

A. Because → Therefore → Walk this way!

Ephesians 2:4–10 (ESV) ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 1 Paul explains the MYSTERY REVEALED – CHRIST crucified for our sins! Reconciled to God! The Holy Spirit is given to ALL who believe! God's plan for Salvation and the Church! EXCITING...

1. **Ephesians 4:1–3 (ESV)** ¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
 - a. **GOAL:** maintain the UNITY OF THE SPIRIT – how? **BEING:** humble, patient, bearing with each other, working for peace.
2. **Ephesians 4:17 (NIV)** ¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.
 - a. **GOAL: Do NOT live like the world!**
 - b. **Futility of their thinking:** “Follow your heart” “you only live once” “You do you” “Love is love” “Do whatever makes you happy” “live for yourself”
3. **Ephesians 4:25 (NIV)** ²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. Be angry and do not sin...
 - a. **GOAL: NO** hidden sin, radical honesty, speak the Truth, be unoffendable (thick skin, soft heart), forgive & love everyone!
4. **Ephesians 5:1–2 (ESV)** ¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
 - a. **GOAL: Be. Like. Jesus!! In EVERY area of your life & LOVE those around you extravagantly!!**
5. **Ephesians 5:7–10 (NIV)** ⁷ Therefore do not be partners with them. ⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord.
 - a. **GOAL: Do NOT partner with people who walk in darkness, live in the light, find out what pleases God and do that!**
6. **Ephesians 5:14–16 (ESV)** for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.
 - a. **GOAL: Do NOT waste your life – time, money, abilities, focus, do NOT be foolish.**
(Question: What is greater in your life MEDIA or LOVE for JESUS? Direction → Perfection)
7. **Ephesians 5:17-18 (NIV)** ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, ...
 - a. **GOAL: Do NOT be foolish and live for yourself! LIVE. FOR. JESUS! Do not get drunk or waste your life. Live ON Purpose, FOR Purpose.**

WOW → is anyone in here feeling inadequate for the task?

GOOD NEWS ALERT! THE FINAL THEREFORE → Ephesians 5:18b (ESV) ...but be (being) filled with the Spirit, GIVES US THE SECRET!

Zechariah 4:6 (ESV) ⁶ Then he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, **but by my Spirit**, says the Lord of hosts.

And that SAME SPIRIT is available to ALL who call upon the Name of the Lord!

John 7:37–39 (ESV) ³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

REFLECT: Are YOU thirsty? If so, COME – PRAY – SEEK – RECEIVE!

PRAY: Lord, forgive us our sin, unbelief, neglect, and pride. We cannot do anything fruitful apart from YOU! Please fill us anew with Your Holy Spirit.

B. Being filled with the Spirit transforms us Relationally

Ephesians 5:18–21 (ESV) ... but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1. **Produces: Community with other believers!** Singing! Serving! Confessing! Praying! Doing life TOGETHER for the GLORY OF GOD!
 - a. **NOTE:** the first signs of being filled with the Holy Spirit have to do with CHURCH – being with other believers – TOGETHER – giving glory to God!
 - b. **The idea of ME & JESUS** – you don’t need the church – is not only unbiblical – it ALSO robs you of the FULLNESS of the SPIRIT in your life!
 - c. **If we walk in step with the Spirit we will have FELLOWSHIP WITHIN THE CHURCH.**
 - d. **1 John 1:7 (NIV)** ⁷ But **IF (subordinate conjunction)** we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we **HAVE (possessive verb) fellowship with one another, AND (coordinating conjunction)** the blood of **Jesus** (subject), his Son, **PURIFIES** (verb) **US** (object) from **all sin.**
 - i. **IF: walk in the Spirit**
 - ii. **We will HAVE: Community within the Church**
 - iii. **AND: JESUS WILL cleanse us from ALL SIN**
 - iv. **Overcoming SIN – the context of 1 John 1:9** if we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive and cleanse us! **is within CHURCH COMMUNITY.**
 - e. **SOME OF YOU ARE STUCK BECAUSE YOU HAVE RESISTED THE SPIRIT BY RESISTING COMMUNITY WITHIN THE CHURCH.**
 - f. **Acts 2:42–47 (NIV)** ⁴² *They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.* ⁴³ *Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.* ⁴⁴ *All the believers were together and had everything in common.* ⁴⁵ *They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.* ⁴⁶ *Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate*

together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- i. **SPIRIT FORMS US RELATIONALLY INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD:** meals together, life together, praying together, generosity & taking care of each other, Bible study, etc.! TOGETHER.
- ii. **This is what the EARLY CHURCH DID! Met in the TEMPLE – (kind of like here in the BIG sanctuary!) AND in each others homes (SMALL GROUPS!)**

We cannot “walk in the Spirit” and live apart from CHURCH COMMUNITY – the Spirit leads us into and produces CHURCH COMMUNITY – He BIRTHS US INTO GOD’S FAMILY! Much of the growth we need, answers to prayer, freedom, joy, and LIFE we long for CANNOT be found unless we ENGAGE in Church Community (FAMILY)

2. SUBMITTING: We move from OVER to UNDER in our LOVE: What is best for the other person?

Ephesians 5:21 (ESV) ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ....

- a. **SUBMITTING – BEING SUBJECT TO –** means: “to stand under”
- b. **WHEN filled with the Spirit, we:** “stand under Jesus” AND “stand under each other.”
- c. **Rather than holding onto our “rights” we become like JESUS who also GAVE UP HIS RIGHTS!** “
 - **Philippians 2:1–7 (ESV)** ¹ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² ... ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of man, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
 - **Submission is not blindly subjecting yourself to someone else or participating in sin.** It is voluntarily “standing under,” the other person, which is to love them by doing what is BEST for them and not only thinking about what is best for us.
 - **KEY UNDERSTANDING when dealing with ABUSE and/or ABUSERS.**
 - **1 Corinthians 9:19–23 (ESV)** ¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.

C. Three KEY Relationships where the Spirit forms us

- a. **EPHESIANS 5: The NIV & ESV together help us see the beauty of this Passage.**
 - NIV rightly joins v.21 with v. 22-6:9 which connects MUTUAL submission with the three types of relationships.
 - ESV rightly includes submission as a fruit of the Spirits filling... using parallelism...
 - COMBINE for the proper CONTEXT
1. **Marriage → Husband & Wife REFLECTS Jesus & the Church: Ephesians 5:18–27 (ESV)** Be (being) filled with the Spirit... ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, to your own husbands, as to the Lord... Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 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.

- **MUTUAL SUBMISSION out of reverence for Christ is a FRUIT of the Spirits FILLING!**
 - **1 Corinthians 7:2–5 (ESV)** ² But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. ³ The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴ For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does (CONTROVERSIAL!!). Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does (EQUAL AUTHORITY).
 - **ANCIENT ROME:** Husbands had FULL authority over their wives. Over women, children, slaves. PAUL says – WOMAN HAVE EQUAL AUTHORITY!
 - **TODAY:** No one can tell me what to do. I am my own person. I make all my own decisions. The Bible – YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN.
 - **What about abusive relationships?** Standing under means: LOVING OTHERS BY DOING WHAT IS BEST FOR THEM. In cases of ABUSE, boundaries & separation are warranted.
 - **MARRIAGE IS SUPPOSED TO REFLECT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JESUS & THE CHURCH!!**
 - **Ephesians 5:32–33 (ESV)** *This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*
 - **REFLECT: HUSBANDS** –Are you “standing under” your wife and doing what is best for her? *E.g. Initiating prayer, spending time in the Word, helping, leading, sharing the load, encouraging her?* **WIVES** – are you standing under your husband? *E.g. encouraging, honoring him, being patient, serving him, looking for ways to support him?* **FORGIVING!**
2. **Family → Parents & Children: Ephesians 6:1–4 (ESV)** ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” (**this is the first commandment with a promise**), ³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- **PARENTS:** Are you leading by example? Owning your mistakes? Being patient with your kids as they grow? Giving reasonable expectations? Actively helping them mature and learn?
 - **KIDS:** Are you looking for ways to serve your parents? Are you forgiving them and showing them grace? Are you obeying them? Are you showing them honor?
3. **Work → Slaves & Masters (Employees & Employers): Ephesians 6:5–9 (ESV)** ⁵ Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ ... ⁹ Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.
- **EMPLOYERS:** are you treating your employees fairly? With honesty and integrity? Are you looking to improve their lives, not just make money?
 - **EMPLOYEES:** are you working hard? Showing up on time? Going the extra mile? Praying for your employer?
 - **BOTH:** Do your actions reflect that you serve CHRIST first? ***Ephesians 6:7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord,***

Action Steps:

- **COME JOIN US AT PRAYER SUMMIT THIS Wednesday!**
- **CONTACT US: to find a place to SERVE!! And CONNECT with others!**
- **PRAY: for a filling of the Spirit and the power to LOVE, SERVE, & SUBMIT!**