

Two For One Part 2

Ephesians 5:25-33

Main focus of this series: This series is a formulation of key teachings and understandings from the book of Ephesians. It is the textbook for Christian living, affective church growth and unity. It is also a manual for harmony in the home and an affective lifestyle in our work place in the world. Ephesians draws many lines, it is clear and very defined. Why many Christians fail to live fully in the shadow of the cross is because they have never ventured into the truths documented in Paul's writings to the Ephesians. In an effort to decipher each statement of Paul in Ephesians we believe we will learn how to successfully operate in the three positions of the believer: to sit (**Ephesians 1-3**), to walk (**Ephesians 4-6:9**) and to stand (**Ephesians 6:10-24**) . The first half of Ephesians (chapters 1-3) tells us what a Christian is and the last three chapters define how to live that out in harmony with other believer's and separately from non-believer's.

The importance of this message today: This past year **2.4 million** couples exchanged the words or similar words in their wedding vows:

“I take you to be my lawfully wedded spouse, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish until we’re separated by death. As God is my witness, I give you my promise.”

These couples were congratulated by well wishers with people clapping and blessing their new commitment to each other in marriage. Yet this past year 1.2 million couples, for many different reasons, separated or divorced.

Families today look different than they did just 30 years ago. Thirty years ago the **traditional family had a working father and a mother who stayed at home to care for their two children. The traditional family made up 60 percent of all households in America. Today the so called traditional family reflects only 7% of our households with the average American family having one child and both parents work outside the home.** Today parents are having fewer children and having them later. More and more households are blended families with children coming from two or more marriages.

Cohabitation before marriage is more common today than ever. One half of adults under 30 will live with someone before they get married. The census bureau statistics show that couples who cohabit ate before marriage are even more likely than others to get divorced. Among couples who have been divorced and remarried, 60% of all second marriages end in divorce.

In Ephesians 5:21- 6:8, the Apostle Paul gives foundational teaching on the Spirit filled life and how it affects, or how it should affect our marriage and family. He lays out some incredible guidelines and safeguards for the Biblical family and how it should function.

Important Thought

- **"Successful people are successful because they form the habits of doing those things that failures don't like to do." ~ Albert Gray**

Your internal perspective controls all of your actions and reactions. If you think of yourself as capable, enthusiastic and committed in your marriage, you will act with confidence and determination in that area. If you don't, you won't.

You and I could argue about this, but we are not born with beliefs; you acquire them. What beliefs you have acquired about your marriage will drive your future and determine the quality of life you will live and the life you will give. A question you must ask yourself is, "Am I satisfied with the life and marriage I am living out and is the life I'm giving satisfying those around me?"

You have the power to redefine the core of your relationship anyway you want to. To substitute **positive characteristics for negative ones**, and start living those from now on is **not positive thinking**, it is **positively possible**.

A true indicator of a declining relationship in marriage is the inclination to describe your marriage by your *liabilities* rather than by *assets*. How would you describe your marriage? Is it defined more by liabilities or by assets?

When you have little expectation that your marriage will ever improve, your goals for it's success will generally become limited by what you *feel* you can do about it. Also, when your marriage is discussed with your spouse or others, your actions and body language toward each other and those around you will reveal your lack of confidence and disappointed expectations. The key today is to become a life-giving factor in your marriage and relationships.

Stop Waiting, Take Action

- **"Every successful man I have heard of has done the best he could with conditions as he found them..." ~ Edgar Watson Howe**

Two Great Realities

1. **A lack of commitment to your spouse is a lack of commitment to your marriage.**

When this takes place, constant worry and conflict will invade the marriage if not control it. Eventually the idea will reside that you are trapped for the rest of your life in a mid-level relationship that will never make the grade. An underlying concern will grow that it will never be "good enough," and that will prevent you from expecting more from your marriage.

"Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers."

1 Peter 3:7

2. **A lack of commitment to your marriage is a lack of commitment to God**
As we will find in this teaching today, Your marriage is God's example to

the world how He displayed His love for the lost and unloved. Your marriage is the testimony of God's love.

THE THREE KEY LOVE FACTORS

Today I will be reading from Ephesians 5:25-33 and I want to share **three key love factors** concerning men's relationships with their wife. These teachings are helpful whether you are single, married or divorced.

*"Husbands, **love your wives**, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."*

Ephesians 5:25-27

*"In this same way, husbands ought to **love their wives** as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body."*

Ephesians 5:28-30

*"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must **love his wife** as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."*

Ephesians 5:28-30

Paul instructs husbands in three separate verses to love their wives! (verses 25, 28, 33)

- **Love (25) agapao** related to noun *agape* – is an **unconditional, self-less love which is given even if it is not received or returned. It is not an emotional love, it is a decision, the act of the will.**

If we understand Paul correctly this **love is in response to the Spirit filled life. This love is the first fruit mentions in all the fruits of the spirit.** The husband's love can never express itself trying to control but is displayed by making sacrifices for her good.

15 ways Paul defines this love: (1Corinthians 13:4-8a)

1. **Love is patient** (has a long fuse before it blows) (Internal)
2. **Love is kind** (provides something beneficial for her needs not greeds) (External)
3. **Love is not jealous** (doesn't boil over easily) (Internal)
4. **Love does not brag** (doesn't exhibit self display or conceit) (External)
5. **Love is not arrogant** (isn't haughty or puffed up and inflated with pride) (External)
6. **Love does not act unbecomingly** (doesn't behave in an ugly, indecent, improper, rude, disgraceful, dishonorable manner) (External)
7. **Love does not seek its own** (does not care for anything except its self interests, of having its own way in everything) (Internal)
8. **Love is not** (note KJV is incorrect adding "easily" - the idea is not at all!)

- provoked** (aroused to a paroxysm of anger, is not "touchy" or easily irritated, does not have a sharp or contentious edge, does not have a spasm over every little irritation) (Internal)
9. **Love does not take into account** (*logizomai* is a bookkeeping term!) **a wrong suffered** (does not keep a ledger or permanent record of trespasses), (Internal)
 10. **Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness** (is not glad when iniquity triumphs), **but rejoices with the truth** (External)
 11. **Love bears all things** (protects by covering over the faults and frailties of others, bearing with them) (Internal)
 12. **Love believes all things** (Internal)
 13. **Love hopes all things** (looks at the bright side of things and **does not despair**) (Internal)
 14. **Love endures all things** (continues in activity despite resistance and opposition) (Internal)
 15. **Love never fails** (is never without effect, will never come to an end). (Internal)

The full picture of love is seen at the cross where Jesus died. He shows His love with us before we ever knew Him and were even hostile toward Him. Christ love was demonstrated in action...giving Himself freely. The love of the spirit filled believer has the same capability.

What's Your LOVE Score Card?

If we were to critic Husbands based upon the 15 things Paul tells us is the love meter, what do you think your love score would be for this past week? Sacrificial or selfish? Learning to love your wife like Christ is part of the process of being a Spirit Filled believer. The word, "love," is a present imperative which means, men, continue to love your wife, daily, hourly. As a husband, we are to **continue to stop**...allowing bitterness and resentment to take up residency in you. It should be obvious how easy a wife would be willingly submit to a husband who is continually loving his wife with a Christ-like, divine, Spirit controlled and empowered love?

This LOVE Is A Revolutionary Love

In the Greco-Roman society, and especially in Ephesus, it was understood that wives were obligated to live a life that could be summed up in one word- "submit," but not vice versa. When Paul introduces this new concept to the Ephesians, it was not restoring a perverted society, but it was revolutionary in concept that led toward a healthy and fruitful future. **Paul was not demanding equal 'rights,' he was demanding equal 'love.'** Equal Love causes one to submit in a serving fashion while the other causes Him to lead with all consideration.

Interestingly enough, Paul does not change the responsibility of the woman in that society, he is revolutionizing the man's behavior. And instead of Paul using other Greek words for love, *eros* ("sexual passion") and *philia* ("family affection") Paul chooses the verb *agapao*. This love best represents the love that God had for the world, to restore them to Himself.

This LOVE Is Christ's Love

Paul gives us the best example to help "define" the love that is expected from the

husband. It is to be like Christ's love. To try to love our wives like Christ loved us, in our natural strength, would and is always a disaster. We do not have the personal capacity.

This LOVE Is A Manly Love

A Manly Love is not a love in response to her love toward me. According to Paul, I am capable of keeping her in mind in a positive way because of my affection toward her and not hers toward me. Never is my lack of love for my wife justified in God's eyes just as the lack of submission is never justified or excused because of a husband's lack of loving response toward his spouse.

There are all kinds of statements we men could make:

- I could love my wife if she would just love me back.
- I could love my wife if she would show me a little attention.
- I could love my wife if she would stop this...or quit doing that...

Paul states that the expectation of a man's love for his wife is unconditional, his wife doesn't even have to do a thing for him to be Biblically commanded to love her. The Biblical husband will pay 'any' price to love his wife, especially the spiritual ones, which is the highest form of love.

Gary Inrig in his book, "True North, Discovering God's Way in a Changing World" quotes Tom Anderson who tried to show authentic love to his wife.

Tom Anderson made a vow to himself as he drove with his family to spend two weeks at a vacation cottage. For two weeks he would try to be a loving husband and father. He made the decision after listening to a tape on his car's tape player. The speaker said, "Love is an act of the will. A person can choose to love." Tom admitted that he had been a selfish husband. He made the commitment for two weeks to make changes.

Right from the moment they arrived at the vacation cottage he kissed his wife Evelyn at the door and said, "That new yellow sweater looks great on you." "Oh, Tom, you noticed," she said, surprised and pleased; and maybe a little shocked.

After the long drive, Tom wanted to sit and read. Evelyn suggested a walk on the beach. He started to refuse, but then he thought, Evelyn's been alone with the kids at home and now she wants to be alone with me. He agreed and walked with his wife on the beach while their children flew their kites.

For two weeks Tom did not call the Wall Street investment firm where was a director. He did visit the shell museum, though he didn't like museums. His wife seemed so relaxed and happy he decided to keep remembering to choose love after they got home from vacation.

On the last night of their vacation his wife stared at him with the saddest expression. Tom asked her, "What's the matter?" "Tom," she said, in a voice filled with distress, "do you know something I don't?"

"What do you mean?" "Well, ...that checkup I had several weeks ago...our doctor...did he tell you something about me? Tom, you've been so good to

me...am I dying?

It took a moment for it all to sink in. Then Tom burst out laughing. "No, honey," he said, wrapping her in his arms, "you're not dying; I'm just starting to live."

I. KEY LOVE FACTOR #1- Love Your Wife Like Christ Loved The Church

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."

Ephesians 5:25-27

1. He Gave Up His Life For Her

If you have come to know Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior, you belong to this church that Paul is talking about. The church is a living organism, composed of living members joined together in mutual love and respect; through which Christ works and the Holy Spirit directs to carry out His purpose.

- **Church** (1577) (*ekklesia* from *ekkaléo* = call out in turn from *ek* = out + *kaleo* = call) Better said, the "**called-out ones**".

He gave himself up for her. Paul paints a picture of the relationship between Christ and the church with the dynamics of marriage. Look how Jesus laid down His life for several things described in the Bible:

- "For our **sins**" (Romans 4:25; Galatians 1:4)
- "For **me**" (Galatians 2:20)
- "For us **all**" (Romans 8:32)
- "For **her, the church**" (Ephesians 5:25)

Chrysostom (347-407AD - his name means "golden tongue") makes a wonderful statement concerning this passage:

"He brought the Church to his feet by his great care, not by threats nor fear nor any such thing; so do the same and conduct yourself in like manner towards your wife."

- **Gave up** (3860) (*paradidomi* from *para* = alongside, beside + *didomi* = give) means to **give alongside**. The basic idea is to give over from one's hand to someone or something with particular reference to a right or an authority. This concept is illustrated in the devil's attempt to tempt our Lord...

Example:Satan's Temptation of Christ

"And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours."

Luke 4:6-7

- In the ancient world *paradidomi* was a term of police and courts =

'hand over into the custody of'.

Why Do I Want To Love And Lay Down My Life For Her?

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, (sanctify) cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."

Ephesians 5:25-27

A) To Make Her Holy

Sanctification (To Make Holy)

- **Sanctify** (37) (*hagiazō*) means to set apart for sacred purposes.

1. **Positional sanctification**, is the one time event when Christ entered your life.

"You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you."

John 15:3

2. **Progressive sanctification** in which the justified believer is daily, more and more, gradually being set apart from the world and unto God. Being conformed more and more into the image of God's Son (Romans 8:29; cf, progressive transformation in Romans 12:2) or of being continually transformed from glory to glory by the Spirit (2Cor 3:18).

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

John 17:17

You cannot divorce the ongoing, "progressive" sanctification from the one time, "positional" sanctification.. Both, positional and progressive sanctification are two sides of the same coin. **Justification without sanctification is not taught in Scripture and if carried to the extreme leads to the teaching that one could be saved and live anyway they wanted to live for the rest of their life and still go to heaven when they die.** I believe this is not Biblical teaching and that sanctification is evidence of justification of Christ.

Esther Was A Type Of Being Made Holy

To sanctify means to set apart. Esther was involved in a one-year course of beautification before she was presented to King Xerxes in Esther 2:12–16.

"...she had to complete twelve months of beauty treatments prescribed for the women, six months with oil of myrrh and six with perfumes and cosmetics."

Esther 2:12

When Jesus Christ gave His life up for you and I, His Bride, He **set us apart** and at the same time **set into motion a process of sanctification**

that is manifest by His Bride's righteous acts. These acts are the attaining the bridal attire (Revelation 19:8) , and she, the bride will receive her final gown at the return of her Bridegroom to bring His Bride home.

MARRIAGE CUSTOM IN BIBLE TIMES

- (1). **Selection: The father chose the bride for his son.** Just as He (the Father) chose us in Him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.

In Paul's day, the father would chose a bride for his son, which is analogous to what happened to Christ, Paul writing that...

“He (God the Father) chose us in Him (in Christ, in union with Him) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.”

Ephesians 1:4

- (2). **Betrothal: A binding wedding agreement, the betrothal, was made before the marriage was consummated.** *harmozo* [from *harmos* = joint, articulation] means **to fit together**,

“I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.”

II Corinthians 11:2

So, in the past, you and I were somewhat **“engaged”** without knowing it until the Holy Spirit opened up your heart to believe in faith on the Son of God. Those who were “betrothed” to Christ by His Father are called the Body of Christ, the Church, the Bride of Christ. Peter understands this concept and is very expressive in explaining it:

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade- kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”

I Peter 1:3-5

The Wedding Gift (Ring)

In NT times **the man became formally betrothed** when he **gave a present** to the girl and then said,

“By this, you are set apart for me according to the laws of Moses and of Israel.”

Paul writes that Christ gave us, His Bride, the Church, a similar pledge...

“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of

*your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a **pledge** (this Greek word was used for an engagement ring) of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."*

Ephesians 1:13,14

To break the marriage covenant, engagement, (a betrothal was equivalent to marriage in the ancient world) a bill of divorcement was required. If impurity (any unfaithfulness was considered adultery) was found in the bride, then the bride could be put to death.

The Betrothal as alluded to above was a serious engagement in the ancient world. Betrothal lasted for about **twelve months**, during which the **home was to be prepared by the bridegroom**, who would which is pictured by John who records Jesus' promise...

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

John 14:1-3

Once the arrangement to marry was entered into, there was a betrothal that was more binding than the engagement in contemporary society. In the oriental custom **a bride betrothed to a husband is also considered a wife even though she has not assumed that role completely**. In the Bible times, when the parents of the bride and the bridegroom agreed in a formal way on the future marriage of their children, such an agreement was the legal marriage even though years might elapse before husband and wife might begin living together and assume the full responsibility of marriage. In a similar way, the Church is a Bride in that she is still on earth and Christ is in heaven; on the other hand, she is a wife because she has been betrothed to Christ and set apart for Him.

- **A man who was betrothed** to a woman, even though not yet married, was **exempted from military service**. (Deut 20:7).
- If a **girl was already betrothed and was lay with another man** this was considered a **capital offense** because she already belonged to her husband-to-be. Such violation involved the **death penalty**. (Deut 22:23,24).
- The **betrothal could be broken only by a legal transaction (bill of divorce)**, and the ground for such **termination was adultery**.

- (3). **A Wedding Procession:** At the appointed time for the marriage, the ceremonies began with the wedding procession, which usually took place near midnight.

The Wedding Clothes (Dress)

The wedding clothes would be prepared by the bride, which is pictured by John in the Revelation who describes Christ's Bride the Church...

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His Bride has made herself ready." And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." Revelation 19:7-8

- (4). **Bridegroom Takes His Bride: The Bridegroom and his friends went to the bride's home to get her and her attendants and take them to his home.** (Mt 25:1-13). The Bride was taken to the father's home, led to a canopy and beside her husband spoke the wedding vows. (Rev 19:7-8).

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His Bride has made herself ready." And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." (Revelation 19:7-8)

- (5). **The Marriage Supper: The Supper followed** (see Mt 22:1-14) usually at the home of the groom and **lasted from 3-7 days**, the last day being the most elaborate. The Marriage Supper was the "bringing home" of an already accredited bride to her covenanted husband, to which guests were invited.

"And he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

Revelation 19:9

Why Do I Want To Love And Lay Down My Life For Her?

*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, (sanctify) **cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.**"*

Ephesians 5:25-27

B) To Make Her Clean

- **Cleansing-** katharizō 2511- to make clean, cleanse from physical stains and dirt.

The washing of water by the Word has a **supernatural, cleansing that takes place when two things happen according to Acts 20:32:**

"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."

Acts 20:32

-When You Commit You To God

-When I Commit You To The Word of His Grace:

The writer of Acts believed that his actions could not only build people up but could "give" them an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

- 1. Commit You To God:** This is an important part of washing your wife to make her holy. I cannot commit you to God if I am committing you to hell or continually thinking evil or ill of you. If all I think of you is that you deserve judgment and punishment, I cannot be washing you in the cleansing word of God since I am committing you to and agreeing with Satan's desire for your life. I must refuse to dwell or engage in unity with my enemy on my wife's behalf. To commit her to God is to commit her to God's grace, God's power, God's favor, God's love!

The love of the husband, committing her to God has a sanctifying principle, the husband becoming more like Christ, she, the bride becomes more like the church. Today, Christ is cleansing us, His church through the ministry of His Word (John 15:3; 17:17).

- **Love always enlarges and enriches, while selfishness does just the opposite.** (Wiersbe, W: Bible Exposition Commentary. 1989. Victor)

Our sanctifying love for our wives is not a condemning delight but seeks to cleanse her from it. Christ love for us allows us to be redeemed and restored through the continual pressing of His love for full restoration.

- When a husband's love for his wife is like Christ's love for His church, he will continually seek to help purify her from any sort of defilement. He will seek to protect her from the world's contamination and protect her holiness, virtue, and purity in every way. He will never induce her to do that which is wrong or unwise or expose her to that which is less than good. (MacArthur, J: Ephesians. Chicago: Moody Press)

- 2. Commit You To The Word of His Grace:** I cannot use the Word of God to manipulate or humiliate you if you are going to be made Holy, sanctified in Christ and His grace. It is a word of grace not of judgment. This word that I speak over my wife is not detailing her every fault. It is revealing God's every care and my faith that

together, God's Spirit and my encouragement, there will be great experiences in this thing called life.

- **Having cleansed** (2511) (*katharizo* from *katharos* = **pure, free from admixture of what is false**) means to cause something to become clean. In a spiritual sense, it means to purify from pollution and guilt of sin. In secular Greek *katharizo* occurs in inscriptions for ceremonial cleansing.
- **Washing** (3067) (*loutron* from *louo* = to bath oneself, referring to the whole body. It means "a bathing" referring to the **action** rather than the bath itself. *Loutron* may also refer to a basin or laver for washing.

The Roman citizen would *louo* his entire body at the public baths and *nipito* his feet when he arrived home. Jesus used *louo* to refer to the cleansing at the moment of salvation. "Wash his feet" refers to a daily cleansing of the saint in his walk and his feet become "dirty" from sin and thus has to do with progressive or practical sanctification or daily being set aside more and more to God and from this world which is passing away.

- **Word** (4487) (*rhema* from verb *rheo* = to speak - to say, speak or utter definite words) refers to the revelatory word, especially a word as uttered by a living voice. *Rhema* refers to any sound produced by the voice which has a definite meaning. It focuses upon the content of the communication. For example in Luke we read...

Disciples Could Not Understand The Rhema

“And they understood none of these things, and this saying (rhema) was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said.”

Luke 18:34

In the plural **rhema** ("words"), **means saying, speech or discourse**. *Rhema* is used to refer to "the thing spoken of", an object, a matter, an affair or an event.

Jesus Spoke A Rhema

“And fear came on all those living around them; and all these matters [rhema] were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea.”

Luke 1:65

Mary Heard A Rhema

“But Mary treasured up all these things (rhema), pondering them in her heart.”

Luke 2:19

Rhema in the NT can have several meaning depending on the context --

- **A Prophecy** ("that you should remember the words - *rhema* - spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles." see note 2 Peter 3:2)
- **A Message** (Ro 10:8 "But what does it say? "THE WORD - *rhema* - IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"-- that is, the word - *rhema* - of faith which we are preaching,")
- **A Promise**, Lu 1:38 And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.
- **A Command** (Mt 4:4 "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word - *rhema* - that proceeds from the mouth of God"; Luke 5:5 And Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but at Your bidding - *rhema* - I will let down the nets.")

One of the coolest uses of *rhema* is in Luke's record of the angel's words to Mary...

"For nothing will be impossible with God."
Luke 1:37

(Comment: You are probably asking "Where is *rhema* in this verse?" The Greek can be rendered "No word of God can fail." Only a few English translations render *rhema* in this way.

"But I tell you that men will account on the day of judgment for every careless word (rhema) they have spoken. For by your words (rhema) you will be acquitted, and by your words (rhema) you will be condemned."

Matthew 12:36-37

We are sanctified and cleansed by the redeeming power of the cross and we are continually being set apart, sanctified day by day as we continue to hear the Word of God. Christ's love for us, His bride, His church is shown in His work of sanctification: that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word.

Why Do I Want To Love And Lay Down My Life For Her?

- To Make Her Holy
- To Make Her Clean

C) So I Can Present Her To Myself

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other

blemish, but holy and blameless.

Ephesians 5:25-27

- **Present** (3936) (*paristemi* from *para* = near, beside + *histemi* = place, set) literally means **to place or set beside or near** and hence to place at someone's disposal. *Paristemi* means to present oneself for service or **to put at the service of**.

(1) Present Her As A RADIANT Church

- **Radiant/Glorious (1741) *doxa***; held in good or in great opinion or judgment, of high repute.
- **Church (1577) (*ekklēsia* from *ekkaléo* = call out in turn from *ek* = out + *kaleo* = call) literally "called-out ones".**

a) Present Her Without SPOT OR WRINKLE OR ANY OTHER BLEMISH:

- **Spot (4696) (*spilos*) unwanted spot or stain** upon something -- a stain, **a disfiguring spot or blemish, defect.**
- **Wrinkle (4512) (*rhutis* from *rhuo* = to draw or contract) is used only in this verse and describes something like skin or fabric with lines or creases.** In this verse *rhutis* is used figuratively to describe some type of **imperfection.**
- Any Other Blemish (5108) *toioutos*: such as this, of this kind or sort

b) Present Her HOLY AND BLAMELESS:

- **Holy (40) (*hagios*) is literally holy one and refers to that which is set apart (sanctified) for a special purpose.**
- **Blameless (299) (*amomos* from *a* = without + *momos* = spot) is literally without blemish, free from faultiness.**
- **The Sacrificial Lamb:** This picture reminds one of the Old Testament sacrificial animal which was required to be free of defects. Under Jewish law before an animal could be offered as a sacrifice it must be inspected and if any blemish was found it must be rejected as unfit for an offering to God. Only the best was fit to offer to God.

*“How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish (*amomos*) to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”*

Hebrews 9:14

CONCLUSION: THE SPIRIT IS SPEAKING

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

Revelation 22:17