**August 5, 2018 “Be Subject to One Another” Ephesians 5:21**

Some of you by now are wondering why we are taking so much time to go through one book of the Bible, namely Ephesians. We have been studying this book nearly every Sunday for the last 19 months and we are now entering the 20th month of study. I cannot expressly tell you why the Holy Spirit has led me into this study, of which I share with all of you, but in my mind one of the reasons is that we are living in a very convoluted society. We, as citizens of the United States, live in the most affluent society on earth. I cannot think of another society that has more opportunity or more avenues open to them for the pursuit of happiness than ours.

We have the best working conditions on the planet. Many of us work in air-conditioned places in the summer and heated places in the winter. Worker safety is a huge issue in most work places. We have the cleanest water and cleanest air of any nation. We live in an amazing technological world with so much information, entertainment and communication available through just a few keystrokes or buttons on our phones. And yet many in our society are unsatisfied with their lives and unfortunately many within the Church feel the same way.

This is why a study through the book of Ephesians is so vital. Remember that Ephesians is divided into two parts. The first three chapters tell of all that God has done for His people and the last three chapters tell us how to react to that knowledge as we remember our inheritance in Christ.

“Remember” is such a vital word in the Bible.

* Deuteronomy 32:7-9
* Ecclesiastes 12:1, 6-7
* Revelation 2:5
* Occurs 148 times in the Bible
* Malachi 3:16-18

Remember what?

* Psalm 119:105… Thy Word is lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
* Colossians 3:16… Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly
* Psalm 1… blessed is the man who walketh not
* Psalm 8… O Lord our Lord how excellent is Thy Name in all the earth
* Psalm 23… the Lord is my Shepherd… I shall not want
* Psalm 24… the earth is the Lord’s and fullness thereof
* Psalm 100… make a joyful noise unto the Lord

When the Word of God dwells in you richly here are the results

Ephesians 5:19-21

1. Singing and making melody
2. Always giving thanks
3. Be subject to one another

What is opposite? That which we see in the world around us

1. Depression
   1. 30 million people in the US on anti-depressants
   2. The fastest growing segment of our population taking anti-depressants?
   3. Those over 60 years of age… almost 1 in 5
   4. Suicide
   5. Substance abuse
   6. Divorce
      1. 50% is the going rate
      2. 66% is the rate for second marriage failures
   7. Children who have no idea of what a functional family is like

Why not?... Ephesians 5:21… be subject to one another

1. Why would the Holy Spirit start out the section on family life with this statement?
   1. People who have
      1. A song in their hearts
      2. Are thankful for all they have or don’t have
      3. Looking for every occasion to humble themselves
   2. Have meaningful relationships
      1. The basics of a meaningful Christian relationship in the home is a spiritual issue
   3. Question…
      1. Am I willing to be obedient to the Holy Spirit?
      2. Am I willing to obey the directives I find in God’s Word?
      3. Am I willing to be a living sacrifice to God?
         1. Romans 12:1… which is your spiritual service of worship
   4. Proverbs 23:7 as a man thinketh in his heart… so is he
      1. Fill your thoughts with rage
         1. What do you get?... unrest and fighting at home and in society…
      2. Fill your thoughts with self
         1. What do you get?... selfishness
         2. Why do you think we have such a high divorce rate?
      3. Fill your thoughts with ungratefulness
         1. What will you get? No matter how much you have it will never be enough…
         2. Someone will always have
            1. More money
            2. Better house
            3. Better husband or wife
            4. Better job, better life
2. I Corinthians 11:3
   1. That is not to say there is not to be structure in our lives
      1. Head of every man is Christ
      2. Head of woman or wife is the man
      3. Head of Christ is God
   2. Examine the last illustration
      1. Question
         1. Is Christ God?
         2. Does He have all authority?
      2. Philippians 2:5-11
         1. Have this attitude in you… Philippians 2:5
         2. Luke 22:14-24
         3. John 13:3-5, 12-17
            1. Blessed are you if you do them
            2. Happy… are you

Before we can ever have meaningful relationships in our homes we need to evaluate our lives in relation to Ephesians 5:18-21.