

Eph. 5: 17

Now the last time that I spoke to you I brought a message on spirit-filled submission and the message this morning and next Sunday morning is going to be a sequel to that as we go through this 5th chapter of the book of Eph. I find in the book of Eph. that the apostle Paul starts in heaven and ends up at home and that's always a good place to end up with spiritual truth. The message this morning is on the spirit filled home and that's what the message will be on next Sunday morning also. Now some of the material this morning will be repetitious from last week but that's all right because many of you didn't do anything about it before. So we can stand to hear it again. Eph. 5, we will begin reading w/ the 17th verse and we'll go ahead and read through the rest of that chapter, through verse 33 of Eph. chapter 5. A great many people are interested, Christians, are interested in knowing what the will of the Lord is, verse 17 informs us that what Paul is about to write is the will of God. Now if you want to understand the will of God for your life, then you listen beginning in verse 17. ....

Now a Christian home is not a home in which all the members are Christians. Many of us think we have Christian homes because we are Christians. That is not necessarily true. And when I speak to you this morning I actually speak to you with a heart that is burdened and grieved because every year when I return from the Convention, as we have done this past week, I hear of former college-mates, seminary colleagues, whose ministry has left them, or either they have left the ministry because of a break up in the home life. And it's getting to be a very <sup>sad</sup> ~~hard~~ thing, practically every week or every month, I hear of a preacher, a pastor, an evangelist that I know, that I went to school with that has been mightily used of ~~God~~ God, that has had a broken home, divorce. Now what I am going to say this morning folks, I am trying to

help you. Many of us would be absolutely shocked if we knew of the family problems that are represented right here in this congregation. I would be shocked if I knew the family problems that are right here in my own congregation. All of us would be shocked to realize that people ~~living~~ sitting right around us, SS teachers, deacons, great Christian people, whom God has blessed, if their homes are not breaking up they are right on the verge of breaking up. And I am fast becoming convinced that the number one problem in America and the American church today is at this very point of the Christian home.

A member of another church told me recently - I've heard a great many sermons on the home, I don't think I ever took them seriously because the pastor always joked about it so much during the course of the message. Actually it's not a joking matter. God intended that heaven on earth be exemplified in the home and there's nothing that can be so much like heaven on earth when that home is a Christian home. But friends, there is nothing that can be so much like hell on earth when it is not so. And what you are at home is what you are. And I really don't care how religious and pious and spiritual you are up here at church, that doesn't make a bit of difference. What you are when you are alone is what you are. Now all of us can live a public life pretty well decent, it's easy to live a public life. But it's what a man or a woman or a boy or girl is in the private life that really reveals what they are. And what you are at home ~~is~~ is what you are. And if you don't have it at home, you just don't have it as far as God is concerned. And until the Christian principles by which you live and which you teach and which you expound in these four walls, until they pervade and control and are exhibited in your home, you are a phony. And I am a phony. Now I am trying to help you. And God wants to help you, and I tell you, God knows more about this home business than anybody else around, because He is the inventor. I don't know anything about automobiles, when something goes wrong with my car (which is seven days a week) I take it to somebody who makes them. They ~~do~~ know



something about it. Something goes wrong with our television set, I don't take it to a dentist, I take it to a person who knows something about it, who made it. And you know what's wrong with a home today -- when something breaks they take it to somebody that doesn't know anything about it. And that is just as ridiculous as taking a broken watch to a dentist and trying to get him to fix it. Now what I want us to do this morning is to take our homes to the matchmaker instead of the watchmaker. Now the Bible tells us right here in this passage what this home is supposed to be like. Now it says at the beginning, that a Christian home is not a home in which the members are Christians. And I make that statement because as I have already mentioned by all of these preachers and evangelists whose homes are breaking up, ~~that~~ they're Christians and they've been mightily used of God. A Christian home is not a home in which the members are Christians, a Christian home is a home in which the members of that family are Spirit-filled and Spirit-controlled. That's the only thing that will make the difference and the only ~~way~~ way ~~your~~ your ~~home~~ home is ever going to be what it ought to be, to be that heaven on earth, to glorify God and to bless humanity, is when the Spirit of God fills and controls those who are responsible in the home. This is what Paul is talking about. This whole passage that deals with husband and wife and children and parent-<sup>Paul</sup> relationship, is a result of that command being obeyed in verse 18. ~~Paul~~ Paul says be not drunk with wine..... FILLED (CONTROLLED) and then when the Spirit of God controls, then all of these other things can fall into place. The Christian home is the home in which these people in that home are possessed by and controlled by the Spirit of God. Now do you know why that is so? It is so because no one can be filled with the Spirit until first of all they are emptied of themselves. Do you know what personality ~~clashes~~ <sup>clashes</sup> are? Husbands and wives have personality ~~clashes~~ conflicts -- they have ~~personality~~ personality clashes -- do you know what personality ~~clashes~~ conflicts are, between a husband and wife? It's my self-life irritating your self-life. And by the way, you can

carry that out even farther than the home. Do you know what it is that causes personality ~~and~~ conflicts in workers — Christian workers and organization? It's my self-life rubbing against your self-life. In business relationships, in politics, in national relationship, in any relation you want to name, the personality clash is a result of one self-life irritating another self-life. And so, God starts at the right place and I want you to get the significance of the arrangement that God has made — first of all, He says be filled with the Spirit. That means then that I must be empty of self. I can't always be thinking in terms of what I want myself, I must come to the place where I empty my life and my own selfish ~~and~~ desires and ambitions. I dethrone this big "I". My ego is put out of place and put out of commission. Then, the Spirit of God can come and take over and control and pervade. You see what the Bible is saying is that spiritual relationships must come before physical relationships and right here is where we have missed it friends. Spiritual relationships is more important and is the foundation for physical relationships. One day some people came to Jesus and they said, Master, your mother and your brothers are outside, they want to see you. Jesus said, who is my mother — who is my brother? And Jesus waved His arm to the multitude that was there and He said, whoever does the will of My Father in heaven the same is my brother, my sister and my mother. What was Jesus saying there? Jesus was saying the unifying relationship is not blood and it is not physical, it is spiritual. When Jesus hung on the cross, He tended to business before He died, fulfilled Scripture. He saw His mother standing there standing there. John, his ~~and~~ disciple beside him. He had to have ~~someone~~ someone take care of His mother. Evidently Joseph was dead, there had to be someone to take care of His mother. Since Jesus was the elder son in that family it was His ~~and~~ responsibility to ~~and~~ care for His mother. What did He do? He said, John, you take my mother home and you treat her as your mother and mother, you treat John as your son. Now, why did Jesus do that when Mary had physical sons all around her? Because those physical sons she had were unbelievers at that time. They were unbelievers at that time. They



thought Jesus was crazy. And what Jesus was enunciating on the cross is the principle you find there - spiritual relationship is more vital and more important than physical relationship. Spirit is thicker than blood is what Jesus is saying. And its the person who makes the partner anyway in a ~~XX~~ marriage. Someone has said, marriage creates a lot of problems. I disagree with that. Marriage doesn't create any problems, it only exposes problems that already were in existence. Marriage does not create problems, those problems rise to the surface like dead fish on a stagnant pond when that person who has never learned to ~~X~~ empty himself of himself meets another person who has never learned to empty ~~XX~~ herself of herself and they irritate each other, and they say, marriage has created problems. It has not, it has only exposed problems you have never solved. This is why the spiritual relationship must first of all be proper, be filled with the Spirit as you are empty of self and filled with the Spirit then you are going to be able to obey these commands and have a Spirit-filled home.

All right, we are going to take two of them this morning -- first of all, the SPIRIT-FILLED WIFE and then the SPIRIT-FILLED HUSBAND. Now, I'm ~~sorry~~ sorry wife, that in every message you ever hear on the home you always come first. But that's the way God did it and I don't know of any way to improve on it. The Spirit-filled wife. What is the relationship between the wife to the husband. Husband, don't sit there nudging your wife while I am preaching, I'm going to get to you in a minute. And let me just say here that your responsibility in the Christian home is far outweighs the responsibility of your wife. And I'll just say it at the outset, anticipate a little bit, husband, father, if your home is not what it ought to be, you are to blame. You say, you don't know my wife, she's rebellious, she's not saved, that doesn't make any difference, when Adam and Eve sinned against God that home broke the vows ~~E~~ of God, who did God blame? He blamed Adam. And in any home where that home is not what it ought to be spiritually, it is the father, it is the husband who is toblame. All right I think you can sum up

the wife's duties to the husband, the relationship to the husband, by this expression: unselfish submission, unselfish submission. Look at verse 22, "wives, ..... Now the word submit is a military word that describes the relationship that one inferior officer has to a superior officer. It has to do with rank. Now let me hasten to say it has not a thing to do with whether or not the woman is the weaker sex or the man is better than the woman that is not at all what he is talking about. They are all equal in God's sight as far as their person is concerned. This has to do with rank. And the word submit means to place yourself in line under another person. To be in submission, to recognize that another person has superior rank. Not superior IQ, not superior worth, but superior rank. This is the way God ordered it. But let me also hasten to say that this is a voluntary submission. That Greek verb is in the middle voice. It is to be voluntary on the part of the wife. Submit yourselves --- it never says, husband make your wives submit. And I've heard some husbands who have not understood this. They've said, I'm going to make my wife submit. And they've told their wife, you're going to submit whether you want to or not. No, the wife is never to submit <sup>under</sup> ~~with~~ the pressing hand of a demanding husband. It is to be voluntary. It is to be voluntary. Now what does this mean, this unselfish submission mean on the part of the wife? First of all it means that she is to respond to the position that God has placed him in. What is her position? What is her relationship to the husband? She is to submit. Verse 23 the husband is the head of the wife even ... Now notice verse 24 ..... IN EVERYTHING. Just as the church is supposed to bow before the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the wife is supposed to do likewise in the home. As a matter of fact I Peter chapter 3 says ..... LORD. Calling him K lord. You say, well this --- Now, I'm dedicating this portion of the message to Women's Lib. I believe in Women's Lib, brother. There is nothing that will liberate a woman anymore than taking all of the worries and the frustrations of life and letting the husband do what God intended him to do in the first place. She is not supposed to worry about that. I'm for Women's Lib. I'd like



to see every woman liberated from having to worry. Every woman liberated from having to worry about bills. Worry about bringing up the children. Worry about disciplining the children. It's not her place in the first place, it's the man's place as we'll see next Sunday. You say does this mean then that the wife has no word, no voice, no opinion? Not at all. What it means is that the final decisions must always rest with the husband. You say, I don't like that. Tell it to God. He wrote it. I mean it. I haven't written this but the wife is supposed to be ~~submissive~~ submissive to the husband. And I'll tell you something else, you show me a home where the wife is trying to be the head of the house and where she is trying to boss and where she is trying to do more than voice her opinion and I'll show you a home where there is no spirit-filled harmony and peace and I'll show you in addition a home where the children are going to grow up disrespecting father and mother. You talk to your psychiatrist and you talk to your <sup>socialist</sup> ~~psychologist~~ and your psychologist and the reason there is such a widespread now of homosexuality is because one of the reasons, this basic thing right here. They grow up in a woman's world. They go to school, they have a woman teacher. They go to SS, they have a woman teacher, it's a woman's world. ~~They~~ They come home, the father sits over here in the chair, keeps pretty well quiet, the woman makes the decisions, the boy grows up seeing that to be a man, brother, isn't all it's cut out to be, because he is constantly under the thumb and threatened by his wife. Now I'm telling you God's truth this morning. You cannot, you cannot neglect and ignore the foundational laws of almighty God and ever get by with it. And the moral problem and the immoral problem we are having in our country today and in our churches much of it is directly caused by the home situation, ignoring the plain commands of God Himself. The wife is supposed to be submissive to the husband. That means he is superior in rank to you, as God hath ordained it. Not superior in person, superior in position. You say, my husband's lost, that means that I don't have to obey. Listen to I Peter chapter 3 ..... Now he's dealing here with a Christian wife who has a lost husband and he says that wife is to be in subjection, she is to be ~~in~~ in submission to

that husband, even though he is lost. When God created woman, he told woman "to Adam shalt thou desire be". Your desire shall be to Adam. God has placed man over the woman in rank, in position in the home. And God's blessings can never rest on that home unless that wife, in the spirit of Christ, takes her God ordained position. Now the reason you have to be Spirit-filled before you can do this is because once you have yielded up yourself to God, once you have emptied yourself of your own pride and your own selfish ambition, it's easier then just to obey God and submit yourself to your husband. Any wife who is not submissive to her husband and rebels against this, has first of all not ever submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Now not only does it mean that you respond to his position, but it means you respect his position - verse 33..... REVERENCE -- that means respect him. And one of the most godless things a wife can do is to make fun of her husband out in public or anywhere. I've seen it happen a hundred times. Your husband may not have the education you have, he may not have the IQ you have. As a matter of fact you may even make more money than he makes, but I want you to know you have no right, you have no right to act disrespectfully towards him. You say, you don't know my husband, what he's done. That doesn't make any difference at all, you respect the position that God has placed him in. Even Michael the archangel would not speak disrespectfully towards the devil - why? Because God has placed the devil in a higher rank of authority than Michael was. And even though the devil was the devil, Michael would not revile him. Even angels know this. Even angels show respect to the devil. So it ought to be easy for a wife to show respect to her husband. Now I want to just ask you a question - wife, are you submissive to your husband, are you? Now friends don't think this is just preaching this morning, I want you to listen to it and I want you to obey it and heed it, for your sake. Are you submissive to your husband? Are you?



All right, now let's look in the next place to the Spirit-filled husband. The relationship the husband has towards his wife. Notice verse 25 ---- I think the ~~best~~ best way to describe the husband's ~~relationship~~ relationship to the wife is this: if the wife's relationship to the husband is unselfish submission, the husband's relationship to the wife is unselfish sacrifice. He says ..... Now let's stop at that word love for a minute, it doesn't have a thing to do with affection. And a great many husband think that they have fulfilled the command of God when they are affectionate towards their wives. That is not what the word means at all. It's the same word that God uses in John 3:16 --- It is agape love and it means to seek and to sacrifice for the well being of another. And the husband is not supposed to simply love ~~his~~ his wife in a human affectionate way, he is to love his wife in God's way, he is to sacrifice himself for the well being of his wife. He is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. Now for a long time I read that verse and never really saw what I want to share with you right now. How did Christ love the church? ---- I'll tell you how Christ loved the church - He took His own life and gave it away to the church. He emptied Himself, He looked not only on His own things, it says in Phil. chapter 2 ..... mind .... looked not only on his own things, He took His life and gave it away. So He had no life of His own. Now this is the way a husband is supposed to love his wife. Have you ever done this? Have you ever done this, husband? Have you ever consciously by an act of your will, taken your own life and given it away to your wife? Now this explains verse 28. .... Williams translates that this way: The married man who loves his wife is really loving himself. Now how can a married man who loves his wife really love himself? He loves himself because the life that he has, that he is loving in his wife, is the life he has given to her, it is his life that he has given for her well being and for her welfare. That makes it an unselfish sacrifice. And I'll tell you I'm amazed the way a lot of husbands treat their wives in this matter of selfishness. Now I don't have too long to go into all of this, but some of you know exactly what I'm talking about. There are some husbands they want their ~~own~~ way. And they are going to have their

way and they have very little feeling for their wife, very little consideration for what the woman wants, what the wife wants. Some of them have misconstrued and perverted this teaching that we are talking about this morning, they say, I'm the head of the house, I'll do what I want to do, and you'll knuckle under and just flat ignore the desires and the wishes of the wife. Now, husband, I want to ask you this morning, are you acting towards your wife in ~~an~~ unselfish sacrifice?

I love to read the relationship of Jesus to the church. Jesus gave everything He had for His church. X Are you doing that for your wife? Now there are three things that the husband will do for his wife if he loves her as Christ loved the church. First X of all He will PROTECT her. It says that he is the saviour of the body, verse 23. The husband is the saviour of the body. He will protect her. And part of that protection is - means that he will give her direction. The husband is supposed to take on himself the responsibility for decisions, and there are a great many husbands who just don't want to be shackled with that responsibility and they let the wife make all the decisions X in the home and that's why the wife has to go to psychiatrists, and live on tranquilizers, and have a nervous breakdown, because when God made her He did not equip her to do those things. And I'll tell you the reason that a great many women and wives and mothers are in ~~such~~ nervous states that they are today, is because they are doing things, worrying about things, that God never intended them to worry about. The husband is the head of the wife - the head makes the decisions, the head takes the responsibility, and the husband is to protect his wife from anxiety and worry and frustration by taking the load of decision making and the load of responsibility off her and putting it on his own shoulders. God has equipped you to do it. He'll protect her, but not only that,

He'll PROVIDE for her. He nourishes his body, he nourishes her. I had a friend that I went to seminary with, he was a preacher, a pastor, I had never met his wife, but I noticed every time I saw -- we were in seminary, then, and no seminary student has a great deal of money, unless he has inherited it or something. But I noticed every time I would see this preacher friend of mine he was always decked out in great looking clothes. I mean, you thought he would have just stepped out



Gentlemen's Quarterly. He was sharp. The one day I met his wife. And that poor wife, I never saw her in a decent dress. Shabby, old, out of style. Now this was ten years ago I locked away in my mind that picture. Today that home is broken up and there are a great many husbands that are not providing for their wife - not because they are not able to but because they are selfishly spending it on themselves. But not only this, he will also PRIZE her. He says he not only nourishes, he cherishes her. He PRIZES her. Why? Because he has given to her his life. And to him she is his greatest possession. And he treats her as Jesus & treats the church. Now I don't know about you but that's a standard that condemns me. Am I the husband I ought to be? Well I can test it out very quickly, am I treating my wife the way Jesus treats me? Am I protecting her, am I prizing her, am I providing for her? Am I loving her, am I caring for her, the way Jesus cares for me. Now what I am preaching you this morning is not just Bible exposition, but it is also real experience, and what I preach to you Sunday after Sunday is ~~XXXX~~ something that I have already experienced in my own life. And the greatest thing that ever happened in our home was when my wife and I came to the place where we understood what the Bible was talking about and we just had a little extra wedding ceremony and where we ~~gave~~ gave ourselves away to each other, ~~and~~ and obeyed explicitly the command of God. And I want you to know that our home has been different since that hour. The greatest miracle that has ever taken place in my life in the past two years in all this revival ~~and~~ and the things that God has been doing, the greatest miracle of all has taken place in our home. In the relationship between husband and wife. Because we came to see that God knew what He was about when He laid down the rules. And when a wife will come to her husband and say, "I'm going to submit to you as my husband for the Lord's sake - not because he deserves it, not because he is worthy of it, but because Jesus asked you to do it, you read verse 21 ----- because the Lord tells you to do it. And then that husband take his own life and give it away to his wife. That's how you become one, by the way, that's how you become one. It is a spirit-filled home. Now this morning your home is either filled and controlled by self or its filled and controlled by the Spirit. There is no third alternative. And I promise you every argument

you've had this past week, the anger, the personality conflicts have arisen out of one self life irritating the other self life. And they will go on irritating until it festers as an open sore and you will break up. Now, if you some of you don't pay attention to what I am talking about, another year or two you'll be coming to me for marital counseling. What I'm trying to do this morning is to help you and to save me from having to marriage counsel you. And if some of you younger couples, some of you older ones, if you don't pay attention to what I am saying this morning and you don't take the word of God serious and obey it, and heed it, your home is not going to make it. Is your home, this morning, a real Christian home. What you areat home is what you are.