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FELLOWSHIP

Ephesians 5:25-26

Christ's Love and Cleansing

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Christ-Like Love for One's Wife

Ephesians 5:25a (LEB)

Husbands, love your wives...

- "Love" is imperative in the Greek
- This love (agape_) implies seeking the highest good of the one loved
- This command is unique to the NT
- Monogamy is God's moral law
- This command is not contingent on whether the wife seems deserving

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Christ's Action Defines Love

Ephesians 5:25b (LEB)

...just as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for her;

- Christ's laid-down life reveals the true nature of *agape_* (1Jn. 3:16; Gal. 2:20b)
- Paul now expounds on Christ and the church and will return to husbands (vs 28)
- "For her" uses *huper* which means "on behalf of" or "in the place of"

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Christ Sanctifies the Church

Ephesians 5:26a (LEB)

in order that he might sanctify her...

- "In order that" (*hina*) is a purpose clause
- Christ's sacrificial action includes the purpose of making the church holy
- Christ died for us and set us apart from the world so that we would be devoted to Him
- Only God is truly holy in His essential nature; we are made holy by a work of grace

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Christ Cleanses the Church

Ephesians 5:26b (LEB)

...by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word;

- "Sanctified" shows the positive side of this work of grace; "cleansed" shows the removal of defilement
- The word of God is the means of cleansing (see John 15:3)
- This is about the word of God at work, not water baptism as some claim

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Three Purpose Statements

1. He might sanctify her (Eph. 5:26)
2. He might present her to Himself (vs 27a)
3. That she might be holy and blameless (vs 27b)

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Implications and Applications

- We know love and can love because of Christ's sacrificial love for us
- God cleanses believers according to His promises

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The Sacrificial Love of Christ

John 10:11,14,15 (LEB)

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ... I am the good shepherd, and I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and I lay down my life for the sheep."

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God Promises Cleansing

Ezekiel 36:25-27a (NASB)

And I will sprinkle on you pure water, and you will be clean from all of your uncleanness, and I will cleanse you from all of your idols. And I will give a new heart to you, and a new spirit I will give into your inner parts, and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh, and I will give to you a heart of flesh. And I will give my spirit into your inner parts

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