**September 2, 2018 “Husbands Love Your Wives” Ephesians 5:25-33**

Whenever people read Ephesians 5:21-33, I think they have a tendency to think that this passage has primarily to do with the relationship of husbands and wives and that is all that must be addressed. While indeed the subject of that relationship is certainly mentioned and addressed in quite some detail, this passage must be taken in its entirety as it relates not only to the husband/wife relationship but also how that relationship spills over into the building of the home and even into the work environment as we will see later on in chapter 6.

But in order for us to properly address the entirety of the home and the relationship on each individual, we must not forget that the home is spiritual battlefield which is under attack by the devil. We see this illustrated time and again throughout Scripture.

1. Marriage under assault after the fall
   1. Note
      1. Lamech… two wives… polygamy (Genesis 4)
      2. Noah… Ham saw his fathers’ nakedness… pornography (Genesis 9)
      3. Abraham and Hagar… Adultery (Genesis 16)
      4. Lot and his daughters… incest (Genesis 19)
      5. Dinah and Shechem… fornication (Genesis 34)
      6. Judah and Tamar… prostitution (Genesis 38)
      7. Potiphar’s’ wife and Joseph… seduction (Genesis 39)
   2. Have I mentioned… there is nothing new under the sun? (Ecclesiastes 1:9)

Because of the spiritual conflict of outside forces is why verses 18-21 are given prior to any issue concerning the various roles to be exemplified within the home. Note the correlation between the passage found in Ephesians 5:18-21 and I Peter 5:8-9, “Be sober” (be not drunk with wine) “be vigilant” (speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs and making melody in your hearts to the Lord.) I Peter 5:9 “knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world” (giving thanks always for all things (even our trials). Have you ever tried to fight with someone who is always thankful and not ungrateful?

1. Ephesians 5:25-28… husbands love your wives
   1. First question
      1. What is love?
         1. Love story
            1. Love is never having to say you are sorry
            2. How many of you really believe that?
   2. Note what the Bible does not say
      1. Men…
         1. Dominate… stand up to your wife
         2. Be the head of your household
            1. Rule with an iron fist… let everyone know who the boss in your domicile is
            2. Set the rules… for everyone else
            3. Bark out orders like a drill sergeant
         3. Colossians 3:19
2. What does the Bible say?
   1. Husbands love your wives
      1. Even as much as Christ loved the Church…
      2. And gave Himself up for her…
   2. Do we understand how radical that is?
      1. Note Islam… how wives are treated
         1. She steps out on you
            1. She is to be stoned
         2. You step out on her
            1. She better not say one word
      2. Culture of that day
         1. Women
            1. Just slaves
            2. Uneducated
            3. Worker bees
            4. No rights at all
   3. But you do not understand what my wife is like…
      1. How did Christ treat those coming to Him?
         1. I Corinthians 6:9-11
         2. Christ loved sinners when they hated Him
   4. Note the standard for husbands
      1. As Christ loved the Church
         1. This is a self-sacrificing love
         2. He did not love the Church for what she could do for Him…
         3. Rather He loved the Church for what He could do for her…
3. How one becomes a Christian?
   1. Romans 10:9-10
      1. Believe that Jesus Christ is your only Hope of salvation… there is nothing else and no one else who can save your soul
      2. Confess that hope verbally, out loud to yourself and others
      3. Believe in your heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead
      4. You will be saved
   2. What happens then?
      1. The Holy Spirit begins to work in your heart
      2. To change you into a new creation in Christ
         1. Why?
         2. So, we all can learn to love like Christ
            1. Absent of personal pride
            2. Absent of personal ambitions
            3. Absent of the exaltation of self
      3. Conformed into His image
      4. Completing the will of God in your life