

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

St. Paul writes “Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men...” Wives are to serve their husbands in submission. Husbands love their wives. Fathers are not to provoke their children. Slaves obey their masters. All this they are to do not to please husband or wife, child or master, but to please God.

But look around you. Most wives don’t serve their husbands in submission. The fallen world teaches women that they are liberated from that, and they should go forward rather and do the things that men do. Most husbands do not love their wives in selfless ways. The fallen flesh prevents it. Their lust prevents it. Their egos prevent it. And the fallen world encourages men and women alike to be confused about their gender, teaching that gender is fluid.

Many fathers are selfish, and provoke their children. Many households are broken, ruptured by divorce. And then the parents can’t understand why they’ve raised maladjusted kids. Children willfully disobey their parents. They receive their morals and norms not from father and mother, but from social media and the internet and Hollywood.

The Word of God is absent in most homes. Sinful pride prevents men from truly serving one another, men prefer to assert rights and demand what is owed them. Sincerity of heart is rare, if not lost all together. As a nation we are horribly divided, and do not live in fervent love for one another.

The world is inarguably fallen, and daily growing worse. All men are fallen. So men do not live, cannot live, as God wills. Consider your station in life – wives, have you truly submitted to your husbands? Husbands, have you loved your wives selflessly, as Christ loves His Church, willing even to die for her? Fathers, have you kept your children daily in the Word of God and prayer? Have you been the altruistic priest of your household, setting a perfect example for your family?

Workers, have you served selflessly, never complaining, never refusing a command, never complaining, always happy with your pay, working not for men but to please God? The answer is, of course, no you haven’t. No fallen man has. For sinful men do not do such things.

Sinful men cannot do such things. They may be taught to emulate God-pleasing behavior. But they cannot sustain it. It is hypocrisy. It is eyeservice, “men-pleasing” as the Apostle calls it. When no one is looking, they backslide into sin. And as the fruit on a tree testifies to the kind of tree it is, our lives testify to what is in our hearts. Because of sin, our hearts are rotten.

Thanks be to God, there has been one Man with a pure heart. He died for you. His perfect, sinless heart was pierced by Roman lance, Water and Blood issuing forth. And it is that Water and Blood, the fruits of the Cross, the benefits of His perfect holiness, faithfulness and death, that bring you life.

In love, that you live as the Scripture describes, that you please God, God Himself gives you a new heart. In baptism, you die to sin, and you are given new life in God. David prayed “create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit

within me.” What David sought from the Lord, God lovingly gives to you as He forgives your every sin, as He blots out your shortcomings and transgressions, and washes you clean in the waters of regeneration, the waters of re-birth.

The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures, to work and sustain faith in you. He strengthens you by the Word to live out your life in sanctification, in sincerity of heart, which is to live out your life by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Because Christ the Groom loves His Church perfectly, you, His Bride, are brought into a God-pleasing relationship with Him.

Because God the Father gives you heavenly gifts, Christian husbands and fathers are strengthened to be a blessing to their wives, and to bring up their children in the fear and love of God.

Because they are the Holy Bride, Christian mothers are strengthened to live in God-pleasing love with their husbands, and stand as examples of faith and reverence for their children. And Christians serve one another gladly, heartily, doing all things as to the Lord, because the Lord that makes you one served you perfectly.

This day, for your forgiveness, for the strengthening of your faith, the same Lord that makes you One gives you His Body and Blood in the Sacrament. He makes the riches of His Mystery yours. Through His salutary gift, His saving blessing, He refreshes you, and strengthens you in the same.

By His Gifts, He preserves you steadfast in faith towards Him, and in fervent love toward one another, the Bride chaste and

pure preserved until the Groom’s return. And you live out your life in Christ, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance: eternal life in heaven.

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