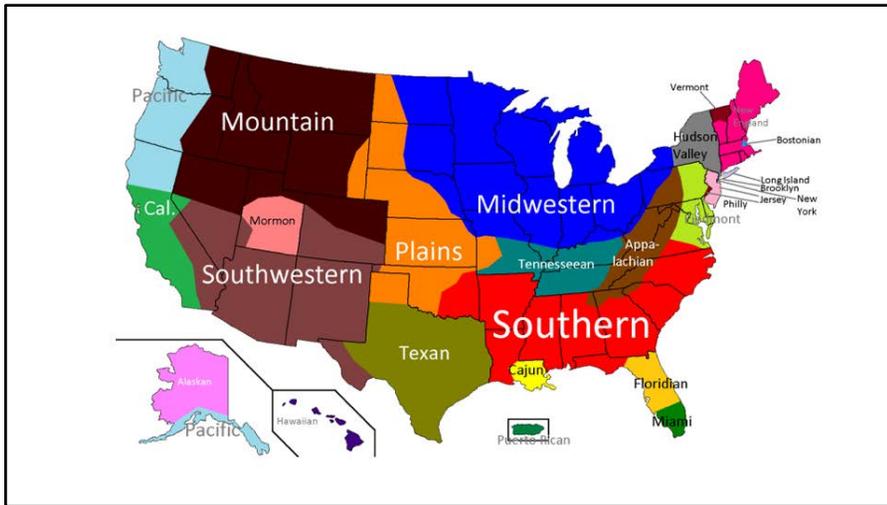


(Theme Slide)



2

When we hear someone's accent, it is often a give-away to where they are from. That is, where they call home.

-- And, how we talk and interact in our homes is an indicator of what the eyes of our hearts see and what our hearts are filled with.

TR: Think back to last week's key text in Ephesians 5 . . .

Ephesians 5:18-21 *page 1082 in handout Bibles*

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹**addressing** one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing and making melody** to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰**giving thanks** always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹**submitting** to one another out of reverence for Christ.

ESV

3

READ SLIDE

- The will of God is that we be filled with or by the Spirit.
- If we are, then we'll hear that in the accent of how we address, sing and make melody, give thanks, and even how we submit to one another.

TR: The critical piece to understanding the rest of chapter 5 and into chapter 6 is found in the last ING word . . . in verse 21.

Ephesians 5:18-21

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another **out of reverence for Christ.**

ESV

4

READ SLIDE (verse 21 only)

TR: The Bible says that the heart speaks the overflow of the heart. If our hearts are filled with reverence, a holy, awestruck fear, then the way we talk and walk will be described as . . .



Gospel-fluent.

-- EX: I know Dutch, but to say “I’m fluent” would be an overstatement. Cf. exhaustion when try to speak for two weeks and that was when I was practiced up with my Dad.

-- I’m not sure we are fluent until we start to dream in that language. In a sense, when it becomes our heart-language.

TR: In our notes, the top box is for us to jot some notes on how a Gospel-fluent person talks and walks at home . . . in their household (which in the first century was broader than our small nuclear families today.

Ephesians 5:22-24

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

ESV

6

READ SLIDE

TR: If a woman who is married is Gospel-fluent, they walk and talk in light of the commands . . .

Ephesians 5:22-24

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should **submit in everything to their husbands.**

ESV

7

READ SLIDE (Highlighted sections)

-- submission is a humility that allows their own husband to be the final decider.

-- It does not mean to submit to directives to sin . . . we must always first submit to God.

-- the Gospel-fluent wife must submit in everything

-- the reason (the “FOR”) is that the husband is the head of the wife

TR: This sounds incredibly challenging, but then Paul addresses the husbands in verse 25.

Ephesians 5:25-28a

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.

ESV

8

READ SLIDE

TR: The overall directive of walking and talking is pretty easy to see . . .

Ephesians 5:25-28a

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way **husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.**

ESV

9

READ SLIDE (highlighted portions)

-- Husbands are to love

-- That love is defined by Christ's love for the church, giving himself up for her . . .

-- . . . and by loving her even as they do their own bodies, referring to how we take care of ourselves.

-- There's a lot more in these verses, but most of it deals with Jesus and His bride, His body, the Church.

TR: Paul's not done with the husbands yet . . . "husbands should love their wives as their own bodies" . . . because . . .

Ephesians 5:28b-32

He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹*"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."*

ESV

10

READ SLIDE

TR: The quote from Genesis 2 is then followed up by a verse that is very hard for the non-fluent person to speak understandably . .

•

Ephesians 5:32-33

³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

ESV

11

READ SLIDE

-- Verse 33 gets back to the practical stuff we love, even if verse 32 makes our tongues twist.

-- EX: My dad trying to get Kathy and the kids to say “school” in Dutch . . . or learning to roll our R’s in many other languages, like Spanish.

TR: Though I don’t want to focus our attention on the rest of this section, I still want us to read over it. Beginning in chapter 6 . . .

Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²*"Honor your father and mother"* (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³*that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."*

⁴**Fathers,** do not provoke your children to anger, but **bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**

ESV

12

READ SLIDE

- Children and then parents, specifically fathers, are addressed.
- The flow of the passage was "submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ" . . . specific examples for wives, children, and slaves.
- But all members of the household are to be Gospel-fluent.
- For the child, being Gospel-fluent is demonstrated in submitting to their parent.
- Going back to the 10 commandments, we are reminded that this commandment has the motivating promise to go with it.
- Christian fathers have the primary responsibility to train (disciple and correct) and instruct their children.
- If that is what they are to PUT ON, they must PUT OFF provoking or exasperating their children to the point of a seated anger and bitterness.

TR: The third pairing in the passage begins in verse 5

Ephesians 6:5-6

Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

ESV

13

READ SLIDE

- submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ is pronounced, “obey your earthly masters.”
- The application for us would be to our work environments.
- The reverence, even PHOBOS we have for Christ is what we are to have for our masters.
- We must do it sincerely, not just when someone is watching us or waiting to reward us.

TR: We must be Gospel-fluent so that we “do the will of God from our hearts.” And masters . . .

Ephesians 6:7-8

... rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.

ESV

Ephesians 6:9

Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

ESV

15

READ SLIDE

-- They are to **PUT OFF** threatening, taking advantage of their position and allowing themselves to treat others like lesser people because of their role.

-- We all must submit at some point in our lives because we must all submit to our impartial Master, our Lord Jesus.

TR: These three pairings, wives-husbands, children-fathers, slaves-masters . . . have been called the **HOUSE RULES**.



16

There are lots of versions of HOUSE RULES . . . and many of them say some pretty good things.

-- My question today is, "If we post the house rules of wives submit, husbands love, children obey, fathers correct and instruct, slaves/employees obey, masters/bosses render service with a good will . . . will we be 'Gospel-fluent?'"

TR: Each time we study God's Word, the Spirit seems to highlight things that we either haven't seen before or haven't emphasized enough.

Ephesians 5:32

**This mystery is profound,
and I am saying that
it refers to Christ and the church.**

ESV

17

**That's exactly how I feel about verse 32 . . . READ SLIDE
-- because this verse is in the middle of the wives-husbands'
section, I want to key in here.**

**TR: The reason is that as I continue to grow in Christ, I realize in
helping husbands and wives, I want to be a . . .**

**READ SLIDE**

-- One scholar commented that Paul wasn't trying to become a marriage counselor in this passage.

-- His focus was not to merely help us have better marriages.

-- Paul's commission, according to chapter 3, was to . . . *to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery (from 3:8-9)*

-- The mystery of God's will (in 1:10) is *a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*

-- Paul was a preacher of the Gospel . . . and the accent of Gospel-fluency was obvious in all aspects of life . . . thinking backwards through our three pairs in the text . . . work, family, marriage.

TR: If I stopped the message a few moments ago, there should be Hong Kong level riots because I would have prostituted the text to only be about how to have a better home life.

Ephesians 5:22 – 6:9

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

25Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2"Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3"that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." 4Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

5Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. 9Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

ESV

19

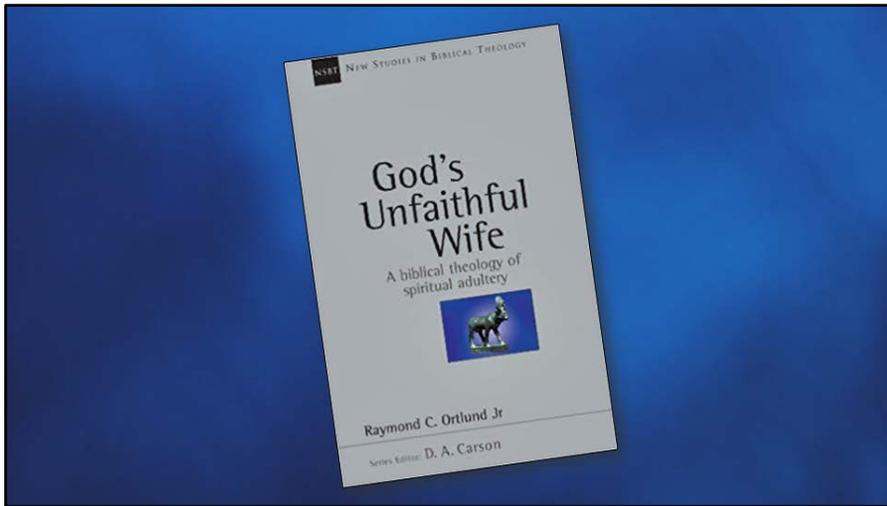
But the text isn't first and foremost about that.

-- Look at the whole passage. I know it is too small a font size to read . . . but look at all the yellow highlights (READ)

-- All of that is about Christ and the church.

-- "This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church." (verse 32)

TR: The power of this passage hit me this summer as I read a great book by Ray Ortlund, Jr.



20

In a study of a biblical theology of spiritual adultery, this OT scholar starts in Genesis and walks us through the Bible following the theme of God and His bride, His wife, His people.

-- Noting how the whoredom of Israel is talked about again and again, Ortlund leads us to Jesus Who is preparing a bride for Himself.

TR: The sad thing is, that many who come for help in their marriages don't want to look at the yellow words . . . they only want practical helps to not fight as much, to communicate better, to feel better.



21

But in seeking to become a Gospel-fluent relationship counselor, I've found myself sharing this illustration . . .

-- The Bible teaches us techniques and tools that can help a marriage be better. In a sense, I can help you rebuild your engine.

-- BUT only Jesus can give you the fuel to run the engine.

TR: Go with me in our notes to the bottom box and think about . .

.

FUTILITY OF THINKING MISTAKES

22

the . . . READ SLIDE

-- We have been told not to walk as the Gentiles walk . . . in the futility of their thinking.

-- Yet there are many mistakes we often make when we are struggling to speak Gospel in our marriages.

-- I can think of at least 6 of them.

-- (1) The mistake of thinking techniques are enough. If we learn a few insights into the difference between men and women OR between our number on the Enneagram and theirs, then we'll have a great marriage.

-- (2) I was not Gospel-fluent when I did not diagnose the relationship with questions like, "Do you want what God wants?"

-- "Do you pray together?" "Are you consistently in the Word daily?"

TR: Both of these mistakes miss Paul's key point . . .

**This mystery is profound,
and I am saying that
it refers to Christ and the church.**

ESV

23

READ SLIDE

- Without reverence for Christ, without a changed heart that submits as to the Lord, without a soul transformed into a true lover who loves like Jesus giving Himself up . . .**
- . . . techniques are band-aids for cancer.**
- It is only out of reverence for Jesus that we can live out fluently the kind of love and submission He wants in our marriages.**

- Don't miss that this same principle applies to children, fathers . . . as well as slaves and masters.**

TR: The walking in darkness kind of mistakes abound.

FUTILITY OF THINKING MISTAKES

24

(3) We easily make the key mystery = marriage rather than God and His bride.

-- The union of Christ and the Church, which is reflected in a truly Christian marriage, is a profound mystery.

-- Marriage is not the ultimate relationship . . . it is penultimate to Jesus and His Bride.

(4) We forget that our relationship as husband and wife will not go into eternity. We are brothers and sisters first.

-- EX: Sharing the 8 Simple Drawings, but many say, "Sure, now let's get back to our marriage issues."

TR: We must not miss that . . .

This mystery is profound,
and I am saying that
it refers to Christ and the church.

ESV

25

READ SLIDE

- Read Ezekiel 16 about how Yahweh, the LORD GOD, called an unwanted child to live and then gave her all she needed and then took her to Himself as beautiful bride.
- Only to have her play the whore.
- This imagery is probably what is behind *“having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor”* (from v. 26)

TR: In that Ezekiel passage we read . . .

And your renown went forth among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through the splendor that I had bestowed on you, declares the Lord GOD.

ESV

God's wife was beautiful, not because of what she had done BUT through the splendor of what God had bestowed.

-- We must not disconnect Ephesians 1-4 from chapter 5. We used the imagery of a chest-full of ribbons to talk about our identity of splendor bestowed on us by God through Christ.

-- Without the Spirit's strengthening work in our inner beings, we cannot comprehend the love of Jesus, we cannot be rooted and grounded in love, we cannot be filled to all the fullness of Him Who fills all in all.

-- SO, what makes us think we can give ourselves up . . . really do that without Jesus?

-- How can a wife submit to her own husband without Jesus filling her?

-- EX: Gospel-fluent takes us to Jesus – cf. Laurie Bolthouse's affirmation, "Thanks for taking us to Jesus."

TR: The non-gospel-fluent marriage counselor conveys that a few new techniques or insights is all a marriage really needs. They don't do the diagnostics of checking the prayer and Word levels. They talk more about the mystery of marriage than of Christ and the church not being the fulfillment of the ultimate intent of a husband and wife becoming one flesh. They pass over that the brother-sister relationship is what

will endure for all ages.

26

FUTILITY OF THINKING MISTAKES

27

They make other mistakes, even as I have.

(5) They make the goal to “unite in marriage” but forget the ultimate goal is for Christ to “unite all things.”

-- In so doing, they deny that God’s glory is far more important than our happiness.

-- The flow of the passage in dealing with marriage, including the reference to Genesis 2 and becoming one flesh, is about Christ and the Church.

-- Ortlund makes a strong case to say that God created marriage for His glory . . . it was always designed to preach the Gospel of the unity of God and His people.

-- God is not here to make our marriages better; our marriages are here to glorify God.

-- A.W. Tozer – “ACUTELY GOD-CONSCIOUS” . . . that is what it will take to make our marriage what it was designed to be.

TR: A sixth mistake:

FUTILITY OF THINKING MISTAKES

28

(6) We excuse our lack of obedient application because of the other party's lack of obedience.

-- Wives don't have to submit except to husbands who love them perfectly like Christ loves the church.

-- Husbands don't have to nourish and cherish their wives, loving them by giving themselves up for them, unless they are perfectly submissive.

-- It is ideal if both are seeking Christ, that's why you don't want to marry an unbeliever. But our discipleship is not dependent upon the others' faithfulness.

-- Children need to obey even unbelieving parents. Fathers must seek to train and instruct even unbelieving children. Slaves/Employees must obediently serve even unbelieving masters.

-- When we don't submit, don't love . . . ultimately the person we don't trust or value enough is Jesus!

TR: Why is this true? Because . . .

28

**This mystery is profound,
and I am saying that
it refers to Christ and the church.**

ESV

29

READ SLIDE

-- In a sense, as husbands we may have been presented a bride in a beautiful dress by her father, but it is our work to present her in far more splendor to our heavenly Father at the end of our lives together.

-- We have understood this mystery and been fluent in speaking and walking it when our WIFE COULD SAY,

-- “Because of you, my husband, I love Jesus more, I have deeper trust in Him. I understand His ways better and have experienced ever wider His peace. Because of your cherishing and nourishing work, I have been ever more overwhelmed by the riches of Jesus’ lavish grace.”

TR: What would a husband say?

**This mystery is profound,
and I am saying that
it refers to Christ and the church.**

ESV

30

“My dear sister-in-Christ, I love Jesus more because of you. I have witnessed your reverence for our Lord worked out into submission to me, thereby expressing your ultimate confidence and trust in Jesus. I have seen modeled in your life walking in love, as light, being intentionally filled with the Spirit. This has made me want to do the same as part of the bride of Christ, the church. Thank you.”

-- Today, Jesus wants us to get it. The mystery of marriage is the mystery of uniting people in Jesus.

-- Stop treating your marriage as disconnected from your walk with Jesus. Don't just rebuild the engine . . . get the fuel only the Spirit can give.

-- Stop compartmentalizing your parenting (or being obedient as

a child) or your work . . . it is all to be about Jesus.

30