

A romantic scene of a bride and groom dancing on a grassy hill at sunset. The groom, in a dark suit, holds the bride's hand, and she is in a white wedding dress with a long, flowing train. The background features a vast landscape with rolling hills and a sky filled with soft, golden light from the setting sun.

The WORD Series

Part 13 - Marriage

Introduction...

- We have been walking through the fifth chapter of Ephesians.
- In verse two – walk in love
- Verse eight – walk in light
- Verse fifteen – walk in wisdom
- Now, as we come into the second half of the chapter, the Holy Spirit inspires Paul to give us an essential key to life.
- From the 18th verse, we have THE KEY to everything that follows, Marriage, Parenting, Family life, Society and Spiritual Warfare.



Introduction..

- These introductory verses are so important that we shall pause for a moment with them.
- With an understanding of their depth, we will have better scores in all areas of life.
- Let us open our hearts now and allow these Words from God to sink deeply within our minds into our behaviour.



Bible Reading...

- *18 Do not get drunk with wine, for that is wickedness (corruption, stupidity),*
- *but be filled with the [Holy] Spirit and constantly guided by Him.*
- *19 Speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,*

- *[offering praise by] singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;*
- *20 always giving thanks to God the Father for all things, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*
- *21 being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

Ephesians 5:18-21

Summary...

- **18** Don't live out of control or do reckless things. Let the Holy Spirit guide your life instead.
- **19** Use your words to lift each other up. Worship God with songs and with a heart that really means it.
- **20** Keep saying thank you to God in every situation.
- **21** Be respectful, kind, and willing to put others first because you follow Jesus.

SUMMARY



THE KEY!

- ***but be filled with the [Holy] Spirit and constantly guided by Him.***
- *Long before we get to the matter of marriage and the obligations of Wife or Husband, this key comes up!*
- *WHY?*
- *Because it's the root of everything you will encounter with another sinful human being.*
- *If you do not grasp this vital key, you may never have a truly blissful Christian life.*
- *In fact, the matter is not marriage, its our own heart condition.*



Be Filled...

- To make full
- To fill up
- Fill to the full
- Cause to abound
- Generously supplied with
- Fill to the brim
- To make complete
- To render perfect
- To bring to pass



Matthew 5

- *38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH [punishment that fits the offense].’*
- *39 But I say to you, do not resist an evil person [who insults you or violates your rights];*
- *but whoever slaps you on the right cheek, turn the other toward him also*
- *simply ignore insignificant insults or trivial losses and do not bother to retaliate*
- *[—maintain your dignity, your self-respect, your poise].*
- *40 If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, ^[1]let him have your coat also [for the Lord repays the offender].*
- *41 And whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.*
- *42 Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.*

1 Corinthians 13

- *⁴Love endures with patience and serenity,*
- *love is kind and thoughtful, and is not jealous or envious;*
- *love does not brag and is not proud or arrogant. ⁵*
- *It is not rude; it is not self-seeking, it is not provoked [nor overly sensitive and easily angered];*
- *it does not take into account a wrong endured.*
- *⁶It does not rejoice at injustice, but rejoices with the truth [when right and truth prevail].*
- *⁷Love bears all things [regardless of what comes],*
- *believes all things [looking for the best in each one],*
- *hopes all things [remaining steadfast during difficult times],*
- *endures all things [without weakening]*



In Summary....

- Before you get married, learn how to submit to the Holy Spirit
- Submitting to God comes before submission to Man
- You must practice before the main event. Every athlete prepares for the sport, and every good singer rehearses.
- Every sinful man must practice submitting to a Sinless God
- That humility is the credit and currency for a good marriage



Submitting...

- ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God. Ephesians 5:21
- It is interesting that the word submit is encouraged amongst Christians before they marry.
- It is a military term which means you allow another to lead you
- You allow yourself to be instructed
- It is a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, carrying a burden, allowing another to 'command' you.

Bible Reading...

- *22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*
 - *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.*
 - *24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ,*
 - *so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*
- Ephesians 5:22-28*

- *25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,*
- *26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,*
- *27 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.*
- *28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.*



To the LORD...

- ***22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.***
- The Wife is supposed to see her humility as unto the Lord.
- It is not easy to voluntarily submit oneself to another, especially when the person is an idiot!
- The act of submission is to God's design for marriage
- Women are not to submit to all men but to their own Husbands



Submission...

- ***23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Saviour of the body.***
- Every Husband comes with an 'Office' from God.
- The Wife submits to that office because God put it in place.
- Advice to all Women, if you don't like God's arrangement – don't get married!
- As the Church submits to Christ, the Wife submits to Her Husband.
- Submission of the Wife is not enforced by the Husband!
- Submission is voluntary and by the Wife.
- This act is synonymous with Christ submitting to the Father, even though equal to Him.
- The Father never enforced submission by Christ



Unconditionally...

- ***25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,***
- Men need to fully understand this concept before marriage
- ***8 But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8***
- This means even if your Wife is sinful, rebellious and outright “a pain in the neck”, the Husband is called to LOVE her!
- This means that Men are called to copy how Christ loves His sinful and challenging Church unconditionally.
- Men, if you do not like this deal, then don't get married!!



True Love...

- *26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,*
- The calling of a Husband is very high.
- Not only is he to love his Wife unconditionally, he must nurture and care for his Wife until she transforms.
- The only way this is possible is via God's help!

Summary

- Both the Wife and Husband are called to emulate the nature of Christ.
- In bowing the knee, the Woman embodies the virtuous humility of Christ.
- In dying to Self, the Man becomes Christlike and loves His Wife to the very end
- It's only when each party takes full responsibility of their roles that the FRAGRANCE of CHRIST comes into the Marriage.



CHRIST

- Even when it was extremely difficult, Christ humbled and submitted Himself to the Will of the Father.
- When Christ came to the Earth we killed Him and put Him on a Cross.
- Even though Christ was equal to God, He did not carry Himself around demanding worship.
- Christ loved us and went to hell for us even when we didn't have a clue what He was doing.





REFLECTIONS...

