Ephesians 5:21-33

- 5:21-6:10 applies the new life, the knowledge and the insight that comes from wisdom and the Spirit to the Christian home. (similar to Colossians 3:18-4:1)
  - Wives
  - Husbands
  - Children
  - Masters
  - Slaves
- The light that drives out the darkness and the light that exposes the deeds of darkness is primarily the deeds of light or the application of the power of the Christian life
- As we embrace God’s Reality, God’s Truth, God’s philosophy in our life we will shine the light and produce the fruits of righteousness.
- Do note that the Jews exempted women, slaves and children from reciting the Shema found in Deut. 6:4. In these verses Paul addresses all believers male or female, old or young, free or slave, etc. This is a change from the ancient world of both the Gentiles and the Pagans
- Chapter 5 contrast:
  - 5:3-14 – The pagans and unbelievers live foolishly in sexual immorality in the dark
  - 5:15-20 – The believers in Christ live in the light with knowledge and wisdom with a Spirit filled life that manifests the Lord’s character and a life of order in a cosmos fallen into chaos filled with days of evil.

Ephesians 5:21 – “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

Be submitting yourselves to one another in reverence of Christ

V-PPM/P-NMP RecPro-DMP Prep N-DMS N-GMS

1. It is debated if this verse concludes the previous section and should be connected with 5:20 or if it begins the new section.
2. This verse, 5:21, likely introduces the next section because:
   a. Without 5:21 verse 5:22 lacks a verb. See interlinear below:
   b. The ending of 5:20 is a perfect closing formulation: “in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father.” This obviously seems to close the thought.
3. “submit” can be seen as the 5th participle connected to the imperative of “be filled” from 5:18. These five things characterize the spirit filled life which is one that has been born again, learned the truth, renewed the mind and matured:
   a. Speaking/singing encouraging things to others
   b. Speaking thanksgiving to God
   c. Speaking/singing the thoughts of God in your heart
   d. Viewpoint of thanksgiving for everything through Jesus Christ…victorious attitude
   e. Submitting to one another (cooperating with the institutions God has established)
4. “to submit” – hypotasso – “to arrange under”, “place under” meaning “to place or rank under, to subject, mid. to obey”. It regularly spoke of the submission of someone in an ordered array to another person who was above the first. For example, the submission of soldiers in an army to those of superior rank who were themselves under a higher ranks authority.
   a. occurs 23x in Paul’s writings
   b. recognizes subordination to those who are considered worthy of respect because of:
      i. their own qualities or character
      ii. the position they hold (governors, parents, masters, church leaders, etc.).
   c. “submitting” to God’s created reality and the institutions he has set in place is, of course, a basic principle. The institutions God has established are for order among mankind and for the preservation of human wellbeing. The deconstruction of “respect” and “submission” will lead to individual, family, cultural and national chaos. Our culture in America has been in a steady state of deconstructing the institutions and social order for 4 generations beginning with the deconstruction of the authority of Scripture and the introduction of secular humanism (which included the theory of evolution) beginning in the 1880’s.
   d. Romans 13:1-7 – “Let every person be subject (hypotassethō) to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.”
   e. 1 Corinthians 14:32 – prophets are subject to prophets
   f. All things are “subject” to Christ – 1 Cor. 15:27-28; Ep. 1:22; Phil. 3:21, etc.
5. “to one another”
6. “in reverence of Christ”

Ephesians 5:22 – “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”

1. Notice in the Greek the word “submit” is NOT in the text, nor is any other verb. So, the verb “submit” is assumed from the previous verse.
2. “own” – idios – wives are to submit to “their own husbands”
   a. Marriage is a legally binding agreement instituted by God (for all mankind).
   b. In context this is NOT saying anything about women in society or woman compared to men. The context is a man and a woman in a married relationship.
   c. This verse is assuming a voluntary submission and not a forced submission. The same will be true of the men who choose to enter a married relationship. The married man is now concerned about his wife’s desires and needs. If a man does not want to be concerned about what a woman wants then the man should not enter into a marriage covenant with a woman –
1 Corinthians 7:32-34 - "I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs--how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world--how he can please his wife--and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world--how she can please her husband."

3. "as to the Lord" is repeated in Colossians 3:18 as "as is fitting in the Lord".
   a. The word "fitting" from aneko means "to be fit", "to be proper" and is translated as "due", "becoming", "suitable" and "proper".
   b. "Fitting" – aneko - refers to doing what is proper in order to reach a particular standard. In this case the standard of behavior has been established by the Lord who is Creator and Savior.
   c. The word "fitting" in Colossians 3:18 is in the imperfect tense ("was fitting") which implies an established obligation (or, a priori which means reasoning or knowledge which proceeds from theoretical deduction rather than from observation or experience.)

4. This is not saying:
   a. The woman is inferior to the man
   b. All women are subject to men
   c. Women are forced into this relationship
   d. A wife becomes the husband’s servant and she must “obey” his commands as if she were a slave.

5. This is saying:
   a. Marriage is voluntary commitment to a social institution established by God
   b. The wife is to “submit” to the institution of marriage
      i. “submit” in the Greek means:
         1. “to arrange under”,
         2. “place under” meaning
         3. “to place or rank under, to subject, mid. to obey”
      ii. The “wife” is marrying a “man” who will serve as the “husband” in the marriage relationship. The “wife” and “husband” both have roles and responsibilities in the institution of marriage.
      iii. The concept of “obeying” the husband is about “obeying” the institution of marriage with its roles and responsibilities in a marriage covenant.

6. Verses establishing order:
   a. 1 Corinthians 11:3 – “But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.”
   b. 1 Corinthians 11:11-12 – “Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.”
   c. Result of the fall of man: Genesis 3:16 –
      i. ESV – “To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”
ii. New Living Translation – “Then he said to the woman, “I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.”

iii. Contemporary English Version – “Then the LORD God said to the woman, "You will suffer terribly when you give birth. But you will still desire your husband, and he will rule over you."

Ephesians 5:23 – “For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

Ephesians 5:24 – “Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands."
Ephesians 5:25 – “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

1. "Love" is the word agapao - the kind of love that God has. It is an unselfish love. Based on the character of the person doing the loving. It is a love that strives for the well-being of the other person. In other words, it is a love that is focused on the other person’s needs, wants, interests and will submit its own will and advantage for the benefit of the object of this love. Other words for love that Paul could have used were:
   a. erao - sexual passion of man and woman
   b. phileo - friendship love
   c. storgeo - natural affection within the family

2. ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Christ Did for Church</th>
<th>Illustrations to Husbands</th>
<th>Application to Husbands Towards Wife</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loved the church</td>
<td>Agapeo - selfless love</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gave himself up</td>
<td>Self-sacrifice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Made her holy</td>
<td>Set her apart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleansing her by washing with water through the word</td>
<td>Sacrifice for her, Doing for her what she can not do for herself</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present her to himself</td>
<td>Initiate the relationship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A radiant church</td>
<td>Beautify her</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without stain, wrinkle, blemish</td>
<td>Help her improve</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love their wives as own body</td>
<td>Love yourself Love your wife the same</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ feeds church</td>
<td>Feeds his body Provide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ cares for church</td>
<td>Cares for his body Protect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love wife as he Loves himself</td>
<td>Consider her as an extension of self</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ephesians 5:26 – “that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,” The sacrifice of the cross, like any sacrifice, is done for the purpose of:

1. Sanctification (holy)
2. Justification (cleanse)

Ephesians 5:27 – “so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”
1. Brides would prepare themselves for their marriage which include bathing, primping, perfumed, anointed, dressing, adorning, etc. to look their best for their husbands.

2. The betrothal ceremony in Judaism came to be called "the sanctification of the bride" or the setting a part of the bride for her husband.

3. We, the church, cannot do that for ourselves - "all our righteous works are as filthy rags." (Isaiah 64:6) So, Christ has done that for us to prepare us for himself.
   a. See Revelation 21:2
   b. Ephesians 1:4, "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."
   c. 2 Corinthians 11:2 - Paul’s work was to help prepare and preserve the church
   d. Colossians 1:28 - Paul is presenting the church to Christ.

4. "radiant" - ἐνδοξος - endoxos - glorious, splendor
5. "stain" - σπιλος - spilos - spot, speck, fleck, stain
6. "wrinkle" - ρυτιδα - rhutis - wrinkle, fold on the face. This is a term used to describe physical beauty, health and symmetry.

1. "blemish" - is not a word in the Greek, but it comes in the translation of the word τοιοουτος - toioutos - which means "such a thing"

Ephesians 5:28 – “In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Ephesians 5:29 – “For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,

Ephesians 5:30 – “because we are members of his body.

Ephesians 5:31 – “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

Ephesians 5:32 – “This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:33 – “However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.