

THE POWER WE NEED

The Secret of Marriage - 1

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Text: Ephesians 5:15-33

Theme: Marital success requires vision and power from God.

Introduction: Marriage Matters to Everyone

"Over the last forty years, the 'leading marriage indicators'—empirical descriptions of marriage health and satisfaction in the United States have been in steady decline. The divorce rate is nearly twice the rate it was in 1960. In 1970, 89 percent of all births were to married parents, but today only 60 percent are. Most tellingly, over 72 percent of American adults were married in 1960, but only 50 percent were in 2008.... Today more than half of all people live together before getting married. In 1960, virtually no one did."
(Timothy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*)

Grasping the Mystery

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church."
(Ephesians 5:30–32)

Being Filled With Holy Spirit

... be filled with the Spirit,

addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,

singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father

in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, (submit) to your husbands...

(Ephesians 5:15–22)

Deriving Strength From the Gospel

"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6–8)