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Epistle to the Ephesians: Living a Spirit-filled life in the Family (5.18-33)

- Covenant Evangelical Reformed Church
- 23 July 2006
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Introduction

1. Imitating our Father's Love
 - a. Walking in love (v1-2)
 - b. Walking as children of light (v3-14)
 - c. Walking in Wisdom (v15-17)

LIVING A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE IN THE FAMILY

1. Be Filled with the Spirit (v18-20)
 - a. Not with any spirit and not be drunk with wine (or worldliness)
 - b. But, with the Spirit of the Word
 - i. It is a continual filling of the Word of God and understanding what the will of God is
 - ii. Holy Spirit and the Word of God must never be separated
 - iii. The Holy Spirit works with the Word of God and not independently (c.f. John 4.24)
 - c. Speaking to ourselves psalm, hymns and spiritual songs
 - i. 2 main views:
 - (1) That they refers only to inspired songs in the Psalm and using different words to describe the songs
 - (2) That they refer as: Psalm as inspired songs found in the OT book of Psalms; Hymns as songs of praise and thanksgiving as uninspired by God; Spiritual songs
 - ii. The 2 such views results in Reformed churches with Exclusive Psalmody and those who sings both Psalms and Hymns like the ERCS
 - iii. Whatever Hymns or Psalters we sing, it must
 - (1) True to Reformed Doctrine and Scripture
 - (a) Otherwise, heresies will be sung in to the church and it will crept into our hearts because we love the melody
 - (b) Inevitably, our doctrine will be taken from the songs that we sing
 - (c) Hence, we must be discerning in the songs that we sing, whether Psalters or Hymns or songs
 - (2) Lead us in a worshipful spirit to Worship God
 - (a) Not to prepare us to attend a rock music
 - (b) Not for entertainment
2. General principle: Submitting yourself to one another
 - a. Wives are to submit yourselves unto your own husbands

- i. How? As unto the Lord
 - (1) You obey your husband as you would unto the Lord
 - (2) But there are exceptions:
 - (a) Not in the same way as you would obey Lord directly because your husband is not the same as the Lord
 - (b) Not in everything what your husband says - especially, when it goes against the Word of God
 - (c) Especially when it is only his preference
 - (d) This shows that you are not a doormat but a person who thinks and considers what is the right thing to do
 - (i) You may have to explain to your husband why you don't think that his plan of action is not wise
 - (ii) You may politely refuse
 - ii. Why? The husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the church and he is the saviour of the body
 - (1) The husband must lead in the home!
 - (a) In spiritual leadership
 - (b) In leading devotions
 - (c) In making decisions for the family
 - (2) Headship is not superiority
 - (3) Headship is function and office - someone must lead
 - (4) This is always true
 - (a) Even if man is a house-husband
 - (b) Even if man has a lesser educational qualification and lesser job
- b. Husbands, love your wives
 - i. How? As Christ loved the church so much that He gave Himself for her
 - (1) This means that the husband must love his wife
 - (a) Why this exhortation? The husband does not love his wife or / and the wife is difficult to love
 - (b) This love is agape, the love of God
 - (2) The husband must love her to the extent of giving his life for her
 - (a) Love your wife as your own body (not another body but your own)
 - (i) This is the one-flesh union which takes place when they are united in marriage (Gen. 2.23, 24)
 - (ii) Flesh of my flesh and bone of my bones
 - (b) Nourish and cherish her
 - (i) Care, protect her from all harm and danger
 - (ii) Concern for her feelings and viewpoints
 - ii. Goal?
 - (1) That Christ might make the church more holy and cleansed from all sin by the use of the Word
 - (2) That, at the Last day, He might present to Himself a glorious and beautiful church
 - (3) This takes place at the marriage supper of the lamb where Christ, the husband will present to Himself the beautiful, spotless, virgin bride - the Church
 - (4) Our marriages ought to be a beautiful picture of Christ and His Church
 - (a) The shortcomings
 - (i) If husband and wife make independent decisions and not consulting one another (the sin of Eve)
 - (ii) Husband is not loving his wife and wife is not respecting her husband
 - (iii) Constant bickering and quarreling
 - (iv) A third party is introduced in the relationship

(b) This is our goal in our marriages

(c) If there is any shortcomings husband and wife ought to repent

iii. Application:

(1) Men are to love their wives as their own bodies

(2) Wife is to reverence her husband

3. Reflection Questions

a. What should be the Christian's viewpoint of the new phenomenon of more husbands as house husbands? Should this be encouraged or frowned upon?

b. How can we strengthen our marriages?

c. Is the gay the alternative lifestyle?