

part of His beloved bride. Contact us so that we may help you.

If you ARE a member of the church of Christ, then make sure that you walk in love, imitating God in your whole life. Reverence Christ, who is our Husband, and honour His word by following it and it alone. When you find that you have sinned, repent and pray to Him who will forgive your every sin. Then you will have the assurance that you are part of His holy, sinless, spotless bride who will be received into Heaven by Him.

Use this space if you have any questions:

Student's Name _____ Address _____ _____
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THE CHURCH IN EPHESIANS
a Correspondence Course – Nine Lessons by Paul K. Williams

Lesson 8: The Bride of Christ

The Bride of Christ – Ephesians 5

- I. We are the Children of God. 5:1-14**
- II. Be careful how you walk. 5:15-21**
- III. The Bride of Christ. 5:22-33**
 - A. The church must be subject to Christ, the head. (22-24)
 - B. Christ is the Saviour of the body.
 - C. Christ loved the church.
 - D. Christ sanctified the church.
 - E. Jesus cleansed the church in order that He might present her to Himself as a pure bride.
 - F. Christ cleansed the church by the washing of water with the word.
 - G. Christ loves us as a man loves his own flesh, because we are members of His body.

Conclusion: Are you a faithful member of Christ's church?

Metaphors for the church Note: Some collective terms, some local					
Verses	Collective	Individual	Jesus	God	Meaning
1 Ti 3:15	Household	Children Brothers	Firstborn Eldest Son	Father	Family: Love And Care
Col 1:13 Phil 3:20	Kingdom	Citizens	King/Judge	King	Authority: Privileges Obligations
1 Pe 2:9 Heb 2:17	Priesthood	Priests	High Priest	God	Service
Eph 2:19-22 1 Cor 3:11	Temple Building	Stones	Foundation	Architect	1.God's Presence 2.Support & Dependency
1 Cor 12:12-27 Rom 12:4-5 Col 1:18	Body	Members	Head	-	Support & Dependency
Rom 16:16 Tit 2:14 Acts 20:28	The Church -Of Christ -Of God	Saints Aliens The Redeemed	Saviour Purchaser Redeemer	-	1. Christ's Possession 2.Holiness
Luke 14:27 Acts 11:26 Mt 28:18	Disciples	Disciple	Teacher	-	Student Of Jesus
Luke 17:7-10	Servants	Servant	Lord	-	Selfless Obedience
1 Pe 5:2-4 1 Pe 2:25	Flock	Sheep	Shepherd	-	Protection Of Caring For By Jesus
2 Ti 2:3-4 Eph 6:10-17	Army	Soldier	Commander	-	Fight Spiritual Battles For Jesus
Eph 5:22-32 Rev 21	Wife Bride	-	Husband Groom	-	Intimate Spiritual Relationship

<http://www.bible.ca/ntx-church-not-named.htm>

His body. (Ephesians 5:28-32)

“So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. **FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.**” This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” (Ephesians 5:28-32)

In marriage the husband and wife “become one flesh”. They are members of His body. In every circumstance He care for us with tenderness and concern. He is with us always.

The love of Jesus which was demonstrated on the cross continues to exhibit itself in the day-to-day care which He gives to His bride. We should never feel alone, unwanted or neglected. If we are part of His bride, we are precious to Him and constantly loved.

Because I know He loves me, cares for me, helps me in temptation and listens to my prayers I lift up my hands and strengthen my knees. No matter what the world says or does to me, I will serve Him with all my strength because He will never fail me. He loves me as His own body!

Questions:

41. T F The husband must love his wife as his own body.
42. T F Christians are members of Christ’s body.
43. T F If a man does not love his wife he can still go to heaven.
44. T F Jesus is caring for His church daily.
45. T F If you are part of Christ’s bride, you are greatly loved by Jesus.

Conclusion

Christ’s church is His bride, whom He loves as His own body. Are you a part of that church? Have you been cleansed by the washing of water with the word?

If you have not been baptized into His church, you are outside the blood of Christ. We plead with you to come to Jesus with your whole heart. He wants you to be

F. Jesus cleansed the church in order that He might present her to Himself as a pure bride.

Every bridegroom desires a wife who is pure and lovely. Jesus desires the same. The trouble is that those whom Jesus wants to be His bride are sinful people. They are not pure and lovely, and they cannot make themselves pure.

Therefore Jesus takes these filthy, impure, sinful people and cleanses them. He died on the cross to purchase their salvation, and He cleanses them by the washing of water with the word *“that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”* (Ephesians 5:27)

The church is the pure, holy, spotless bride of Christ—but not because the members have lived pure lives or earned their salvation. The church is pure because of forgiveness given to them by the Bridegroom. We enjoy the privilege of being married to Christ solely because Jesus loved us and provided the way to become pure. How this makes us love Him!

Since we are the pure bride, we must continue to live so as to have “no spot or wrinkle or any such thing”. This we do by following in the steps of Jesus and, when we sin, by repenting with all our hearts and praying to God for forgiveness (Acts 8:21-22; 1 John 1:8-9). When we do this we continue to be forgiven and therefore to be pure in God’s sight. After a lifetime of loving service to Jesus, the Bridegroom, we will receive an eternity of blessing in His presence in heaven! Praise be to Him!

Questions:

37. T F Without Jesus we cannot make ourselves pure.
38. T F The church is pure because we have been forgiven through the blood of Jesus.
39. T F When the Christian sins, he must repent and pray for forgiveness.
40. T F The church will be presented to Christ in heaven having no spot or wrinkle.

G. Christ loves us as a man loves his own flesh, because we are members of

Introduction

“Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Ephesians 5:17). This verse comes in a section which deals with how we must live. Then, as now, Christians were being deceived by the allure of immorality. *“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”* (Ephesians 5:6) From the time of Eve, men and women have listened to Satan’s lie that “you will NOT surely die.” Christians must understand what the will of the Lord is. They must not be deceived.

I. We are the children of God. 5:1-14

Paul first tells us that Christians must flee from sin because we are the children of God. *“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”* (Ephesians 5:1-2) God’s children must be like their Father; they must imitate His Son, Jesus Christ.

God’s children must not imitate Satan and his followers. *“But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.”* (5:3-4) Satan’s disciples are filthy; the children of God are “saints” (holy ones).

Satan’s disciples are called “sons of disobedience”. *“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”* (5:6) If the children of God walk in disobedience, they will also be punished in the wrath of God. *“Therefore do not be partakers with them.*

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.” (5:7-8) The children of God are children of light. Let us not walk as do the children of darkness.

Questions:

1. T F God’s children must imitate Him.
2. T F Jesus is our example of love.
3. T F It is proper for saints to be greedy.

4. T F God's children are "sons of disobedience."
5. T F God's children are children of light.

II. Be careful how you walk. 5:15-21

In lesson seven we studied verses 15-21. This section begins: "*Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise*" (v.15). In lesson seven we emphasised that the Christian must worship God, especially that the Christian must sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. His life is toward God, whereas the life of the child of darkness is toward the flesh. The Christian's life is full of thanksgiving to God (v.20) and of subjection to other Christians in the fear of Christ (v.21).

III. The Bride of Christ. 5:22-33



Paul has told us that Christians are the children of God (v.1) saints (v.3), and children of light (v.8). In verses 22-33 he uses another figure to teach us how we must behave. He says that the church is the bride of Christ. From this figure he teaches us many things.

A. The church must be subject to Christ, the head. (vss 22-24)

"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is 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."

Here is the difference between the Lord's church and the churches of men. Those who belong to Christ are subject to Him. They are careful to do only those things which He tells them in His word. They do not go beyond His teaching because they know "*Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God.*" (2 John 9) Like a bride who is in subjection to her husband, the bride of Christ does "*all in the name of the Lord Jesus*" (Colossians 3:17). She is careful to do only those things Jesus tells her to do in His word, the New

salvation because Jesus cleansed the church BY the washing of water with the word. Only those who have been immersed in water AFTER listening to and believing the word have the right to claim cleansing and sanctification. **This means that denominations are made up of UNSAVED people**, even though they claim salvation. We pray that they may hear the word of God and receive the washing of water so that they may be cleansed and sanctified. When they do that, they will no longer be in a denomination but in the church for which Jesus died, which belongs to Him, which He saves, and of which He is head.

Questions:

25. T F When a person believes in Jesus he is cleansed before he is baptized.
26. T F A person is cleansed by praying for the Holy Spirit.
27. T F A baby is cleansed by baptism with water without believing the word.
28. T F The "washing of water" is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
29. T F A person does not have to do anything in order to be cleansed from his sins.
30. T F The seed by which we are born is the word of God.
31. T F One must be born of water and the Spirit in order to enter the kingdom of God.
32. T F One must believe and be baptized in water in order to be cleansed.
33. T F Baptism saves you.
34. T F In baptism our sins are washed away.
35. T F Sprinkling water on a person is the "washing of water" By which Jesus cleanses His church.
36. T F Those who have received sprinkling for baptism have not been cleansed.

- 22. T F An unholy person can be united with God.
- 23. T F God made Jesus to be sin so that we can be made holy.
- 24. T F Jesus sanctified the church.

E. Christ cleansed the church by the washing of water with the word.

After Jesus died for the church, there was still something to be done in order that we should be sanctified. The cleansing was made possible by His death on the cross, but the actual cleansing requires an act on the part of each of us. It requires “the washing of water with the word.”

Jesus referred to this when He said to Nicodemus, “*Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*” (John 3:5) The new birth is accomplished by the water and the Spirit, or as Paul puts it, “*having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever*” (1 Peter 1:23).

In plain words, Christ washed away our sins when we believed the word of God brought by the Holy Spirit and were baptized in water. We were then cleansed by the washing of water with the word.

That the “washing of water” means baptism is very clear, just as Hebrews 10:22 also refers to baptism: “*let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*” 1 Peter 3:21 tells us that “*baptism now saves you,*” and Acts 22:16 says, “*Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins.*” Acts 2:38 tells us baptism is for the forgiveness of sins, and Mark 16:16 teaches that it is in order that we may be saved. The church is cleansed by the washing of water, which is baptism.

Sprinkling a few drops of water on the head of someone cannot qualify as the “washing of water”. This clearly has reference to immersion. As Romans 6:4 says, “*Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*”

Many people think they have been cleansed and sanctified who have never received the washing of water with the word. **They have no right to claim**

Testament, knowing that “*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Denominations say that they follow the Bible, but they are not careful to follow it and it only. Many teachings and practices are added to the teaching of Christ, many teachings are ignored or not practiced, and many things are changed. The traditions of men are taught as more important than what God teaches on the same subject. The case of infant baptism is a good example. Instead of teaching that a sinner must believe in Christ, repent of his sins, confess Christ and be immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins, denominations teach that the baby who cannot believe, repent or confess, must be sprinkled with water. They can find no authority for this in the teaching of Christ. They are therefore not acting as a bride should act. They are rebelling against what the head of the church teaches.

Members of Christ’s bride must cultivate the practice of subjection. When we study God’s word, our whole purpose must be to find what Christ wants us to do so that we can do it. In verse 10 of this chapter Paul describes our attitude as “*trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.*” A bride is attentive to every desire of her husband. She tries to learn how to please him more and more. This must be the attitude of the bride of Christ.

Unfortunately members of Christ’s church do not always have this attitude. Some were so rebellious that it was necessary for Paul to warn the elders of the church at Ephesus: “*Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.*” (Acts 20:30) We Christians must be on our guard. There will always be men who instead of being subject to Christ will rebel against Him and try to gain followers of their own. We must make sure that our attitude is the attitude of the bride whose only desire is to please her husband.

Questions:

- 6. T F The members of Christ’s church must do all things in His name.
- 7. T F To do something in the name of Jesus I must find permission to do so in His word, the New Testament.
- 8. T F A person who does not stay in the teaching of Christ is pleasing to God.

9. T F Denominations are careful to follow the Bible only.
10. T F The teaching that babies should be sprinkled with water for baptism is a teaching of Christ.
11. T F The attitude which members of the bride of Christ must have is described as “trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.”
12. T F Even among Christians there are some who do not want to be subject to Christ.

B. Christ is the Saviour of the Body. (v.23)

“For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.”

The body of Christ is the church (Ephesians 1:22-23), and there is one body (Ephesians 4:4). Jesus is the head of the church, just as the husband is head of the wife. But He is also *“the Savior of the body”*.

People who say that the church is not important need to think about this verse. If Jesus saves the church, one must be in the church to be saved! He is the Saviour of the body; He is not the Saviour of those outside the body. No one can be saved outside the church! Unless you are in the church, you cannot be saved.

This can be seen by considering Acts 2:47. *“And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”* The church is mad up of those who are saved. The Lord puts the saved into His church. Only the saved are in the church, and ALL the saved are in the church. He is the Saviour of the body.

Questions:

13. T F All denominations are part of the body of Christ.
14. T F Jesus is the Saviour of the denominations.
15. T F A person can be saved whether he is in the church or not.
16. T F All saved persons are in the church of Christ.

C. Christ loved the church. (v.25)

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave

Himself for her.” (Ephesians 5:25)

Jesus purchased our salvation with His blood. “. . . *the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*” (Acts 20:28) His great love was shown in the cross. But here we find that the love was for His church. Jesus died for all men in the sense that all men are invited into the church. **Whoever** *“believes and is baptized shall be saved”* (Mark 16:16). But only those who are saved by believing, repenting and being baptized are *“purchased with His own blood”*. Those who reject Him have rejected His love and are not part of the purchased body.

Since Jesus gave Himself up for the church we can see how important the church is, and His great sacrifice for the church draws us to Him and to His church. What a privilege to be part of the bride of Him who loves us so much!

Questions:

17. T F Jesus died for all men.
18. T F All men are saved.
19. T F Only those who are in the church are purchased with Christ’s blood.
20. T F Jesus showed His love by giving Himself up for the church.

D. Christ sanctified the church. (v.26)

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.” (Ephesians 5:26)

Sanctification is defined as (a) separation to God; and (b) the course of life befitting those so separated. Therefore to be sanctified means to be separated to God.

This separation can only be accomplished if we are made holy, for no unholy person or thing can be united with God. Since man cannot make himself holy, Jesus died for us on the cross. *“Or He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”* (2 Corinthians 5:21) Jesus took our sin to Himself on the cross so that we might be sanctified.

Questions:

21. T F The sanctified person is one who cannot sin.