# Module IX – The Christian Home

## Lesson 1 – Introduction

- I. Eph. 1:9-10; Col. 1:19-22 God's ultimate purpose: to reconcile all things to Himself through His Son, with each stage having been built on a previous foundation.
  - A. The 'Universal Assembly': the gathering of all the local 'assemblies' by the angels at Jesus Christ's return.
  - B. The local 'Assembly': the local gathering together of believers in complete unity and order, under Christ as the head, through the holy Breath. (Ephesians 1:1 5:21)
  - C. The Christian Home: the Christian home is the building block of the local assembly (Eph. 5:22 6:4).
    - 1. Faulty homes & marriages are unstable building materials for the Christian assembly.
    - 2. The primary responsibility for the home & marriage is the man.
      - a. 1 Cor. 11:3 "But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."
      - b. Gen. 3:17-19 "Then to Adam He said, 'Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, "You shall not eat of it": Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.'"
    - 3. If a Christian home and marriage is unstable, it is the man's fault. He is the leader. He wife is to follow his lead. He cannot abdicate his leadership. The wife cannot assume it.
- II. Satan's ultimate attack against God's order concerns rebellion against the gender roles:
  - A. Destroy the 'assembly' by destroying marriages & families
    - 1. Failure to raise children in the fear of God:
      - a. they do not have 'parenting' models
      - b. they are not emotionally mature
    - 2. Destroy marriages & families through unfaithfulness & divorce
      - a. Men: promote promiscuity w/ advertising, fashion, entertainment
      - b. Women: disparage traditional gender roles to promote dissatisfaction
      - c. Children: disparage parents, promote insubordination, rebellion
    - 3. Destroy the marriage institution itself:
      - a. promote rejection of gender roles (womens' liberation)
      - b. promoting sexual perversion & homosexuality
      - c. total rejection of God-given gender transgender

## Module IX - The Christian Home

## Lesson 2 – Put on Your Big-Boy Pants

- I. God's purpose for the man.
  - A. Everything God made He declared 'good.' (Gen. 1:25)
  - B. It is NOT GOOD for the man to be alone (Gen. 2:18)
    - 1. There are exceptions
      - a. Those fully dedicated to God's service (Matt. 19:10-12)
      - b. During the time of tribulation (1 Cor. 7:1,7,10,26)
  - C. God created mankind as 'male and female' in the image of God (Gen. 26-28)
    - 1. to reproduce as husband and wife,
    - 2. to take dominion over the earth (Gen. 1:26-31)
  - D. God gave the man the responsibility as 'head'
    - 1. God put the man in charge of Eden (Gen. 2:5-9,15-17).
    - 2. God created the woman to be his helper (vs. 18-25)
      - a. Called 'woman' because she was taken out of man (vs. 22-23), not independent creature (v. 19).
- II. After Adam: The man's first responsibility: SEPARATE from father and his mother (Gen. 2:24).
  - A. A new 'HEAD' (patriarch) of a new 'generation'
    - 1. The man cannot assume his role until he establishes himself as head of a new family.
    - 2. His wife cannot assume her role as his helper until he cuts the apron strings, and establishes himself as independent from his parents. Only an independent man (like her father should have been) can lead her and earn her respect.
      - a. If his parents continue to 'parent' him by manipulating him (a fathers' high expectations, or a mothers' guilt trips), his wife cannot 'follow' his lead.
      - b. His WIFE (his new family) must become his first external priority.
      - c. Christian parents should help him cut the apron strings, not hinder him. The 'parenting' is finished on his wedding day.
      - d. He should seek to establish new family traditions, not just bring his wife along for his old family traditions.
    - 3. God did not say that the woman must leave her parents because she will need time to transition away from being in subjection to her father.
      - a. This does NOT mean that the man becomes attached to the wife's family.
      - b. It means that the man becomes a family 'HEAD' [patriarch] and the wife begins to follow her new 'head' instead of her father.
      - c. It is the man's responsibility to cut his own ties before he can lead his wife to become able to trust him and respect him as her head.
    - 4. The goal is for the man and woman to become "one flesh" (v. 24), which is impossible until the former ties are severed.
      - a. This does not mean that a man no longer 'honors' his parents. He does not allow himself to be manipulated or guilted by them.
      - b. A man's 1st responsibility: Put on your big-boy pants; become your own man so that you are equipped to LEAD your wife as her sole 'HEAD.'

# Module IX – The Christian Home

# Lesson 3 – Make the Family Great Again

- I. Marriage IS a covenant with God (Gen. 2:18-24); marriage without God is fornication
  - A. the Man as head & the wife as 'helper'
  - B. the man leaves parents to establish a new household
- II. The MAN alone is responsible before God for the spiritual direction of his family (relationship and obedience to God). He must NOT bow to pressure and manipulation from his wife.
  - A. Adam (Gen. 3:17) Because you listened to the voice of your wife.
  - B. Noah (Gen. 6:13-18; Gen. 7:1) God required Noah to make the decision for his family.
  - C. Abraham (Gen. 12:1-8; Heb. 11:8-10) Abraham left his house & family to dwell in tends. (Gen. 22:1-5; Heb. 11:17-19) Abraham took Isaac for a sacrifice.
  - D. Jacob (Gen. 31:17-21; Gen. 35:1-15) Jacob confiscated the idols; Jacob made the decision to follow God.
  - E. Moses (Exodus 4:19-27) the Lord sought to kill Moses because he placated his wife.
  - F. Joshua (Josh. 24:14-15) As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
  - G. New Testament (1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:22-24; 1 Pet. 3:1-6)
- III. The MAN is responsible as teacher & disciplinarian of the children (by word & example)
  - A. Abraham (Gen. 18:19)
  - B. Moses (Deut. 6:1-9)
  - C. Joshua (Josh 4:1-7)
  - D. Eli (1 Sam. 3:11-14)
  - E. New Testament (Eph. 6:1-4; Heb. 12:5-11)
  - F. God still holds the man responsible, regardless of whether his wife is compliant or obstinate (ex. Moses & Zipporah)

## Module IX – The Christian Home

# Lesson 4 – What Biblical Leadership Looks Like (Part 1)

#### I. The Metaphor of the 'Shepherd' over God's flock

- A. David Psalm 78:70-72 "He also chose David His servant, And took him from the sheepfolds; From following the ewes that had young He brought him, <u>To shepherd</u> Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance. So he <u>shepherded</u> them according to the <u>integrity</u> of his heart, And guided them by the <u>skillfulness</u> of his hands."
- B. Jesus John 10:11-15 "I am the good shepherd. <u>The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep</u>. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is <u>a hireling and does not care about the sheep</u>. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and <u>I lay down My life for the sheep</u>.
- C. Elders Acts 20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood." & 1 Pet. 5:1-4 "The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away."
- D. Be the 'Shepherd' of your family.

#### II. The Metaphor of a 'Rock' for God's leaders

- A. Deut. 32:3-4 "For I proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God. <u>He is the Rock</u>, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He."
- B. 2 Sam. 23:2-3 "Now these are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse; Thus says the man raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel: 'The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue. The God of Israel said, <u>The Rock of Israel</u> spoke to me: "He who rules over men must be <u>just</u>, Ruling in the <u>fear of God</u>."""
- C. Hypocrites cannot lead actions contradict words
- D. A 'Rock' is solid, unmovable, standing on principle, always consistent.
- E. Not "DO WHAT I SAY," but rather "DO WHAT I DO." Instruct wives and children by EXAMPLE. Be the ROCK of your family model CONSISTENCY in following of Christ. Always be true to your word & Christ's commandments.
- F. She will not respect you unless you have <u>self-respect</u>, which comes from consistent submission and obedience to Christ.

## Module IX – The Christian Home

# Lesson 5 – As Christ Loved the Assembly

#### I. The example of Christ & the Assembly

- A. Eph. 5:25-33 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ...
- B. How did Christ love the Assembly?
  - 1. He sacrificed everything, (Phil. 2:5-11)
  - 2. His mission was to sanctify and cleanse her a process
  - 3. The goal so that she should be a glorious wife
  - 4. Christ and the Assembly are to be married; He leads her to purity; He cleanses her through patience, forgiveness, self-sacrifice, with a goal in mind of perfect unity with her.
  - 5. Christ loved the Assembly as His own flesh cherishing and nourishing her.
    - a. 1 Cor. 13:4-8 What does 'love' (agape) look like? "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails."
- C. 1 Pet. 3:7 "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, [requires LISTENING & empathizing with her needs and frustrations] giving honor to the wife as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered."
  - 1. Co-heirs Rom. 8:16-17

## Module IX – The Christian Home

## **Lesson 6 – Godly Christian Women (Part 1)**

#### I. Introduction

- A. The majority of commandments for Christians are general, for all believers to follow and apply in their own situation.
- B. Male and female are of equal value to God, as sons and daughters of God. Salvation is the same for both: Gal. 3:26-29.
- C. There are different roles in the home (which are carried over into the assembly: these are ways we are to imitate certain aspects of Christ's example.
- D. The different roles and specific commands are NOT rooted in culture, or the Law, but are theological:
  - 1. The creation account: Created to be man's helper & procreate Genesis 2:21-24
  - 2. The temporary curse:
    - a. Man must work hard to provide for the woman Genesis 3:17-19
    - b. The woman must submit to her man Genesis 3:16
  - 3. New Testament commands repeatedly appeal to these as their basis.
- II. Specific passages I intend to cover: 1 Cor. 11:2-16; 1 Cor. 14:33-37; Eph. 5:13-24; Col. 3:17-19; 1 Tim. 2:9-15; 1 Tim. 5:1-16; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Peter 3:1-7.
- III. "Submission" is not external, but a condition of the heart, an attitude, a voluntary choice.
  - A. Having the "mind of Christ" requires consciously taking the lower place (Phil. 2:5-11)
  - B. The first shall be last and the last first; those who exalt themselves will be humbled, but those who humble themselves will be exalted.
  - C. Being great in the Kingdom is not by becoming a theologian, but by becoming a servant.

# Module IX – The Christian Home

# Lesson 7 – Godly Christian Women (Part 2)

#### I. Review & Correction

- A. The creation account: Created to be man's helper & procreate Genesis 2:21-24
- B. The temporary curse:
  - 1. Man must work hard to provide for the woman Genesis 3:17-19
  - 2. The woman must submit to her own man Genesis 3:16

"To the woman He said: 'I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; **Your desire shall be for your husband**, And he shall rule over you.'"

- a. "shall be" [future tense verb] is not in the text added by translators
- b. LXX has "ap-o-stro-PHAY" (turning away) instead of "desire"
- c. Same clause appears in **Gen. 4:7** 
  - 1. NKJV "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."
  - 2. LXX also has "ap-o-sto-PHAY" (turning away)
  - 3. The sense is that sin wants to dominate you, but you must overrule it.
- d. Gen. 3:16
  - 1. ESV "Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."
  - 2. NLT "And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you."
  - 3. NEW "And your desire is contrary to your husband, but he will rule over you."
- II. Was God speaking of Ever herself exclusively, or the female gender as a whole?
  - A. "To the woman He said: 'I will greatly multiply <u>your</u> sorrow and <u>your</u> conception; In pain <u>you</u> shall bring forth children; <u>Your</u> desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over <u>you</u>."

#### B. 1 Tim. 2:11-15

- 1. NKJV 11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. 12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression [lit. has become in violation perfect tense]. 15 Nevertheless she [Eve womanhood] will be saved <u>in</u> [dia by/through] childbearing if they [Eve's Christian daughters being addressed] continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.
- C. What Eve did affects all women the female gender
- D. What Christian Women do in willfully submitting to their husbands, rather than seeking to dominate and manipulate their husbands, is how Eve (womanhood) is to be rescued.
- E. REVERSING ORIGINAL SIN by Christians = rescuing humanity stated in Gen. 3:16-17
  - 1. "And your desire is contrary to your husband, but he will rule over you."
    - a. Christian woman must go against the desire to dominate, and willingly submit (like Christ did)
    - b. Men must not "listen to your wife" but do what is right regardless of her attempts to manipulate and dominate you.
  - 2. The serpent successfully deceived Eve BECAUSE she desired independence.
  - 3. The ULTIMATE "Women's Movement"

# Module IX, The Christian Home

Lesson 8, The Godly Christian Woman (Part 3)

- I. God instructed Eve through Adam (Gen. 2:16: "And the Lord GOD commanded the man, saying") So also the Apostles typically instructed the wives indirectly in the assembly:
  - A. Subjunctive mood (wives should ...); or infinitive mood (wives are to be ...).
  - B. Imperative mood, third person commands to men concerning their wives (ex. "have her shear herself;" "have her be covered.")
    - 1. Sole exception Col. 3:18,  $\dot{\nu}\pi$ οτάσσεσθε imperative mood second person: "Wives, submit to the husband." However, older uncial manuscripts (Codex Sinaiticus & Codex Boernerianus) have  $\dot{\nu}\pi$ οτάσσεσθαι infinitive mood: "Wives are to be submissive to the husband." If this is correct, then the pattern seems to hold consistently throughout the Epistles.

## II. 1 Cor. 11:2-16 LGV

- 2 Now I am praising you, brothers, because you have remembered me in everything, and you are observing the traditions accordingly as I gave to you.
- 3 Yet, I desire you to have observed that the head of every man is Christ; the head of woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.
- 4 Every man praying or prophesying having anything upon the head is dishonoring his Head. 5 But every woman praying or prophesying with <u>uncovered head</u> [Num. 5:11-31] is dishonoring her head, for it is one and the same as having been sheared. 6 For if a woman is uncovered, have her shear herself. [Disgrace herself publically rather than disgrace her husband]. But, if it is <u>dishonorable</u> to a woman to shear herself, or to be shaved [Isaiah 3:17,24], have her be <u>covered</u>. [Isaiah 6:2; Isaiah 11:9; Isaiah 26:21]
- 7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head. The image and <u>glory of God</u> belongs to him. But woman is the <u>glory of man</u>. 8 For man is not from woman, but woman from man. 9 Neither was man created through woman, but woman through man. 10 Therefore the woman ought to have the authority upon her head for this reason: because of the angels. [Eph. 3:8-12 & Jude 1:6].
- 11 However, in the Lord, man is not independent of woman nor woman of man. 12 For just as the woman is from the man, thus also man comes through woman. Yet everything comes from God.
- 13 Judge this for yourselves: Is it proper for an uncovered woman to be praying to God? 14 Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man should grow his hair long, it is dishonoring to him [Ezek. 44:20], 15 but if a woman should grow her hair long it is a glory to her, because long hair has been given to her as a mantle? [Judges 8:26; Ezek. 16:13; Ezek. 27:7]
- 16 But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.

## Module IX - The Christian Home

# Lesson 9 – Godly Christian Women (Quietness in the Assembly)

#### 1 Cor. 14:33-38 LGV

## 33 As in all the <u>assemblies</u> of the saints, 34 keep your women in the <u>assemblies hushed</u>,...

- A. A new sentence begins in the middle of verse 33 (Orthodox, Nestle's, UBS Greek).
  - 1. As in all the **assemblies** of the saints, keep your women in the assemblies hushed..."
    - a. "assemblies" is plural twice (here only).
    - b. This was the universal practice (not just among the Greek assemblies)
    - c. In the Temple (court of women) & synagogues, genders were separated in worship and instruction.
    - d. Barrier removed in Christian assemblies (Eph. 2:14; Gal. 3:28)
- B. "hushed" same word used in VS. 28 (no interpreter) & VS. 30 (another begins to prophesy)
  - 1. This command implies there was a problem at Corinth with some women.
  - 2. "Hushed" implies peace, calm, lack of disturbance.
    - **1 Timothy 2:11-14** "11 Have the women learn in <u>quietness with all subjection</u>. 12 I do not permit a woman <u>to teach</u> [instruct] <u>or to be independent of man, but to be in quietness</u>. 13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived. But the woman, having been deceived, has become in violation."
      - a. **2 Thess. 3:12** Men instructed to "work with their own hands" in "quietness."
  - 3. Refrain from all speech which implies independence or authority.
  - 4. Does not refer to congregational singing, or even solos.
  - 5. Does not refer to personal prayers (except leading/addressing God for congregation).

#### 34 ... for they have not been given permission to discourse, BUT to be in subjection, ...

- A. "have not been granted to discourse" (perfect tense, points back to Eden)
- B. "Discourse" indicates independence from husband: "dialogue," "address" (her opinion, independent of her husband's thoughts).
- C. "But to be in submission" speaking out comes from boldness & independent thought.

Remaining quiet implies subjection, differing to her husband's opinions.

- 34 ... Accordingly the Law says also.
  - A. Gen. 3:16 "You will desire to dominate your husband, but he will rule over you."
  - B. Numbers 30:1-16 Fathers overrule daughters, husbands overrule wives (except divorced or widowed)
- 35 Yet if they desire to learn anything, have them <u>interrogate</u> their own husbands at home.
  - A. In the synagogues: men discussed the Scriptures, "interrogated" expressed opinions.
  - B. Questioning can imply disagreement or a contrary opinion.
  - C. Questioning is good in the right setting to resolve issues.
  - D. Women questioning is not appropriate in the assembly, implies equality and independence.

#### For it is <u>disgraceful</u> for women to discourse in the assembly.

A. Shameful – same as 1 Cor. 11:6 "But, if it is dishonorable/shameful to a woman to shear herself ..."

#### 36 Or did the Word of God originate from you? Or did it arrive to you only?

A. Implication: No authority to impose Greek culture on God's assembly. (Do what is considered appropriate among all the assemblies, not what is appropriate in your culture).

# 37 If anyone presumes to be a prophet or spiritual, have him recognize that what I write to you are the instructions of the Master!

A. These are the instructions of Jesus Himself for His assemblies.

#### 38 But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant.

A. Willful ignorance. Some were contentious as in 1 Cor. 11:16.

# Module IX - The Christian Home

**Lesson 10 – Godly Christian Women (Modesty)** 

- 1. Psalm 45 The King and His Queen
- 2. Contrast in Revelation:

A. The Prostitute – Rev. 17:4-5 LGV

4 And the woman was dressed in purple and red, adorned with gold and valuable gems and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand, being full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. 5 And on her forehead a name had been written: "Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Prostitutes and of the Abominations of the Land."

B. The Bride – Rev. 19:6-8 LGV

6 And I heard [what sounded] like the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters, and like the sound of mighty thunders, saying: "Hallelujah, because the Lord God, the Almighty has begun to rule! 7 [Now] we may rejoice, and may celebrate, and may give Him glory, because the wedding of the Lamb has arrived, and His wife has prepared herself." 8 And it was granted to her that she may be dressed in linen, bright and clean, (for the linen is the righteousness of the saints).

3. "Beautification" of godly women = a submissive, humble, meek, gentle, kind, gracious spirit – 1 Peter 3:1-6 LGV

1 In the same manner the women [should follow Jesus' footsteps], being submissive to their own men so that also if any are disbelieving the Message, they might be won over by the behavior of the women without a word, 2 observing your clean, reverent behavior, 3 from whom <a href="https://example.com/have">have [their] beautification</a> not be the external garnishing of the hair, decorations of gold, or the wearing of apparel, 4 but <a href="the hidden person of the heart in the undiminished [beautification] of a meek and calm demeanor which is highly prized in God's sight</a>. 5 For in this way the holy women – those hoping in God – were previously <a href="beautifying themselves">beautifying themselves</a>, being submissive to their own men, 6 just as Sarah harkened to Abraham, calling him "master," of whom you became [his] descendants, doing well and not fearing any consternation."

- 4. "Beautification" in reverence for God 1 Tim. 2:8-15 LGV
  - 8 "Accordingly, I desire the men in every place to pray raising clean hands without anger and disputing. 9 Also the women [should] do the same, adorning themselves in clothing arranged with modesty and sensibility, not with plaited hair, or with gold, or with pearls, or with elaborate clothing, 10 but [with] what is proper for women claiming reverence for God, [adorning themselves] through good deeds. 11 Have the women learn in quietness with all subjection. 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or be independent of man, but to be in quietness. 13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 14 And Adam

was not deceived. But the woman, having been deceived, has become in violation. 15 Yet, she shall be rescued by the child-bearing if they continue in trust, love, and purity with sensibility."

#### 5. Role of older women & widows

# A. Teachers of younger women – Titus 2:3-5 LGV

3 "The older women similarly [are to have] appropriately reverent behavior, not gossips, not having been enslaved to much wine, but teachers of the good 4 so that they may disciple the young women to be affectionate to their husbands and to their children, 5 sensible, pure, guards of the home, good, submissive to their own husbands so that the word of God should not be blasphemed.

# B. Devoted to charity – 1 Timothy 5:9-15 LGV

9 Enroll widows who are no less than sixty years old, having been the woman of one man, 10 having a record of good deeds: if she nourished children, if she was hospitable, if she washed the feet of the saints, if she relieved the afflicted, [and] if she followed every good deed. 11 But refuse younger widows, for whenever they may become impatient against Christ, they want to remarry, 12 having judgment because they repudiate their previous trust. 13 At the same time they learn laziness, wandering about the houses. They are not only lazy, but gossips and meddlers, saying things they ought not. 14 Consequently, I want the younger [widows] to remarry, to train up children, to manage the home – for none [of them] to give to the Adversary an opportunity for slander. 15 For some have already been turned back by Satan.

# 6. "Christian" women in the last days led away by false teachers – 2 Tim. 3:6-7 LGV

6 "From among these are the ones who stealthily invade households, captivating weak women, having been loaded down with sins, being led by various lusts, 7 always learning yet never able to arrive at the knowledge of the truth.

## Module IX – The Christian Home

# Lesson 11 – The Christian Couple – One Flesh

- I. Eph. 1:9-10 God's ultimate goal is for the whole creation to achieve "oneness" through reconciliation to God.
  - A. In the angelic realm & the Assembly (vs. 10, 19-23)
  - B. Ephesians 2 reconciling Jew and Gentile in Christ
  - C. Eph. 4:11-16 UNITY of the Assembly with the Head Christ
- II. John 17:20-24 Jesus' prayer for us: "Oneness" with each other and with God
- III. Eph. 5:1 6:4 Our obligation in moving towards RECONCILIATION
  - A. Vss. 1-2 To fulfill God's purposes we must "imitate God" and "walk in love" JUST AS Christ did.
  - B. Vss. 3-7 Flee all forms of immorality, because those who engage in these have no inheritance in the Kingdom.
  - C. Vss. 8-16 Walk according to the LIGHT
    - 1. Light is the knowledge of God revealed by God, through which we can see where following our animal instincts leads to death, but following God's guidance leads to life.
    - 2. We used to be in "darkness" walking in ignorance, following our "animal instincts."
    - 3. Urgency in putting these things into practice.
  - D. Walking in the LIGHT involves:
    - 1. Vss. 17-20 Abstaining from drunkenness, but instead using MUSIC as a tool for thanksgiving.
    - 2. Vss. 21-24 Wives submitting to their husbands exactly as to Christ Himself
      - a. The husband is the HEAD of the wife exactly as Christ is HEAD of the assembly.
      - b. The husband is the "savior" of the wife as Christ is of the assembly (charged with rescuing his wife)
      - c. God commands wives to be submissive to their husbands in everything.
    - 3. Vss. 21-33 Husbands are to love their wives exactly as Christ loved the assembly
      - a. He submitted to death to save her
      - b. His GOAL in doing so was to present her to Himself in a state of glory, holy, flawless.
      - c. Husbands must treat their wives as part of their own flesh (one flesh), just as the assembly is the "body" of Christ, the head.
        - 1. Involves providing for her security, physical needs, emotional needs, & happiness as he provides for his own.
        - 2. Paul draws a parallel between Adam and Eve (from his flesh) and Christ and the assembly.
        - 3. Becoming ONE FLESH is the man's responsibility: The husband must do these things SO THAT the wife may respect him.
    - 4. 1 Peter 3:7 It is the husband's responsibility to bring about "oneness" by the way he treats his wife, as being "co-heirs" of the resurrection and inheritance. Otherwise their prayers will be hindered.
    - 5. Eph. 6:1-4 Children must submit to parents, thereby HONORING them. Fathers must not exasperate their children by being too harsh, but train them in God's ways.