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a *Grace Notes* course

# **Ephesians**

by Warren Doud, Director  
*Grace Notes*

Lesson 18

Ephesians 5:22-33

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*Grace Notes*

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## Ephesians

### Lesson 18: Ephesians 5:22-33

#### Instructions

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## Instructions for Completing the Lessons

Begin each study session with prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who makes spiritual things discernable to Christians, so it is essential to be in fellowship with the Lord during Bible study.

Read the whole book of Ephesians often. It is a short book, and reading it many times will help you understand the story much better.

### **Instructions**

1. Read the introduction to the study of Ephesians
  2. Study the Ephesians passage for this lesson, by reading the verses and studying the notes. Be sure to read any other Bible passages that are called out in the notes.
  3. **Review** all of the notes in the Ephesians lesson.
  4. Go to the Quiz page and follow the instructions to complete all the questions on the quiz. The quiz is "open book". You may refer to all the notes and to the Bible when you take the test. But you should not get help from another person.
  5. When you have completed the Quiz, be sure to *SAVE* your file. If your quiz file is lost, and that can happen at *Grace Notes* as well, you will want to be able to reproduce your work.
  6. To send the Quiz back to *Grace Notes*, follow the instructions on the Quiz page.
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## Ephesians 5:22

**Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.**

The rest of Ephesians 5, verses 22 to 33, provide an extensive analogy between the institution of godly marriage and the relationship of the Lord Jesus Christ to His body, the church.

Verses 23 and 24 are addressed to the Christian woman who is married to God's choice for her. Verses 25 to 29 show the leadership responsibilities of the husband and extend the analogy. Verses 30 to 33 indicate the results in marriage and conclude the doctrinal analogy.

The word "**submit**" is HUPOTASSW (see vs. 21 above). It derives from a term referring to military subordination in the case of a commander and one who responds to a command. This is a word about Chain of Command.

When there is proper authority, there will be a proper response. In any chain of command there is an initiator and a responder. In a marriage, the initiator should be the husband and the responder the wife.

"**your own husband**" means "your own private husband". This has to do with a private citizen, one who keeps to himself. This simply means that a wife's response, and her subordination, is only to her husband.

These verses do not teach that a woman, in general, is expected to be subordinate to all men! These verses are not intended to make sure that women are "put in their place"! In fact, the purpose of this passage is to make sure that the Lord Jesus Christ stays in His place (in people's thinking).

Read Ezekiel 16.

Ezekiel 16 uses marriage for another analogy. In that chapter, as the Lord is to Judah, so a husband is to his wife. So - Judah becoming apostate and getting involved with false religion is analogous to a wife becoming involved with another man.

There is a direct parallel between Ezekiel 16 and Ephesians 5, except that Ephesians 5 does not discuss the "down" side of marriage, the broken

relationship that occurs because of infidelity. As you read Ephesians 16, then, take careful note of the spiritual and social problems caused by Judah's apostasy, and try to infer from those facts things that would result from a broken marriage.

## Ephesians 5:23

**For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and he is the savior of the body.**

The key to understanding this passage is the concept found in the whole biblical category of authority. And this subject must be well understood by Christians who want to grow in Christ and have productive lives of ministry.

But a great problem among many believers, in the U.S. particularly, is a disregard for all types of authority. There are many reasons for this, including mental sin, jealousy, arrogance, and other sin patterns. This disrespect derives from the Sin Nature and is an expression of one or more of the lust patterns, such as power lust, approbation lust; so that when some people receive approval or recognition, others are deeply disturbed in their souls.

There is, as well, a considerable lack of knowledge and misunderstanding of the importance of authority and discipline in human affairs. And there is a principle of scripture, that anyone who fails to recognize the function of authority in the human race, and between God and man, destroys the function of his own free will.

Of course you have the right to your own private thoughts; and as long as you do not communicate your thoughts, they remain private, between you and the Lord, that is. Privacy of thought is a freedom that everyone possesses, and it is in this area where every person has some dignity.

You have certain freedoms as long as you do not break the law. Laws are, in the best sense, restrictions on freedoms that allow other people to enjoy their own freedom of thought and person.

In the Bible, a believer is seen to be in many relationships which require a proper response to authority. Employee-employer (slave-master). Judge (police) - citizen. Teacher-student. Parent-

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child. Husband-wife. In each relationship there is a person who has a leadership position and one who is subordinate.

A pastor and elders of a church have the authority deriving from their spiritual gifts. A believer submits to the teaching authority of a pastor, or other Bible teacher, in order to learn Bible truth. In any teaching situation there must be respect for the one who teaches. You might have some kind of hangup with a teacher, but this is really irrelevant; the teacher is the authority in the classroom, and you have submitted to this authority by coming to the class.

Why all this authority? Because we are engaged in the most ferocious warfare imaginable, the conflict of the forces of Satan with the Lord Jesus Christ. And in any battle, obedience and discipline, and recognition of and submission to authority is vital to success.

Authority was designed for our protection and blessing.

See in this verse, "He is the savior of the body." This refers both to the Lord and to the husband. The husband is the protector and provider for the wife; Jesus Christ is the protector and provider for His body, the church.

If anyone removes himself from the sphere of Christ's protection and provision (apostasy), it is equivalent of going into battle without armor or weapons. Look ahead at Eph. 6:10-19. Now imagine that you have not obeyed the command to "Put on the whole armor of God". The battle still rages about you, but you are going out against the enemy in your underwear, and with your bare hands!

The principle of authority in marriage is that a married woman be able to carry out her own duties as wife, mother, and productive Christian, in the sphere of her husband's protection and provision.

### Ephesians 5:24

**Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.**

**"Therefore"** - lays the stress on the application of the analogy being discussed here.

**"as the church is subject"** - another use of HUPOTASSW, "to submit". The church, that is the believers in the church, submit to Christ. From the time you accepted Christ as Savior until your body is saved at the resurrection, and on into eternity, the object is to submit to Christ.

**"unto Christ"** - Christ is the Head, the Chief. The Word of God spells out the commands of Christ, and it is to His instructions that we are to submit.

**"so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing"** - this takes the analogy back to the beginning. \

This refers to the design of God in making a wife a responder to her own man. A woman responds to a man in all of the functions of her soul: self-consciousness, mentality, volition, emotion, and conscience. The woman responds in her soul and body. The man fulfills her in soul and body. This is the supreme human relationship, and marriage is designed to demonstrate to us, in a wonderful way, how great is our relationship with our matchless Savior.

### Ephesians 5:25

**Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it.**

Man is the initiator, his wife is the responder. Man is the provider, his wife benefits from what he provides. This command to men has to do with mental attitude love, the love that is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

### Ephesians 5:26

**That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word:**

The word "that" introduces a purpose clause; here is the planned result of Christ's love for the church and His sacrifice for it.

**"might sanctify"** is the aorist active subjunctive of the verb HAGIASW, "to set apart". This is a reference to sanctification that takes place during

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a Christian's lifetime, the development of the Christian life through edification.

The church is "set apart" by its response to the Word of God.

### **"and cleanse it"**

The word "cleanse" is KATARIDZW, "to purify; to cleanse". The English word "catharsis" is a cognate. This verb is an aorist participle. In Greek grammar the action of the aorist participle precedes the action of the main verb. Therefore, the cleansing precedes the sanctifying. A Christian is cleansed, then set apart.

The word "washing" is in the instrumental case, therefore the cleansing takes place "by means of washing of water by means of the Word." The Word goes into the believer and has a cleansing action.

We can see, then, that there are two main parts to cleansing in the Christian life. First, when we sin, we can receive cleansing when we confess our sins.

**1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**

Then, as we walk in fellowship and are occupied with Christ, we take in the Word of God, which has a continual cleansing function in our souls.

The apostle Paul told Timothy, "Keep yourself pure...". Good advice for a young man in the ministry. And when you look at all of the passages in the Bible that have something to do with personal purity, you realize that this Christian characteristic has a prominent place in God's plan for the Christian believer.

### **1 Timothy 6:9-11**

**"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.**

**"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**

**"But you O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness."**

Jesus Christ exalts purity to the realm of the spirit, a type of purity that is far greater than the ritual purity of ceremonial cleansing seen in Jewish and other religions. This paper is aimed at showing you what Christian purity is (and is not) and how you can grow to have this purity.

The New Testament Greek word for purity is KATHAROS. It is found in several New Testament passages, notably in Titus 1:15, "Unto the pure all things are pure..." KATHAROS is the usual Greek word for purity and was used for several types of purity in the Greek world:

- Ceremonial purity of a physical object, such as a vessel in a temple
- Ceremonial purity of a temple worshipper
- Purity in the spiritual nature of a person

In the ancient world, ceremonial cleansing would have been by some ritual. In the New Testament, there is a deeper meaning: purity refers to the result of cleansing of the soul by God. In this context, purity is a characteristic of a believer in fellowship who has experienced the "cleansing from all unrighteousness" promised in 1 John 1:9 to the one who confesses sin to God.

### **Titus 1:15, Unto the pure all things are pure...**

Reading this phrase, a cynical person may draw the wrong conclusion, namely that a totally pure person can touch anything or think about anything and remain pure as the driven snow. But this thinking involves lifting this phrase out of the whole context of the Bible in order to make it meaningless and false.

This does not mean, "All things are pure in the judgment of the pure."

It's true that a pure-minded man will not usually put evil constructions or interpretations on things. But to say that something is pure because he judges it to be so, or because he cannot be defiled, is false. The context of Titus 1 makes it clear that the apostle Paul is referring to matters of Judaistic practice, ceremonial purifications, among other

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things, that have been misconstrued by false teachers.

### 1 Peter 1:18-23

**"Forasmuch as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;**

**"But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:**

**"Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,**

**"Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.**

**"Seeing you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that you love one another with a pure heart fervently:**

**"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides for ever. "**

Salvation is not by ceremony, but by the sacrifice of Christ. Morality is not by ceremony, but by the purification of the soul through the Word of God.

What is Christ's purpose for the Church? "...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." (Eph. 5:25,26)

Purity is brought into the Christian's life and maintained through (1) Confession of sins which maintains fellowship with God and (2) edification, which is the basis for growth in all areas, including having victory over sin

### 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 he might present" - from PARISTOMI, "dedication; presentation"

This word was used in the ancient world for the man being presented to the woman in marriage. The woman's response often indicates which way the relationship will go.

In the same manner, a Christian's response to Bible truth will determine whether a person has a wonderful relationship with the Lord or a very unhappy life.

**"to himself"** - Jesus Christ is the groom. Since the Body is not yet complete, we now looking ahead to the time when the Body will be complete, at the end of the church age when the Lord returns for his Bride. The church age is the period of "courtship". How will it be determined how the relationship will go? By the response to Bible doctrine on the part of individual believers!

**"glorious"** - ENDOKSOS, "splendid; gorgeous; glorious", this is a reference to glorious clothing. **Compare Luke 7:25.**

**"not having spot"** - "not holding" any spot. "Spot" is SPILOS in Greek, meaning "stain" (English cognate: "spill"). This is a reference to moral stain, the function of the Sin Nature.

**"or wrinkle, or any such thing"** - all aspects of the former sin nature are to be removed by Jesus Christ. This refers to the future when the believer receives a resurrection body.

**"but that it should be holy and without blemish"**

The contrast is between the believer during his lifetime who is part of the Body of Christ, and that same believer at the Rapture who is part of the Bride of Christ. This verse describes the final two of the three phases of sanctification. Phase I is salvation when we receive imputed righteousness. Phase II occurs during the course of our lifetime, during which sanctification is a process of edification. Phase III happens when we enter eternity and receive a glorious resurrection body.

### Ephesians 5:28

**So ought husbands to love their wives as their own bodies; he that loves his wife loves himself.**

This verse brings us back to the marriage relationship, the original analogy.

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"ought" is OPHEILW, "to owe; to be indebted; to be under obligation". The man in the marriage is responsible to make this happen, to be the initiator, the aggressor. This is a perpetual obligation.

"husband" is ANER, "noble man"; he is his wife's personal hero.

The man's capacity to love and to carry out any responsibility comes from the Christian growth he has experienced in his walk with the Lord. This is the love described in the previous lesson, where there is the absence of pride, bitterness, jealousy, vindictiveness, implacability, hatred, etc.

When this attitude is present in the man, he will love his wife's soul and body in his heart, so that as age comes on, she will still glow with the reflected glory of her husband. The man is the custodian of the woman's soul and body. The woman's body changes, but his mental attitude does not change. A man, growing old, does not stop loving his own body. There, his correct attitude is that he will not stop loving his wife's body.

Application: the mind of Jesus Christ is Bible truth. And truth is for the believer as long as he is on this earth. It is available all the time. There are wrinkles, there are stains, there is scar tissue and callous, there are spots, but the Lord always loves His own body. The Bible is the mental attitude love of the Lord, 1 Cor. 2:16.

### Ephesians 5:29, 30

**For no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord the church.**

**For we are members of his body, of his flesh, of his bones.**

This is a fitting analogy. When the word "body" is used to refer to the church, the idea is that the Body responds to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The believer in Christ is designed to respond to God. The human spirit, given at salvation, is designed for rapport with God through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is given so that the believer can respond to God. The whole function of

edification and Christian growth is aimed at improving our response to God.

Christians often ask "How can I be of service to God?"

Service to God does NOT begin by running out and doing something for God. There are good works that we are to do, but the primary service to God is not the good works. A Christian's response to the Lord, and service, begin with his attitude toward the Lord, his devotion to Him.

Devotion to the Lord is based on your position in Christ, in your status as a believer in Christ. So the first part of the plan of God for your life is "I am a member of His Body..."

In this passage, the concept of this relationship is explained by comparing it to a proper marriage relationship.

### 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.**

The Christian, at the time of salvation, is designed to be a responder in his soul. He is designed to respond to God's overtures of love through grace. God initiates His love through the Word of God, the mind of Christ communicated to man.

Production in the Christian life occurs ONLY after this relationship is fully and properly established, AFTER truth is present in the soul, AFTER a Christian is edified.

The Christian life is not a program of activities, it is a relationship with Christ, which will, in due time, result in "children", just as in the proper marriage the relationship is established and stabilized well before children are brought into the world.

### Ephesians 5:32

**This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**

The gospel was fully revealed to them, and people were saved by grace through faith in Old Testament times as they are today. They also understood the resurrection and the ascension of

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Christ, the tribulation and the millennium, and many other facts.

The mystery not understood by OT prophets is the relationship between Christ and the church, a doctrine which was not revealed to the Old Testament prophets.

Col. 1:25,26; Rom. 16:25,26; Eph. 3:1-6.

Another way of stating this verse is: "This doctrine is an important teaching which has, up until the church age, been unknown to man. I speak with reference to Christ and the Church."

### 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.**

In this passage, a known doctrine from the past is linked up with a new (mystery) doctrine; a teaching principle.

The whole doctrine framed in this chapter is summarized and reinforced in this verse.

## Ephesians Lesson 18 Quiz

### Instructions

The following questions relate to your study of this lesson.

To answer a question, type your response in the space provided after the word "Answer:". A question may be True/False, multiple choice, fill in the blank, or short answer type.

The last question requires you to write one or two paragraphs in "essay" form. Use the space provided; it will expand to accommodate your response.

You have choices about sending the quiz back to Grace Notes.

- If you received an email file containing the quiz, you can use the REPLY feature of your e-mail application to open the quiz. Enter your answers in the reply message. Then SEND the message to Grace Notes.
- You can enter your answers on these pages, then send the whole file back to Grace Notes as a file attachment. This is handy, but these lessons will average 100K to 200K in size. As an alternative,
- After you answer the questions here, copy and paste the whole list of questions into a new MS Word document; then, send the new file to Grace Notes as an attachment. The new file will, of course, be much smaller than this main file.
- Finally, you can print the Quiz pages on your printer and send your response back to Grace Notes in the regular mail. If you do this, send the mail to:

**Grace Notes**

**% Warren Doud**

**1705 Aggie Lane**

**Austin, Texas 78757 USA**

Whichever transmission method you use, when Grace Notes receives your completed Quiz, the next lesson will be sent to you, by the same means you received this one. EXCEPT: when you have sent in the FINAL QUIZ, we will send your certificate to you, by regular mail.

### Questions on Ephesians Lesson 18

1. This passage teaches that women are to be subordinate to all men, including their husbands.

[True/False]

Answer:

2. In Ezekiel 16, to what is the relationship of husband to wife compared?

Answer:

3. From what does the authority of a pastor or elder derive?

Answer:

4. How does the Lord Jesus Christ cleanse the church?

Answer:

5. What does it mean to "sanctify" something?

Answer:

6. What are the two main parts of cleansing in the Christian life?

Answer:

7. Because the Bible (in Titus) says "unto the pure all things are pure," we can assume that we can do anything or touch anything and remain pure. [True/False]

Answer:

8. According to 1 Peter, how have we been redeemed?

Answer:

9. What is the purpose for Christ's cleansing of the Church?

Answer:

10. Devotion to the Lord is based on \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer:

End of Quiz