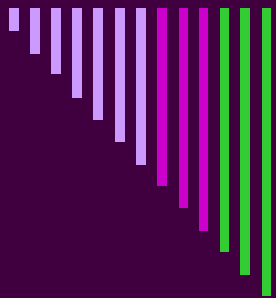
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## Eph 5:17

17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. NASB

- Because we play such a critical role in our world we are called to tune into what God expects of us each day.
- We are to understand his will for our lives and I believe there are at least two parts to his will for us.
- His general will (that we be like Jesus) and his specific will that includes things like vocation, location, and the ministries we involve ourselves in.



Eph 5:17

17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. NASB

- Knowing God's will for our lives is too important a matter to be left to chance.
  
  - Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. ***Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will*** . NIV
  
  - And the verses that follow Rom 12:2 speak about the body of Christ (the church) and our spiritual gifts.
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# Some thoughts of finding the will of God for your life.

- He has one for you.
  - It will involve people.
  - It will require your time.
  - It will make use of your spiritual gifts and perhaps your natural talents.
  - It is always at least a two pronged thrust;
    - Be like Jesus.
    - A specific ministry while being like Jesus.
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# Some thoughts of finding the will of God for your life.

- If his will seems hidden, it is surely hidden in plain sight.
  - Begin by drawing close to Jesus and imitating Him.
  - Get busy in a ministry even if you are not sure it's the one he wants for you.
  - The worst that can happen is that you will be serving Him while conducting yourself like Jesus. (against such there is no law)
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## Finding His will and your gift(s).

- We talk about finding God's will and finding your spiritual gifts like they should be obvious to you.
  - Sometimes they are not ..... we hold classes on finding His will and our gifts, but I have yet to see a proven formula.
  - We should seek, ask, and knock, and be willing to wait patiently.
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## Be filled with the Spirit ...

- Eph 5:18-21 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. NASB*
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## Be filled with the Spirit ...

- Being filled with the spirit is made analogous to being drunk.
  - People who are drunk are under the control of another substance inside their body.
  - They are by definition 'out of control' to the extent that they do not behave in their usual ways. (sometimes this is good, sometimes not)
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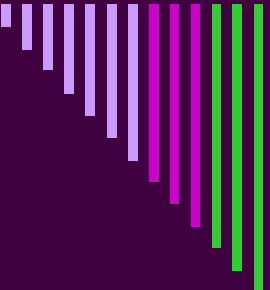
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## Be filled with the Spirit ...

- Likewise, the Holy Spirit is also on the inside our bodies.
  - When he is control we may behave in ways that are not our usual ways, and that is always good.
  - Drunks do unusual, unorthodox things; so do those filled with the Holy Spirit.
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# What does the Spirit-filled life look like?

- Praising God
    - Eph 5:19
  
  - Thanking God
    - Eph 5:20
  
  - Submitting to others
    - Eph 5:21
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# What does the Spirit-filled life look like?

- Spirit-filled Christians are people who praise God in a variety ways. Speaking psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to each other and singing from the heart to God.
  - Spirit-filled Christians are thankful people and they are thankful at all times for all things.
  - And then the real test ... Spirit-filled Christians are submissive to the needs and authorities around them.
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# What does the Spirit-filled life look like?

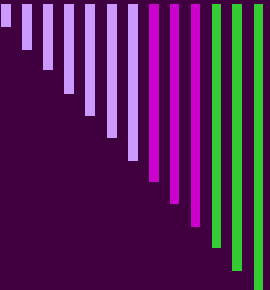
- Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, ..... Acts 2:11-12 we hear them *speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.* NKJV
  - Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit , *said to them,* NKJV
  - Acts 4:31 and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit , and *they spoke the word of God with boldness.* NKJV
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# What does the Spirit-filled life look like?

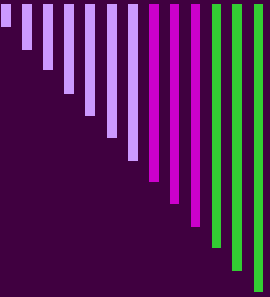
- Boldness to witness.**
  - A greater concern for the lost.**
  - New freedoms in worship.**
  - An overflowing and contagious joy.**
  - A heightened hatred for sin.**
  - A new desire for holiness.**
  - Enhanced effectiveness in ministry.**
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# What does the Spirit-filled life look like?

- The rest of chapter 5 and the beginning of chapter 6 deal with the Christian and our key relationships in this life.
  - Surely, it is no accident that probably the most specific teaching we have on the being filled with the Spirit precedes what is probably the most specific teaching we have on our relationships.
  - Conclusion; the Spirit-filled life is for everyday use.
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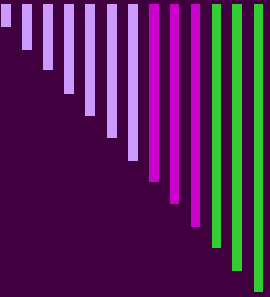


## Eph 5:22-24

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. NASB

- A word to wives; you are called to be in subjection to your husband. This is not because women are inferior, it's because God said so.
  - **All women are not called to be in subjection to all men** as some have tried to impose in the past.
  - When wives submit to their husbands they place themselves in a place of blessing.
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## Eph 5:22-24

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24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. NASB

- In all relationships someone has to have the decision making authority. In a marriage that is the husband's role. (a wise husband is open to his wife's counsel)
  - Husbands are not generally smarter or more spiritual. In the simplest of terms it was necessary that one of the two be appointed the head and God chose the man.
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24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. NASB

- The church is the model for the wife and think about the position of the church as the bride of Christ;
    - Husbands are to protect their wives
    - Husbands are to pray for their wives
    - Husbands are to cherish their wives
  
  - Submitting to the authorities God places over us is a spirit-filled activity.
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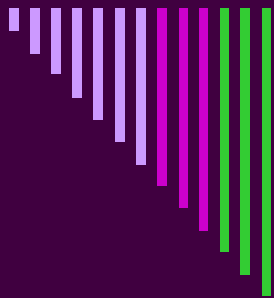


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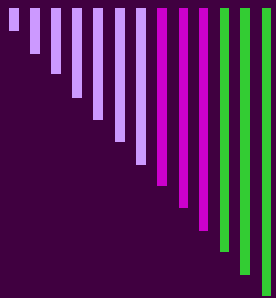
- ❑ The fact is that Spirit-filled Christians are called to submit to one another.
  - ❑ Too many times this has been seen as a one-sided and lop-sided arrangement between husband and wife when nothing could be further from the truth.
  - ❑ The husband has an equal, if not greater obligation to submit to his wife by meeting her needs.
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Eph 5:25

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;  
NASB

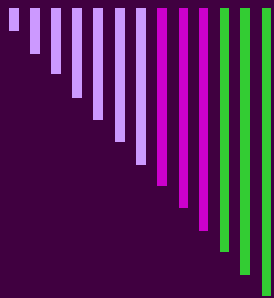
- This is one of the ‘taller’ orders men are given. We are to love our wives as Christ loves his bride, the church.
  - Jesus loved the church enough to die for her.
  - Enough to give up his own comforts and rights so that his bride could have comforts and rights.
  - He set aside his life so that she might really live.
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Eph 5:25

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;  
NASB

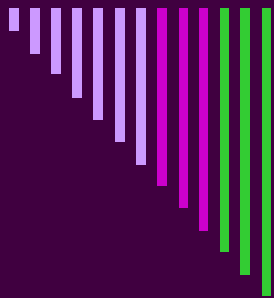
- Most Christian women will tell us that they have little trouble submitting to a man who loves them like Christ loves the church.
- Men, we are to gently lead our homes as we are led by Jesus.
- What makes for a great home is when both husband and wife try to 'out nice' the other.



## Eph 5:25

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;  
NASB

- Husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies.  
(Wow, we take great care of ourselves!)
- When we hurt we seek comfort, therefore when our wives hurt we should seek to comfort them.
- God has set this up so that marriage can be a great example of his love for us and at the same time these principles make for a happy home.



## Eph 5:25

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;  
NASB

- This too requires a Spirit-filled man because what we are asked to do here is by no means our natural inclination.
- The natural inclination of men is to dominate and control.
- This is a form of submission in that the husband is to subjugate his needs to the needs of his wife and submitting to each other as Christians is an evidence of a Spirit-filled life.



Eph 5:32-33

32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband. NASB

- Although Paul calls it a great mystery I think the message is quite clear .... How a Christian treats his spouse matters.
  - If you think about it a good marriage is based on the golden rule; ***do unto others as you would have them do unto you.***
  - And if we can't love the one that we see each day how can we claim to love God whom we have never seen?
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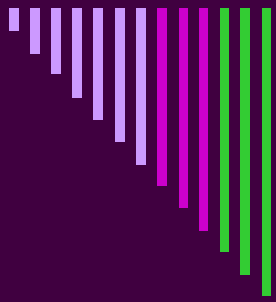
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# Why Relationships Matter

- Because there is not a spouse alive who does not want a good marriage and we get to be exhibit 'A' that the biblical teachings work.
  - Because if we are ever going to be effective serving the Lord outside the home we had better have a place of refuge to retreat to and rest.
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What do you think?

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