


Walking Worthy in Wicked Days

2025-11-09 – Ephesians 5:15-33

	<p>As believers, we are called to walk worthy of our calling and be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is especially difficult in the evil days in which we live. If we are to walk worthy in these wicked days, we need to set our minds on taking the steps we are able each and every day. This week, we will look at how we can walk as those filled by the Spirit in our homes and as the body of Christ.</p>
---	---

Good morning. If you've got your Bibles, I want to ask you to open to Ephesians chapter 5. We're going to start in verse 15 today. And we are moving forward in our series, One Body: Saints standing side by side. And if you've been here since September, we've been going through the book of Ephesians. We've been looking at what it means that we are the body of Christ. If you are a believer and you are here, you are a saint. You are a chosen child of God because he chose you before the foundations of the world. You have been redeemed by the blood of Christ. You have been reconciled to him. God has poured out richly his grace upon you. You have an inheritance in heaven, and it is assured because you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit. And our hope is eternal because of the work of Christ.

As we move forward in our series today, if you were here a couple weeks ago, I wasn't here last week, and things look a little different. There's snow outside, and so, you know, it's a little bit different in this November month. I'm joking, there's chairs too. It was a joke, but it, you know, my jokes haven't changed, even if other things have. But if you were here a couple weeks ago, we talked about the reality of what it looks like to follow well, to walk worthy. And we talked about how we need to set aside our sin, but it's just as important what we replace it with, right? We put off the old way of living, we're renewed in our minds by the work of the Spirit, and we put on the new way of living. The rest of the book of Ephesians is about this.

Last week, Ninos did an excellent job talking about what it means that we are children of light. We know who we were before as children of darkness and now as children of light we are called to walk worthy of that. And today as we keep moving forward my hope and prayer for you today is that you would wrestle with what exactly we should accomplish each and every day because one of the hardest things for me as a believer is sometimes I can come up with a list of all of the things going on in the world. And it can be overwhelming to think of what I should do in a day.

Do you ever feel hopelessness and despair when you look at the world today? I bet you do. If you spend any time looking at what's going on in the world, I bet you do. If you watch the news at all this last week, there were a lot of things on the news disappointing. And I could say this at the

start of every sermon. But if we're not careful as believers, we can become so focused on the evil in the world that we forget our calling today.

How to Walk Worthy in Wicked Days

And so today we're going to talk about how to walk worthy in wicked days. And Paul is going to tell us, just like a couple weeks ago, we looked at what it means to put off the old, be renewed, and put on the new. Now Paul is going to keep breaking that down because the rest of the book of Ephesians is about how we walk worthy of the calling we have in Christ. And remember, that is a calling that you and your own strength were never worthy of. Because you, believer, you were dead in your sins and trespasses in which you once walked. You were a child under wrath, but God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love, made you alive. By grace you have been saved. (Ephesians 2:8). If you are a believer, you are not a believer because of your worthiness, but because of Christ's blood and God's immeasurable power and grace and love for you.

As we dig in today, let us stay focused on that and to that and let us pray.

Father in heaven, we thank you for this day. We thank you, Lord, that you sent your Son. We thank you that he died for our sins. He rose, he ascended to heaven where he reigns. And for all who believe in him, we are saved. We thank you that we can walk before you filled with your Holy Spirit, and we pray that we would do so. Father, as we dig in today, we pray that your Spirit would give us eyes to see and ears to hear what we are called to do if we are to walk worthy in these wicked days. We pray, Father, that you would be moving in our midst, that your Spirit would open our eyes and give us ears to hear. And I pray, God, that you would speak to me and speak through me, that these would be your words and not mine. We pray all of this in the holy name of your Son, Jesus. He is the head of this body, and it is to his glory that we pray. Amen.

How to Walk Worthy in Wicked Days

Make the most of your time in these evil days (15-21)

Well, we're talking today about **how to walk worthy in wicked days**. And the first thing we're going to see in our passage today is that we are called to make the most of our time in these evil days.

Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Ephesians 5:15-17 CSB

So, how do we make the most of our time in these evil days? Well, in Ephesians 5:15, Paul says this, **“Pay careful attention then to how you live. Not as unwise people, but as wise, making the most of the time because the days are evil. So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.”**

Now in this passage, first and foremost, the call, or pay careful attention then to how you live. Not as unwise, but as wise. Understand the will of the Lord. We are called to not live foolishly, but to live righteously. We are called to walk wisely and in order to do that what are the traits of that this passage begins by saying pay careful attention make the most of the time because the days are evil. Now the days are evil this part I hope is easy to understand. Ephesians 2 the prince of the power of the air is ruling that is Satan and his minions as Believers we know in Ephesians 6 will be there in a few weeks our battle is not against flesh and blood but it is against the very forces of darkness and are children of light, and we are called to stand against them.

When it talks about the days being evil, it is talking about a world that is dead in its sin. And we see this. No one here should be surprised by this at all. But what does it mean, make the most of your time? Well, let's start with the simplest thing. Do you use your time for the glory of God?

I talk often about the algorithm and social media and phones and things like that. And I do that because, let's just be honest, the greatest issue of our time is that we give our time to these devices that are designed to take our time. The algorithm— and I say the algorithm. I don't think the algorithm itself is evil, but the designers of the algorithm— the goal of YouTube is not to inform you when you watch one video and move on. The goal of YouTube is to keep you using YouTube as long as humanly possible. The goal of everything on your phone is designed to be intuitive so that you will keep using it and get dopamine hits from it. And it's so perverse the way that it happens.

So this is such a silly example, but last week I was hit, somebody I talked to said, “Matt, you got to see this movie trailer.” And I was like, “Okay,” so I clicked on YouTube to watch the movie trailer. And there was a movie trailer ad before the movie trailer that I had to watch in order to watch the movie trailer. I was watching an advertisement, I had to watch an advertisement to watch an advertisement, and I did. It is such a silly thing, but think about the ways that we allow our minds to be captivated by devices.

Parents, if you have children, you know that your children already know how to work all the devices because they are so intuitive. And if your children are watching devices, you know that screen time leads to more screen time and leads to more screen time. And if you're honest, sometimes you give them screen time so you can have your screen time. We don't make the most of our time. We don't.

And then what makes it even more perverse? Because it's not just about that, but we go look at those things. And then when we gather together, what do we do? We talk about what we saw. When I was in my early twenties, I remember I'd watch YouTube videos and I'd tell people, “You gotta see this YouTube video.” And I'd watch the YouTube video again with them. And like, that's such a silly, silly thing.

So we get distracted by these things, as you see. But more than that, think about the way you use your time. I used to mow in silence. And you may say, "Well, what does that have to do with anything?" But now when I mow, I put headphones on. And I always am listening to something. I can have podcasts on. I know people who they tell me the talk shows and podcasts they watch every day, and I'm like, "You're accounting for three or four hours of your day."

We do not make the most of our time. We do not make the most of our time by far. And then when we gather together, we're focused on the things that have been put into our brains for the day, even if we don't realize it. I know many people that I talk to that always have the news on in the background in their homes. And they say, "Well, I want to stay informed." I promise you, there is not a news station that has 24-hour coverage that cares about informing you. They care about keeping you watching.

Okay, I just know this because what our modern culture has done, the days are evil. And the goal of the evil one is to captivate all of our time. And we let him win. Make the most of your time because the days are evil. Do not allow your time to become captivated by the things of this world.

And I want to say carefully, because when I talk about this, someone can say, "Well, not all of those things are bad." And no, not all of those things are bad with imbalance. Right? It's fun to have a piece of chocolate cake. It's bad to eat a whole chocolate cake. I hope, maybe for some of you, I like what you mean. But I say this because there's a **reality of balance** we need to talk about.

I'm only going to go one step into this today, but sports gambling is one of those things that bothers me on many levels. And one of the levels that bothers me on is it turns a social setting, where watching sports isn't necessarily wrong, we can have a whole conversation there, but what is wrong is when you're watching it, if all you're there for is focused on how you can gain from it and you watch people that get focused on that and their whole worldview becomes tied to their phone, let alone gambling is not good, it's sinful. We can talk about that later, but everything we do is tied to these little screens that take all of our time captive.

Make the most of your time because the days are evil. The tools and technology of this world, they can be used for good or evil, but we have to use them for good, or else we will inadvertently use them for evil.

And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit: **speaking** to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, **singing** and **making music** with your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **submitting** to one another in the **fear** of Christ.

Ephesians 5:18-21 CSB

Paul goes on from here to saying, “Don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:18). If you want to make the most use of your time, you need to be filled by the Spirit, and I want to break this out for you. Because Paul in Ephesians 5:18 through 21, he outlines exactly what we need to do if we are to make the most of our time.

And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living,
but BE FILLED by the Spirit:

speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs,
singing and **making music** with your heart to the Lord,
giving thanks always for everything to God the Father
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
submitting to one another in the **fear** of Christ.

Ephesians 5:18-21 CSB

The idea at the beginning, **be filled with the Spirit**. (Ephesians 5:18). This is the key command all the way to Ephesians 6:9. It's going to be the key command for the rest of this week and for the next week when we talk about family relations. But being filled by the Spirit, It's important to note here, this is not talking about when you first become a believer and you are sealed by the Spirit. The language of **be filled by the Spirit** (Ephesians 5:18) is the idea of the Holy Spirit continually filling you and continually walking in the Spirit. The imagery here would be like that of Galatians 5, of bearing the fruit of the Spirit and walking in step with the Spirit. Being filled with the Spirit means continual reliance on the Spirit to help you walk worthy in wicked days.

And Paul gives four commands of what to do to be filled by the Spirit. Here's what it looks like. First and foremost, **be filled by the Spirit**, make the most of the time, **speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs**. (Ephesians 5:19). This means, in very practical terms, that we should be speaking the word of God to one another. This means in very practical terms that we need to know the word of God in order to speak the word of God to one another.

In my household, one of the ways I do this with my son and my daughter is I will hold them and I will say Psalm 1 over them. And I pray that they would be like trees planted by streams of water, that they would meditate on the word of God so much that they bear fruit in season. I pray that over my children and I want them to hear Psalm 1 again and again. My wife and I, sometimes when we're out and we see a beautiful sky, we see Psalm 19, **“the heavens declare the glory of God and the skies above proclaim his majesty.”** (Psalm 19:1).

When you talk with other believers, you should be reminding each other of what the word of God says. It should be evident. It should be on our lips. We should be speaking the word to one another at all times. I love elders meetings here because when our elders gather together and we're talking about where we're headed, the goal of our meetings is not for everyone to give their opinions, but to seek what the word of God says. And there is such wisdom in the room. And men

of God will say, "What about this?" And they will point back to the word as we lead and move forward. We are called to do that in all levels of our lives.

Speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. (Ephesians 5:19). And I'm going to tip my hand to the second-half of the sermon real quick. Because where this sermon is headed is it's first and foremost about your households and then within the body of Christ. And so your house should be a place where you are speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. This isn't just when you show up at church, but your families should hear you speaking the word of God. It should be evident in your homes.

The next, **singing and making music with your heart to the Lord.** (Ephesians 5:19). Well, this one's a very funny one, because when Paul wrote this, there was no such thing as the iPod, let alone the iPhone or the speaker or whatever, the Android. I don't want to offend any non-Apple users, but in all of those devices, think of how noisy our lives are. Do you listen to music that gives glory to God? Because you should.

Something I'm very proud of, I'm not up here to brag today, but something I'm very proud of is my daughter has a playlist of songs. And I always, with my kids, I listen to just Christian worship music or different Christian music, and my daughter every once in a while will say, "I love that song, Daddy. Will you add it to my playlist?" And so she has a playlist of songs, and then we have a little speaker for her that she can play her music on on her own. And it is all God-honoring, or the Mana Mana song by The Muppets. But most of it... is songs that give glory to God and the few that aren't are like kids songs.

But I say this because it is such an important thing. In your home, something that was bizarre for me a few weeks ago, I guess, wow, a few months ago now because it was still warm. I was at a park and there was a mom holding her child and rocking her child and she was listening to the radio and she was singing along to a song and the song was so wicked. And I was just like, "Why are you singing that in your child's ear?" It bothered me so much. It bothered me. She was playing it at the playground. I wound up taking my kids to the other side of the playground because of it. But I was sitting there like, "Why on earth would you say those words to your child, ever?"

We have a responsibility to what we listen to. What fills us is what comes out of our mouths.

The next thing is **giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.** (Ephesians 5:20). For this one, I have to point to Craig Tinder. He's here. And one of my favorite things I've heard him teach on, he talks about with his son, Wally. Growing up, he would ask Wally every day, "What are things that you're grateful for?" And I heard Craig say that, and I said, "That's a good idea," and so I asked my kids that. And it's just a way to make them think about what they are thankful for and give thanks to God for those things.

If I'm honest, I'm more of a pessimist. You don't see it when I'm up here, but if you're around me a while, you'll be like, "Man, you're kind of negative sometimes." And one of the things I have to do is I have to remind myself of all of the good that God is doing. And you may say, "Well, Pastor Matt, things are going well in your life, but you don't know all the things I'm going through." Well, if you can't think of anything to give thanks for, reread Ephesians 1-3, because you are a chosen child of God. And if you're a chosen child of God even when everything is in its darkest moment you are a chosen child of God and nothing can take you from his hand. That should be something you give thanks for each and every day and that should be something in moments of despair that you remember. Your hope is not in the things of this world the days are evil but your hope is in what is to come so always be giving thanks.

In your marriage give thanks for your spouse give thanks to your spouse They may not do everything well. They may not do everything right. We'll talk more about that in the second-half of this sermon, but the reality is, is we should be thanking the Lord. I know Pastor Dan mentioned this as we were praying this morning before the service that Pastor, we got our pastor appreciation cards, and I want to say thank you, all of you, because reading those cards is such a blessing. When you tell us reasons you're thankful, we're here. And for Pastor Dan, especially, you may not know this, but he's up here. He's not paid for this role. He is here serving. And he gives us a full-time job for free. And it is such a blessing. And I'm so thankful for him. And I'm so thankful for all of you for the way you're thankful for us.

And this picture of Thanksgiving is something we should be doing. And by the way, when I say this, remember where we started in Ephesians, because what does Paul say near the beginning? He says, "***I give thanks for you whenever I think of you.***" (Ephesians 1:16). Paul says those words from prison. Paul says those words from prison, and his mind is focused on the things of God and being thankful for what God has done, because that is how we are to walk wisely in this world, how we are to make the most of our time in this world, because the days are wicked. But our standing before Christ is clear. Our standing before God is clear because of what he has done for us.

Lastly, Paul speaks of ***submitting to one another in the fear of Christ***, (Ephesians 5:21) and we'll cover that one in a moment.

How to Walk Worthy in Wicked Days

Make the most of your time in these evil days (15-21)

But we're called to make the most of our time in these evil days. We're called to walk worthy. We're called to walk in a way where we are giving glory to God. We're called to walk wisely and not foolishly. We're called to walk understanding the will of God.

And if we're going to do that, it begins with how we speak to one another, because that's something you can control, right? You can control how you speak, and then you say, "Well, James says, No one can control their tongue," but it's a call for us to work on controlling our tongue. We're called to give thanks. We're called to walk in worship, and we're called to submit to one another as we will see.

I want to make sure this is abundantly clear for you, because when we talk about making the most and the best use of our time in these evil days, as the body of Christ, it starts with what we are able to do ourselves. If you sit around saying, "Well, wow, this world is evil, Look how bad it is." And you talk to people about how bad it is. What Paul is saying is don't focus on the evil days. Focus on who you are in Christ and let that flow out of you. That is how we make the most of our time in these evil days.

How to Walk Worthy in Wicked Days

Make the most of your time in these evil days (15-21)

Make your household a model of the Gospel for all to see (22-23)

And this brings us to Paul's first example of how to walk worthy in wicked days. We're going to see one this week and two next week. But our challenge for this week is make your household a model of the gospel for all to see.

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything.

Ephesians 5:22-24 CSB

After Paul says, be filled with the spirit and gives four commands, he goes on to say this, "**wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the savior of the body. Now, as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands and everything.**" (Ephesians 5:22-24).

Now, when I say, why are some people laughing? You know, I'm going to preach this passage again 10:30, and then I'm going to preach it again at a wedding this afternoon. I preached it two weeks ago at a wedding, and I'm going to preach it again on Saturday at another wedding. And when I was first married to my wife, Jess, this was the passage used by the pastor. And after the wedding, I will never forget a certain person in my life, I will not say their name, I don't want to shame them, but anyone who was present at the wedding knows, walked up to Jess and I and said, "Wives should never submit." She was so disgusted that she didn't get past those words. Wives submit.

I use this passage for every wedding knowing that this is a passage that I will be reading in front of an audience that is believers and non-believers alike. And the reason that I always use this passage, and what you will see as we start to read through it, is that wives being called to submit, that's hard. But the calling of the husband is even harder. And as you read through this passage, this passage is counter-cultural in our day, but if we were to carry out this passage the way it is called for, and if we remember what it's about, this isn't some negative thing. This isn't making a woman an object or making her a possession or anything like that. In fact, if we read this in light of the passage around it, we'll see that it means something bigger than what we might be thinking.

²¹ **submitting** to one another in the fear of Christ.

WIVES AND HUSBANDS

Wives, **submit** to your husbands as to the Lord, because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. Now as the church **submits** to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything.

Ephesians 5:21-24 CSB

Because you see it says “**submitting to one another in the fear of Christ**, (Ephesians 5:21) “**wives, to your husbands, as to the Lord.**” (Ephesians 5:22). This is tied to being filled with the Spirit.

BE FILLED by the Spirit...

²¹ **submitting** to one another in the fear of Christ.

Wives, **submit** to your husbands as to the Lord, because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. Now as the church **submits** to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything.

Ephesians 5:21-24 CSB

As we read through this passage, we need to keep this in mind. If we're going to be filled in the Spirit, wives, if you are to be filled in the Spirit, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. There's no way around this, and it's not a bad thing, it is a good thing. Our culture says it is a terrible thing. But do you know the wicked day of our culture tries to teach us that marriage is not good. It tries to teach us that gender, that male and female is not good. It tries to teach that everything in Genesis 1 and 2 is wicked.

But you go back to Genesis 2, when first God made the man, he formed him from the dust. And then from the man's rib, he said, “**I will make a suitable helper for the man.**” (Genesis 2:18). And that's the woman. And it's not that the woman is less than. They are both made in the image of God, “**male and female. He created them in his own image, in his own likeness.**” (Genesis 1:27). But there was order and there were created roles. The male was the head, the woman was the helper. This does not mean one is greater than the other. It means submission inside the marriage is that the woman submits to the man.

If you want evidence of this, because some people say, “Well, that’s just before the fall,” when the garden the woman eats from the fruit first, and then the man who is beside her eats. Who does God ask *first* what happened? The head! Scripture is so clear on this. If the man, Adam, if he would have been acting as the head he would have said “Shut up serpent.” He would have crushed the serpent’s head. But he didn’t. Instead he ate as well and when God asks him what happened he doesn’t take responsibility as the head should. Instead he said “It’s her fault!” He passively hands off the blame.

Out of that comes the curse. And of course, the curse in Genesis is that **“the woman will desire to rule over her husband, but he will rule over her.”** (Genesis 3:16). And we watch the world build this narrative in bigger and bigger ways. And the church has to stand strong.

When we talk about this passage, I want to tell you, if you’re here today and you’re like, “Well, I’m not married, this doesn’t apply to me.” having a biblical worldview of marriage is incredibly important because you know what one of the key Old Testament images of God and his people are? God is the faithful loyal loving husband and Israel as his wife in the most faithless of ways and yet God remains faithful and do you know what one of the final images we see in the New Testament is? It is the bridegroom and the bride at the wedding feast in Revelation 19. If you are here today, whether you’re married or not, you, if you are a believer, you are part of the body of Christ, which means you are part of the bride of Christ.

Wives, you’re called to submit. And if you want to be filled with the Spirit, if you want to walk well in your faith, you must submit. That is a calling. Now, in our modern fluid culture of truth, you’re going to say, “Well, what about in a situation of abuse or danger?” And of course, that’s not what this is saying. There are times where a wife needs to flee for safety. But let us not let the exception make the rule. Because this is the biblical picture of marriage. This is why if somebody ever talks to me about abortion, the one thing I talk about is abortion is wrong. And if they say, “Well, what about this situation and this?” I say, “Let’s talk about abortion is wrong and define that. Let’s not start talking about all the extreme examples, but let’s stay on the main idea and the main definition.” Our world allows exceptions to create truth, and because of that, there is no truth. But what is intended within marriage is wives submitting to their husbands. There is no way around this.

And wife, if you’re out there, so wife, that sounds like I’m talking to my wife. My wife, she’s homesick with the kids. Wives, you may say, “Well, my husband doesn’t lead the way he’s supposed to.” Show me in this passage where it says, “wives, submit to your husbands when they lead well.” You won’t find it. Some of you may say, “Well, my husband is not a believer” and to that I pray for you and I also want to encourage you in 1 Peter chapter 3. **“In the same way, wives submit yourselves to your own husbands so that even if some disobey the word, they may be won over**

without a word by the way their wives live when they obey your pure, observe your pure reverent lives.
(1 Peter 3:1-2).

The challenge here inside of marriage is very difficult. Because we're both fallen. Jess and I do premarital counseling with a lot of couples. And one of the themes we talk about is you get married, and at first you realize how selfish your spouse is. And then as you realize how selfish your spouse is, you realize how selfish you are. And then it's like a give and take. And then there's times where you do well and times where you do poorly. But wives, you're called to submit. This is an abundantly clear picture in scripture. It's God's intended picture inside the marriage.

So all you husbands out there are thinking, "I'm going to leave and say submit, right?" Well, let's keep reading.

BE FILLED by the Spirit...

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless. In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies.

Ephesians 5:25-28a CSB

Because if husbands want to be filled with the Spirit, "***Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her.***" (Ephesians 5:25). Let's just pause there. Husbands, lay down your lives for your wives. Submission sounds a little nicer now, right? like what can't I just... No you are called to lay down your life. There's a beauty in this passage the wife is called to submit the husband is not called to domineer or rule over he's called to lay down his life. Look at the example of Christ who though he was the form of God did not consider equality with God a thing to be grasped but he made himself a servant and he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death even death on the cross as Christ humbly served.

Husbands, you are called to love your wife in the same way. (Ephesians 5:25). The picture here. ***Christ loved the church and gave himself for her to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless.*** (Ephesians 5:26-27). The imagery here is Christ died, that the church could be worthy to be married to him. And remember that the church, we were not worthy to be married to him if his blood did not redeem us, if his sacrifice did not reconcile us to him.

Husbands, if you're out there and you think, "Well, I'll love my wife as soon as she learns to submit." If Christ waited until you learn to submit in order to save you, you are dead in your sins. And there is no way around that. Husbands, your call is not dependent on your wife, just like wives, your call is not dependent on your husband.

By the way, these words are radical in the day they're written in. Because you see, the husband in that day was called the Pater Familius. We'll talk a lot more about this next week. But the husband in a household was the head, and he was above all and before all in the household, and whatever he said went. And in Roman society, the wife was a lesser being than the husband. And yet in this passage, it's not talking about husbands and wives in unequal terms. The calling of the wife to submit is not because you're less than the husband, it's because you're equal in Christ, and yet there are roles in which God has placed us.

And notice, this is not just about husbands and wives, but about the body of Christ in Christ. Inside the body of Christ, a few weeks ago, we talked about spiritual gifts, and there are those that are leaders and teachers and shepherds. That's my role in this church. As the body of Christ, we're called to submit to one another and to use ourselves in the body of Christ to love one another. But we are called to follow in these rules.

For husbands, the calling to love your wife is a calling that you are called to do regardless of how your wife handles things. Husbands, loving your wives, it's a very difficult thing. Not because your wife is so difficult, although that's probably a part of it, but because we walk in darkness so often. But in the same way a husband, we're to love our wives as our own bodies.

He who loves his wife loves himself. or no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, since we are members of his body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:28b-32 CSB

Paul goes on, "***He who loves his wife loves himself, for no one ever hates his own flesh, but provides and cares for it just as Christ does for the church. since we are members of his body.***" (Ephesians 5:28-30).

There's a beauty here of, you know, the greatest command, "***love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.***" (Mark 12:30). What's the second? "***Love your neighbor as yourself.***" (Mark 12:31). Husbands, the first neighbor in your life is your wife. Love your neighbor as yourself. Husbands, sometimes, sometimes I talk to husbands who are focused on their kids at all costs, at the cost of loving their wives. That's backwards. You're not one flesh with your kids. Someday they will leave and plead, Lord willing. But you are with your wife one flesh. Take that very seriously.

It goes on, "***For this reason,***" it's quoting Genesis 2. "***For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church.***" (Ephesians 5:31-32). So, Paul in this passage—and being filled by the Spirit—he's talking about the marriage, and then he's talking about the ultimate marriage supper with the Lamb that we will see in Revelation 19. He's talking about the marriage of two

people, and then he's saying how it is a picture of what the body of Christ and Christ are. Because the body of Christ is the bride, and Christ is the bridegroom. Then you may say, "Well, what does it mean that I'm the bride?" It means that you're an object of Christ's love and affection, and he died so that we could become one with him. This is true for men; this is true for women; for all who believe.

And your marriage, your marriage each and every day should point your spouse to the glory of God through the gospel. Husbands, you should lay down your lives, and I want to make something very clear. I'm not going to give very many practical examples of how to do this because husbands, loving your wives does not follow these three easy steps. There are three easy steps, by the way, of speaking to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Husbands, speak the word to your wives. And in order to speak the words in your households, do you know what you need to do? You need to read the word.

Singing and making music with your heart to the Lord. Husbands if I can challenge you, put worship music on in the car instead of whatever else you might do. With your spouses, when it's like the end of the night, don't watch random shows but instead spend time in the word together. Fill your minds with things that are useful and do that with one another.

And give thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Give thanks to God every day for your wife and give thanks to your wife for how God is working in her life. These are such simple things but if you would do them it would have a wonderful effect in your home. It would point your spouse to Christ even as you hope she is submitting and following after you.

BE FILLED by the Spirit...

To sum up, each one of you is to **love** his wife as himself, and the wife is to **respect** her husband.
Ephesians 5:33 CSB

To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself and the wife is to respect her husband" (Ephesians 5:33). The language of the wife is to respect her husband is tied to the same language of submitting to one another out of fear of Christ. It's that same word for fear, but it's not a word of fear your husband. It's a recognition of the authority given to him by God in your household.

And the call here for husbands and wives is to live this out with one another. Wives, if your husband is seeking to do the speaking and the praising and the singing and do all of these things, I want to encourage you to submit to it. Some of you may say, "Well, I know more about the Bible than my husband." The passage does not say, "Whoever knows more in the household leads." The passage says, "Wives submit."

Husbands, be patient with your wives. If you say, "Hey, if I go home today, my kids are sick and my wife isn't feeling well. And if I go home today and I say, Jess, after the sermon, I feel convicted.

We're gonna read the Bible for three hours" and she can't keep her eyes open. And I'm like, "Wife, wake up." That's not loving my wife. I hope you see this. There is an ebb and flow to this, but if we don't start from the picture of what it means to walk worthy in our households, we are falling flat.

As a follower of Jesus, the most important relationships in my life that have been the most forming, three of them that I think back on, in all three cases, they were married couples where I saw them at their best and worst. And over a period of time there was a moody professor that my wife and I used to go to their house and it was a refuge. And it was a refuge for us even when they were in chaotic times in their lives and they were stressed about different things because we saw in them a care and a love for the Lord that extended even when they were struggling with each other. And the wife sometimes would be grumpy but she'd work on submission and the husband sometimes would say, "I need to get all this done" and he would neglect his wife a bit but then he would repent and I would watch him love his wife.

This isn't something you do perfectly overnight. If it was that simple, like the Love Language book would only sell one copy, people would read it once and they'd move on. No, but these things, we need them and we need them again and again. Your kids get older, your whole marriage shifts. Every day, things change, and the chance each day is to love your spouse.

Husbands, don't build a record of wrongs against your spouse, but instead, each and every day, lay down your lives for them. Wives, if your husband is doing his job and laying down his life, your submission to him will look like laying down your life for him as well. The marriage in a household that fears God should be a beacon of the blessings of God and the beacon of the gospel for the married couple first for their family second and for the world third. This is the calling.

How to Walk Worthy in Wicked Days

Make the most of your time in these evil days (15-21)

Make your household a model of the Gospel for all to see (22-23)

If we're filled with the spirit if we want to walk worthy in wicked days you can't do anything about things happening overseas. You can make a Facebook, post you can like something, you can share something, you can watch like whatever, you can do those things if you want. But we can become overwhelmed by things happening far away, but what we are called to starts in our household. It starts in the way we walk faithfully before the Lord.

If you're here today and you're single or husband, wife doesn't apply to you, we got two more we're going to talk about next week. But I also want to encourage you that Paul starts from the household because that is the starting point, at the foundation of civilization, we see it from the beginning of scripture. If you look at the way that the world is evil today, the main thing happening

is the breakdown of the family unit. That is how the evil one seeks to break down. And so in our households, in our households, we need to be lifting one another up. We need to be taking seriously our call to follow Christ. If we do this, we will stand out in this world in a radical way.

Wives, submit to your husbands, husbands love your wives. All of you, wherever you stand in all of this, submit to Jesus Christ, for he is the head and we are the body.

Let's pray.

Father in heaven, we thank you that while we were unworthy, while we were still sinners, while we were dead in our sins, you sent your son. He died for our sins that we might be redeemed and reconciled to him before you. And we thank you, Lord, that you see us as the object of your affection because of your immeasurable love. And Father, I pray for the men in this room, that they would take seriously, that for the husbands in this room, they would take seriously the call to lay down their lives each and every day for their wives. I pray for the wives in this room, that they would submit to their husbands, that they would follow their lead, that they would give glory to you in that way. And I pray Lord that our church would be a body where we submit to one another out of reverence to your son Jesus. We praise you that he is the head and we praise you that in all of these things. We pray we know that he leads us and guides us. We pray all of this in Jesus's holy and precious name. Amen.



Digging Deeper – **Walking Worthy in Wicked Days** - Ephesians 5:15-33

1. What stood out to you from the sermon?

Read Ephesians 5:15-33

2. What stands out to you as you read through the passage?
3. What are some ways that you see the days being evil?
4. What should you do when you think about the evilness of the days?

Have someone pray over whatever has come up so far in answer to questions 3 and 4.

5. What are all of the initial marks Paul mentions that are tied to being filled by the Spirit? (in verses 15-21)
6. When Paul talks about husbands and wives, we need to read it in light of being filled with the Spirit. What does Paul say wives need to do? What does this look like?
7. Why is it difficult for wives to do this? What is the outcome when wives do not submit?
8. What does Paul command husbands to do? What does this look like?
9. Why is it difficult for husbands to do this? What is the outcome for husbands who do not love their wives?
10. For husbands and wives, an outcome of studying this passage should be a renewed sense of your calling to follow the commands laid out for you by the Lord. In the areas you are failing to follow these examples, take time to talk to each other, to pray, and to repent. In areas where your spouse is following well, take time to encourage and uplift one another.
11. For those who are single, this passage may not seem to apply to you if you focus on husbands and wives but consider that as a believer you are a part of the bride of Christ (the church). What does this passage mean for all of us in light of being the bride of Christ?
12. How is Christ the perfect husband? What specifically does he do?
13. Take some time to end in prayer by sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.