

The Summation of All Things in Christ

Studies in Ephesians with a Local Church Emphasis

LESSON CXI : THE WISE AND SPIRIT FILLED LIFE OF SUBMISSION / THE HAUSTAFEL (5:15-6:9)

Ephesians 5:15 ~ 6:9 —

¹⁵ Therfor, britheren, se ye, hou warli ye schulen go; ¹⁶ not as vnwise men, but as wise men, ayenbiynge tyme, for the daies ben yuele. ¹⁷ Therfor nyle ye be maad vnwise, but vndurstondynge which is the wille of God. ¹⁸ And nyle ye be drunkun of wyn, in which is letcherie, but be ye fillid with the Hooli Goost; and speke ye to you silf in salmes, ¹⁹ and ymnes, and spiritual songis, syngynge and seiynge salm in youre hertis to the Lord; ²⁰ euermore doynge thankngis for alle thingis in the name of oure Lord Jhesu Crist to God and to the fadir. ²¹ Be ye suget togidere in the drede of Crist. ²² Wymmen, be thei suget to her hosebondis, ²³ as to the Lord, for the man is heed of the wymman, as Crist is heed of the chirche; he is sauour of his bodi. ²⁴ But as the chirche is suget to Crist, so wymmen to her hosebondis in alle thingis. ²⁵ Men, loue ye youre wyues, as Crist louyde the chirche, and yaf hym silf for it, to make it holi; ²⁶ and clenside it with the waisching of watir, in the word of lijf, ²⁷ to yyue the chirche gloriouse to hym silf, that it hadde no wem, ne ryueling, or ony sicke thing, but that it be hooli and vndefoulid. ²⁸ So and men `schulen loue her wyues, as her owne bodies. He that loueth his wijf, loueth hym silf; ²⁹ for no man hatide euere his owne fleisch, but nurischith and fostrith it, as Crist doith the chirche. ³⁰ And we ben membris of his bodi, of his fleisch, and of his boonys. ³¹ For this thing a man schal forsake his fadir and modir, and he schal drawe to his wijf; and thei schulen be tweyne in o fleisch. ³² This sacrament is greet; yhe, Y seie in Crist, and in the chirche. ³³ Netheles ye alle, ech man loue his wijf as hym silf; and the wijf drede hir hosebonde. ¹ Sones, obeische ye to youre fadir and modir, in the Lord; for this thing is riytful. ² Onoure thou thi fadir and thi modir, that is the firste maundement in biheest; ³ that it be wel to thee, and that thou be long lyuyng on the erthe. ⁴ And, fadris, nyle ye terre youre sonnes to wraththe; but nurische ye hem in the teching and chastising of the Lord. ⁵ Seruauntis, obeische ye to fleischli lordis with drede and trembling, in simplenesse of youre herte, as to Crist; ⁶ not seruyng at the iye, as plesinge to men, but as seruauntis of Crist; doynge the wille of God bi discrecioun, ⁷ with good wille seruyng as to the Lord, and not as to men; ⁸ witinge that ech man, what euere good thing he schal do, he schal resseyue this of the Lord, whether seruaunt, whether fre man. ⁹ And, ye lordis, do the same thingis to hem, foryyuyng manaasis; witinge that bothe her Lord and youre is in heuenes, and the taking of persones is not anentis God. (John Wycliffe Bible, 1382)

¹⁵ Take hede therfore that ye walke circumspectly: not as foles: but as wyse ¹⁶ redemyng the tyme: for the dayes are evyll. ¹⁷ Wherfore be ye not vnwyse but vnderstonde what the will of the Lorde is ¹⁸ and be not dronke with wyne wherin is excesse: but be fulfilled with the sprete ¹⁹ speakynge vnto youre selves in psalmes and ymnes and spretuall songes synginge and makinge melodie to the Lorde in youre hertes ²⁰ gevinge thanks all wayes for all thinges vnto God the father in the name of oure Lorde Iesu Christ: ²¹ submitte youre selves one to another in the feare of God. ²² Wemen submit youre selves vnto youre awne husbandes as vnto the Lorde. ²³ For the husbande is the wyves heed even as Christ is the heed of the congregacion and the same is the saveoure of the body. ²⁴ Therfore as the congregacion is in subieccion to Christ lykwyse let the wyves be in subieccion to their husbandes in all thinges. ²⁵ Husbandes love youre wyves even as Christ loved the congregacion and gave him silfe for it ²⁶ to sanctifie it and clensed it in the fountayne of

water thorow the worde ²⁷ to make it vnto him selfe a glorious congregacion with oute spot or wrynckle or eny soche thinge: but that it shuld be holy and with out blame. ²⁸ So ought men to love their wyves as their awne bodyes. He that loveth his wyfe loveth him sylfe. ²⁹ For no man ever yet hated his awne flesshe: but norissheth and cherissheth it even as the lorde doth the congregacion. ³⁰ For we are members of his body of his flesshe and of his bones. ³¹ For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cotinue with his wyfe and two shalbe made one flesshe. ³² This is a great secrete but I speake bitwene Christ and the congregacion. ³³ Neverthesse do ye so that every one of you love his wyfe truely even as him silfe. And let the wyfe se that she feare her husbände. ¹ Chyldren obey youre fathers and mothers in the Lorde: for so is it right. ² Honoure thy father and mother that is the fyrst commaundement that hath eny promes ³ that thou mayst be in good estate and lyve longe on the erthe. ⁴ And ye fathers move not youre children to wrath: but bringe the vp with the norter and informacion of the Lorde. ⁵ Servautes be obedient vnto youre carnall masters with feare and trimblinge in singlenes of youre hertes as vnto Christ: ⁶ not with service in the eye sight as men pleasers: but as the servautes of Christ doynge the will of God from the herte ⁷ with good will servinge the Lorde and not men. ⁸ And remember that whatsoever good thinge eny man doeth that shall he receave agayne of the Lorde whether he be bonde or fre. ⁹ And ye masters do even the same thinges vnto them puttinge away threatenings: and remember that even youre master also is in heven nether is ther eny respecte of person with him. (Tyndale's New Testament, 1534)

¹⁵ Take heede therefore that yee walke circumspectly, not as fooles, but as wise, ¹⁶ Redeeming ye season: for ye daies are euill. ¹⁷ Wherefore, be ye not vnwise, but vnderstand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And be not drunke with wine, wherein is excesse: but be fulfilled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ Speaking vnto your selues in psalmes, and hymnes, and spirituall songs, singing, and making melodie to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰ Giuing thanks alwaies for all thinges vnto God euen the Father, in the Name of our Lord Iesus Christ, ²¹ Submitting your selues one to another in the feare of God. ²² Wiues, submit your selues vnto your husbands, as vnto the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the wiues head, euen as Christ is the head of the Church, and the same is the sauour of his body. ²⁴ Therefore as the Church is in subiection to Christ, euen so let the wiues be to their husbands in euery thing. ²⁵ Husbands, loue your wiues, euen as Christ loued the Church, and gaue himselfe for it, ²⁶ That hee might sanctifie it, and clense it by the washing of water through the worde, ²⁷ That hee might make it vnto him selfe a glorious Church, not hauing spot or wrinkle, or any such thing: but that it shoulde bee holy and without blame. ²⁸ So ought men to loue their wiues, as their owne bodies: he that loueth his wife, loueth him selfe. ²⁹ For no man euer yet hated his owne flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it, euen as the Lord doeth the Church. ³⁰ For we are members of his bodie, of his flesh, and of his bones. ³¹ For this cause shall a man leaue father and mother, and shall cleaue to his wife, and they twaine shalbe one flesh. ³² This is a great secrete, but I speake concerning Christ, and concerning the Church. ³³ Therefore euery one of you, doe ye so: let euery one loue his wife, euen as himselfe, and let the wife see that shee feare her husband. ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. ² Honour thy father and mother (which is the first commandement with promise) ³ That it may be well with thee, and that thou mayst liue long on earth. ⁴ And ye, fathers, prouoke not your children to wrath: but bring them vp in instruction and information of the Lord. ⁵ Seruants, be obedient vnto them that are your masters, according to the flesh, with feare and trembling in singlenesse of your hearts as vnto Christ, ⁶ Not with seruice to the eye, as men pleasers, but as the seruants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ With good will, seruing the Lord, and not men. ⁸ And knowe ye that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, that same shall he receiue of the Lord, whether he be bond

or free. ⁹ And ye masters, doe the same things vnto them, putting away threatning: and know that euen your master also is in heauen, neither is there respect of person with him. (Geneva Bible, 1599)

¹⁵ See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶ Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; ¹⁹ Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. ²² Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. ²⁴ Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. ²⁹ For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: ³⁰ For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. ³¹ For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. ³² This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. ² Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) ³ That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. ⁴ And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. ⁵ Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; ⁶ Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; ⁷ With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: ⁸ Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. ⁹ And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him. (King James Version, 1769)

¹⁵ See, then, how exactly ye walk, not as unwise, but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil; ¹⁷ because of this become not fools, but — understanding what is the will of the Lord, ¹⁸ and be not drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the God and Father; ²¹ subjecting yourselves to one another in the fear of God. ²² The wives! to your own husbands subject yourselves, as to the Lord, ²³ because the husband is head of the wife, as also the Christ is head of the assembly, and he is saviour of the body, ²⁴ but even as the assembly is subject to Christ, so also are the wives to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵ The husbands! love your own wives, as also the Christ did love the assembly, and did give himself for it, ²⁶ that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it with the bathing of the water in the saying, ²⁷ that he might present it to himself the assembly in glory, not having spot or wrinkle, or any of such things, but that it may be holy and unblemished; ²⁸ so ought the husbands to love their own

wives as their own bodies: he who is loving his own wife — himself he doth love; ²⁹ for no one ever his own flesh did hate, but doth nourish and cherish it, as also the Lord — the assembly, ³⁰ because members we are of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones; ³¹ ‘for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife, and they shall be — the two — for one flesh;’ ³² this secret is great, and I speak in regard to Christ and to the assembly; ³³ but ye also, every one in particular — let each his own wife so love as himself, and the wife — that she may reverence the husband. ¹ The children! obey your parents in the Lord, for this is righteous; ² honour thy father and mother, ³ which is the first command with a promise, ‘That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live a long time upon the land.’ ⁴ And the fathers! provoke not your children, but nourish them in the instruction and admonition of the Lord. ⁵ The servants! obey the masters according to the flesh with fear and trembling, in the simplicity of your heart, as to the Christ; ⁶ not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but as servants of the Christ, doing the will of God out of soul, ⁷ with good-will serving, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ having known that whatever good thing each one may do, this he shall receive from the Lord, whether servant or freeman. ⁹ And the masters! the same things do ye unto them, letting threatening alone, having known that also your Master is in the heavens, and acceptance of persons is not with him. (Young’s Literal Translation, 1898)

¹⁵ Look therefore carefully how ye walk, not as unwise, but as wise; ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And be not drunken with wine, wherein is riot, but be filled with the Spirit; ¹⁹ speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; ²¹ subjecting yourselves one to another in the fear of Christ. ²² Wives, be in subjection unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, being himself the saviour of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives also be to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it; ²⁶ that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that he might present the church to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ Even so ought husbands also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his own wife loveth himself: ²⁹ for no man ever hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as Christ also the church; ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the twain shall become one flesh. ³² This mystery is great: but I speak in regard of Christ and of the church. ³³ Nevertheless do ye also severally love each one his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see that she fear her husband. ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. ² Honour thy father and mother (which is the first commandment with promise), ³ that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. ⁴ And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord. ⁵ Servants, be obedient unto them that according to the flesh are your masters, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; ⁶ not in the way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers; but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; ⁷ with good will doing service, as unto the Lord, and not unto men: ⁸ knowing that whatsoever good thing each one doeth, the same shall he receive again from the Lord, whether he be bond or free. ⁹ And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, and forbear threatening: knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no respect of persons with him. (Revised Version, 1885)

¹⁵ Look therefore carefully how ye walk, not as unwise, but as wise; ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And be not drunken with wine, wherein is riot, but be filled with the Spirit; ¹⁹ speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; ²¹ subjecting yourselves one to another in the fear of Christ. ²² Wives, be in subjection unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, being himself the saviour of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives also be to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it; ²⁶ that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that he might present the church to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ Even so ought husbands also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his own wife loveth himself: ²⁹ for no man ever hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as Christ also the church; ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. ³² This mystery is great: but I speak in regard of Christ and of the church. ³³ Nevertheless do ye also severally love each one his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see that she fear her husband. ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. ² Honor thy father and mother (which is the first commandment with promise), ³ that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. ⁴ And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord. ⁵ Servants, be obedient unto them that according to the flesh are your masters, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; ⁶ not in the way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers; but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; ⁷ with good will doing service, as unto the Lord, and not unto men: ⁸ knowing that whatsoever good thing each one doeth, the same shall he receive again from the Lord, whether he be bond or free. ⁹ And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, and forbear threatening: knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no respect of persons with him. (American Standard Version, 1901)

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ 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 all your heart, ²⁰ always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father. ²¹ Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ Even so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is a

profound one, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church; ³³ however, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. ¹ 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 be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.” ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. ⁵ Slaves, be obedient to those who are your earthly masters, with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not in the way of eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good any one does, he will receive the same again from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. ⁹ Masters, do the same to them, and forbear threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him. (Revised Standard Version, 1952)

¹⁵⁻²¹ Be constantly taking heed therefore how accurately you are conducting yourselves, not as unwise ones but as wise ones, buying up for yourselves the opportune time, because the days are pernicious. On this account stop becoming those who are without reflection or intelligence, but be understanding what the will of the Lord is. And stop being intoxicated with wine, in which state of intoxication there is profligacy. But be constantly controlled by the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord, giving thanks always concerning all things in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father, putting yourselves in subjection to one another in the fear of Christ. ²²⁻³³ The wives, be putting yourselves in subjection with implicit obedience to your own husbands as to the Lord, because a husband is head of the wife as the Christ is Head of the Church, He himself being the Saviour of the Body. Nevertheless, as the Church subjects itself in obedience to the Christ, in this manner also the wives should subject themselves in obedience to their husbands in all things. The husbands, be loving your wives with a love self-sacrificial in its nature, in the manner in which Christ also loved the Church and gave himself on behalf of it, in order that He might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the bath of water in the sphere of the Word, in order that He might himself present to himself the Church glorious, not having spot nor wrinkle nor any of such things, but in order that it might be holy and unblamable. In this manner ought also the husbands to love their wives as their own bodies. The one who loves his own wife loves himself, for no one ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Christ, the Church, because members are we of His Body. Because of this a man shall leave behind his father and his mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great. However, I am speaking with regard to Christ and the Church. Nevertheless, also as for you, let each one in this manner be loving his own wife as himself, and the wife, let her be continually treating her husband with deference and reverential obedience. ¹⁻⁹ The children, be always obedient to your parents in the Lord, for this is a righteous thing. Be always honoring your father and your mother, which is a commandment of such a nature as to be the first commandment with a promise, in order that it may be well with you, and in order that you may live long upon the earth. And the fathers, stop provoking your children to anger, but be rearing them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord. The slaves, be constantly obedient to those who, according to the flesh, are your masters, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart as to the Christ, not in the way of eye service as men-pleasers, but as Christ’s bondslaves, doing the will of God from the soul, with good will rendering a slave’s service as to the Lord and not as to men, knowing that each one, whatever good he may do, this he will receive from the presence of the Lord, whether he is a slave or whether he is free. And the masters, be practicing the same things toward them, giving up your

threatening, knowing that also their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is not partiality with Him. (Kenneth Wuest's Expanded Translation, 1961)

¹⁵ *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,* ¹⁶ *redeeming the time, because the days are evil.* ¹⁷ *Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.* ¹⁸ *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,* ¹⁹ *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,* ²⁰ *giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,* ²¹ *submitting to one another in the fear of God.* ²² *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.* ²³ *For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.* ²⁴ *Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.* ²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,* ²⁶ *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,* ²⁷ *that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.* ²⁸ *So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.* ²⁹ *For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.* ³⁰ *For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.* ³¹ *“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”* ³² *This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.* ³³ *Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.* ¹ *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* ² *“Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise:* ³ *“that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”* ⁴ *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.* ⁵ *Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;* ⁶ *not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,* ⁷ *with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,* ⁸ *knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.* ⁹ *And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him. (New King James Version, 1982)*

¹⁵ *Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,* ¹⁶ *making the most of your time, because the days are evil.* ¹⁷ *So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.* ¹⁸ *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,* ¹⁹ *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;* ²⁰ *always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;* ²¹ *and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.* ²² *Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.* ²³ *For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.* ²⁴ *But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.* ²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,* ²⁶ *so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,* ²⁷ *that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.* ²⁸ *So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;* ²⁹ *for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,* ³⁰ *because we are members of His*

body. ³¹ FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. ³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband. ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), ³ SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. ⁵ Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. ⁷ With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. ⁹ And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him. (New American Standard Version, 1995)

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church — ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” — which is the first commandment with a promise — ³ “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” ⁴ Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. ⁵ Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶ Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. ⁹ And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him. (New International Version, 2011)

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time,

because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ 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. ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so 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. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because 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.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. ¹ 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. ⁵ Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. 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. (English Standard Version, 2016)

¹⁵ Therefore consider carefully how you live — not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ taking advantage of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ For this reason do not be foolish, but be wise by understanding what the Lord’s will is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, which is debauchery, but be filled by the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ and submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, ²³ because the husband is the head of the wife as also Christ is the head of the church (he himself being the savior of the body). ²⁴ But as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her ²⁶ to sanctify her by cleansing her with the washing of the water by the word, ²⁷ so that he may present the church to himself as glorious — not having a stain or wrinkle, or any such blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In the same way husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one has ever hated his own body, but he feeds it and takes care of it, just as Christ also does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ **For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.** ³² This mystery is great — but I am actually speaking with reference to Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless, each one of you must also love his own wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

² **“Honor your father and mother,”** which is the first commandment accompanied by a promise, namely, ³ **“that it will go well with you and that you will live a long time on the earth.”** ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but raise them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. ⁵ Slaves, obey your human masters with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ, ⁶ not like those who do their work only when someone is watching — as people-pleasers — but as slaves of Christ doing the will of God from the heart. ⁷ Obey with enthusiasm, as though serving the Lord and not people, ⁸ because you know that each person, whether slave or free, if he does something good, this will be rewarded by the Lord. ⁹ Masters, treat your slaves the same way, giving up the use of threats, because you know that both you and they have the same master in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him. (New English Translation Second Edition, 2017)

¹⁵ Βλέπετε οὖν πῶς ἀκριβῶς περιπατεῖτε μὴ ὡς ἄσοφοι ἀλλ' ὡς σοφοί ¹⁶ ἐξαγοραζόμενοι τὸν καιρὸν ὅτι αἱ ἡμέραι πονηραὶ εἰσιν ¹⁷ διὰ τοῦτο μὴ γίνεσθε ἄφρονες ἀλλὰ συνιέντες τί τὸ θέλημα τοῦ κυρίου ¹⁸ καὶ μὴ μεθύσκεσθε οἴνῳ ἐν ᾧ ἐστὶν ἀσωτία ἀλλὰ πληροῦσθε ἐν πνεύματι ¹⁹ λαλοῦντες ἑαυτοῖς ψαλμοῖς καὶ ὕμνοις καὶ ᾠδαῖς πνευματικαῖς ᾄδοντες καὶ ψάλλοντες ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ ὑμῶν τῷ κυρίῳ ²⁰ εὐχαριστοῦντες πάντοτε ὑπὲρ πάντων ἐν ὀνόματι τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τῷ θεῷ καὶ πατρί ²¹ ὑποτασσόμενοι ἀλλήλοις ἐν φόβῳ Θεοῦ. ²² Αἱ γυναῖκες τοῖς ἰδίῳις ἀνδράσιν ὑποτάσσεσθε, ὡς τῷ κυρίῳ ²³ ὅτι ὁ ἀνὴρ ἐστὶν κεφαλὴ τῆς γυναικὸς ὡς καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς κεφαλὴ τῆς ἐκκλησίας καὶ αὐτὸς ἐστὶν σωτὴρ τοῦ σώματος. ²⁴ ἀλλ' ὡς περ ἡ ἐκκλησία ὑποτάσσεται τῷ Χριστῷ οὕτως καὶ αἱ γυναῖκες τοῖς ἰδίῳις ἀνδράσιν ἐν παντί ²⁵ Οἱ ἄνδρες ἀγαπάτε τὰς γυναῖκας ἑαυτῶν, καθὼς καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς ἠγάπησεν τὴν ἐκκλησίαν καὶ ἑαυτὸν παρέδωκεν ὑπὲρ αὐτῆς ²⁶ ἵνα αὐτὴν ἀγιάσῃ καθαρίσας τῷ λουτρῷ τοῦ ὕδατος ἐν ῥήματι ²⁷ ἵνα παραστήσῃ αὐτὴν ἑαυτῷ ἑνδοξον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν μὴ ἔχουσαν σπίλον ἢ ῥυτίδα ἢ τι τῶν τοιούτων ἀλλ' ἵνα ᾦ ἀγία καὶ ἄμωμος ²⁸ οὕτως ὀφείλουσιν οἱ ἄνδρες ἀγαπᾶν τὰς ἑαυτῶν γυναῖκας ὡς τὰ ἑαυτῶν σώματα ὁ ἀγαπῶν τὴν ἑαυτοῦ γυναῖκα ἑαυτὸν ἀγαπᾷ ²⁹ οὐδεὶς γάρ ποτε τὴν ἑαυτοῦ σάρκα ἐμίσησεν ἀλλ' ἐκτρέφει καὶ θάλπει αὐτὴν καθὼς καὶ ὁ Κύριος τὴν ἐκκλησίαν ³⁰ ὅτι μέλη ἐσμὲν τοῦ σώματος αὐτοῦ ἐκ τῆς σαρκὸς αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐκ τῶν ὀστέων αὐτοῦ ³¹ ἀντὶ τούτου καταλείψει ἄνθρωπος τὸν πατέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ τὴν μητέρα καὶ προσκολληθήσεται πρὸς τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ καὶ ἔσονται οἱ δύο εἰς σάρκα μίαν ³² τὸ μυστήριον τοῦτο μέγα ἐστίν· ἐγὼ δὲ λέγω εἰς Χριστὸν καὶ εἰς τὴν ἐκκλησίαν ³³ πλὴν καὶ ὑμεῖς οἱ καθ' ἓνα ἕκαστος τὴν ἑαυτοῦ γυναῖκα οὕτως ἀγαπάτω ὡς ἑαυτόν ἡ δὲ γυνὴ ἵνα φοβῆται τὸν ἄνδρα ¹ Τὰ τέκνα ὑπακούετε τοῖς γονεῦσιν ὑμῶν ἐν κυρίῳ· τοῦτο γάρ ἐστιν δίκαιον ² τίμα τὸν πατέρα σου καὶ τὴν μητέρα ἥτις ἐστὶν ἐντολὴ πρώτη ἐν ἐπαγγελίᾳ ³ ἵνα εὖ σοι γένηται καὶ ἔσῃ μακροχρόνιος ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ⁴ Καὶ οἱ πατέρες μὴ παροργίζετε τὰ τέκνα ὑμῶν ἀλλ' ἐκτρέφετε αὐτὰ ἐν παιδείᾳ καὶ νοουθεσίᾳ κυρίου ⁵ Οἱ δοῦλοι ὑπακούετε τοῖς κυρίοις κατὰ σάρκα μετὰ φόβου καὶ τρόμου ἐν ἀπλότητι τῆς καρδίας ὑμῶν ὡς τῷ Χριστῷ ⁶ μὴ κατ' ὀφθαλμοδουλείαν ὡς ἀνθρωπάρεσκοι ἀλλ' ὡς δοῦλοι τοῦ Χριστοῦ ποιοῦντες τὸ θέλημα τοῦ θεοῦ ἐκ ψυχῆς ⁷ μετ' εὐνοίας δουλεύοντες τῷ κυρίῳ καὶ οὐκ ἀνθρώποις ⁸ εἰδότες ὅτι ὁ ἐάν τι ἕκαστος ποιῇ ἀγαθόν τοῦτο κομιεῖται παρὰ τοῦ κυρίου εἴτε δοῦλος εἴτε ἐλεύθερος ⁹ Καὶ οἱ κύριοι τὰ αὐτὰ ποιεῖτε πρὸς αὐτοὺς ἀνιέντες τὴν ἀπειλήν εἰδότες ὅτι καὶ ὑμῶν αὐτῶν ὁ κύριός ἐστιν ἐν οὐρανοῖς καὶ προσωποληψία οὐκ ἔστιν παρ' αὐτῷ (Stephanus Greek NT, 1550)

¹⁵ Βλέπετε οὖν ἀκριβῶς πῶς περιπατεῖτε μὴ ὡς ἄσοφοι ἀλλ' ὡς σοφοί, ¹⁶ ἐξαγοραζόμενοι τὸν καιρὸν, ὅτι αἱ ἡμέραι πονηραὶ εἰσιν. ¹⁷ διὰ τοῦτο μὴ γίνεσθε ἄφρονες, ἀλλὰ συνίετε τί τὸ θέλημα τοῦ κυρίου. ¹⁸ καὶ μὴ μεθύσκεσθε οἴνῳ, ἐν ᾧ ἐστὶν ἀσωτία, ἀλλὰ πληροῦσθε ἐν πνεύματι, ¹⁹ λαλοῦντες ἑαυτοῖς [ἐν] ψαλμοῖς καὶ ὕμνοις καὶ ᾠδαῖς πνευματικαῖς, ᾄδοντες καὶ ψάλλοντες τῇ καρδίᾳ ὑμῶν τῷ κυρίῳ, ²⁰ εὐχαριστοῦντες πάντοτε ὑπὲρ πάντων ἐν ὀνόματι τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τῷ θεῷ καὶ πατρί. ²¹ Ὑποτασσόμενοι ἀλλήλοις ἐν φόβῳ Χριστοῦ, ²² αἱ γυναῖκες τοῖς ἰδίῳις ἀνδράσιν ὡς τῷ κυρίῳ, ²³ ὅτι ἀνὴρ ἐστὶν κεφαλὴ τῆς γυναικὸς ὡς καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς κεφαλὴ τῆς ἐκκλησίας, αὐτὸς σωτὴρ τοῦ σώματος. ²⁴ ἀλλ' ὡς ἡ ἐκκλησία ὑποτάσσεται τῷ Χριστῷ, οὕτως καὶ αἱ γυναῖκες τοῖς ἀνδράσιν ἐν παντί. ²⁵ Οἱ ἄνδρες, ἀγαπάτε τὰς γυναῖκας, καθὼς καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς ἠγάπησεν τὴν ἐκκλησίαν καὶ ἑαυτὸν παρέδωκεν ὑπὲρ αὐτῆς, ²⁶ ἵνα αὐτὴν ἀγιάσῃ καθαρίσας τῷ λουτρῷ τοῦ ὕδατος

ἐν ῥήματι, ²⁷ ἵνα παραστήσῃ αὐτὸς ἑαυτῷ ἔνδοξον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν, μὴ ἔχουσιν σπίλον ἢ ῥυτίδα ἢ τι τῶν τοιούτων, ἀλλ' ἵνα ᾦ ἁγία καὶ ἄμωμος. ²⁸ οὕτως ὀφείλουσιν [καὶ] οἱ ἄνδρες ἀγαπᾶν τὰς ἑαυτῶν γυναῖκας ὡς τὰ ἑαυτῶν σώματα. ὁ ἀγαπῶν τὴν ἑαυτοῦ γυναῖκα ἑαυτὸν ἀγαπᾷ ²⁹ Οὐδεὶς γάρ ποτε τὴν ἑαυτοῦ σάρκα ἐμίσησεν ἀλλ' ἐκτρέφει καὶ θάλπει αὐτήν, καθὼς καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς τὴν ἐκκλησίαν, ³⁰ ὅτι μέλη ἐσμέν τοῦ σώματος αὐτοῦ. ³¹ ἀντὶ τούτου καταλείπει ἄνθρωπος [τὸν] πατέρα καὶ [τὴν] μητέρα καὶ προσκολληθήσεται πρὸς τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἔσονται οἱ δύο εἰς σάρκα μίαν. ³² τὸ μυστήριον τοῦτο μέγα ἐστίν· ἐγὼ δὲ λέγω εἰς Χριστὸν καὶ εἰς τὴν ἐκκλησίαν. ³³ πλὴν καὶ ὑμεῖς οἱ καθ' ἓνα, ἕκαστος τὴν ἑαυτοῦ γυναῖκα οὕτως ἀγαπάτω ὡς ἑαυτόν, ἡ δὲ γυνὴ ἵνα φοβῆται τὸν ἄνδρα. ¹ Τὰ τέκνα, ὑπακούετε τοῖς γονεῦσιν ὑμῶν [ἐν κυρίῳ]· τοῦτο γάρ ἐστιν δίκαιον. ² τίμα τὸν πατέρα σου καὶ τὴν μητέρα, ἥτις ἐστὶν ἐντολὴ πρώτη ἐν ἐπαγγελίᾳ, ³ ἵνα εὖ σοι γένηται καὶ ἔσῃ μακροχρόνιος ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. ⁴ Καὶ οἱ πατέρες, μὴ παροργίζετε τὰ τέκνα ὑμῶν ἀλλ' ἐκτρέφετε αὐτὰ ἐν παιδείᾳ καὶ νοουθεσίᾳ κυρίου. ⁵ Οἱ δοῦλοι, ὑπακούετε τοῖς κατὰ σάρκα κυρίοις μετὰ φόβου καὶ τρόμου ἐν ἀπλότῃ τῆς καρδίας ὑμῶν ὡς τῷ Χριστῷ, ⁶ μὴ κατ' ὀφθαλμοδουλίαν ὡς ἄνθρωπάρεσκοι ἀλλ' ὡς δοῦλοι Χριστοῦ ποιοῦντες τὸ θέλημα τοῦ θεοῦ ἐκ ψυχῆς, ⁷ μετ' εὐνοίας δουλεύοντες ὡς τῷ κυρίῳ καὶ οὐκ ἀνθρώποις, ⁸ εἰδότες ὅτι ἕκαστος ἐάν τι ποιῇσῃ ἀγαθόν, τοῦτο κομίζεται παρὰ κυρίου εἴτε δοῦλος εἴτε ἐλεύθερος. ⁹ Καὶ οἱ κύριοι, τὰ αὐτὰ ποιεῖτε πρὸς αὐτούς, ἀνιέντες τὴν ἀπειλήν, εἰδότες ὅτι καὶ αὐτῶν καὶ ὑμῶν ὁ κύριός ἐστιν ἐν οὐρανοῖς καὶ προσωποληψία οὐκ ἔστιν παρ' αὐτῷ (NA28 Greek New Testament)

WHERE DOES THIS SECTION DIVIDE? — *This lesson division (5:15-6:9) is much longer than is typical in my studies, but I have tried to follow the natural divisions within the Scriptures themselves and created by Paul. We must remember these “divisions” are for our study purposes only; when Paul wrote, he wrote one continuous letter without chapter and verse divisions nor with “topic divisions”. Since this section is so long, most of the commentators I read make a division either at v. 20 or at v. 21; 5:22-6:9 is an obvious section dealing with what many call “the Haustafel”, a word coined by Martin Luther for the “Household Code of Conduct” for husbands and wives, children and servants (more will be written about this when we get to that section). So what is the problem with making these introductory verses separate from the “Household Code”? The problem is that v. 21 is heavily dependent upon v. 20 while v. 22 is heavily dependent upon v. 21; in other words, there is no real division between these introductory verses and the “Household Code”. But for purposes of our study, we will consider these introductory verses as one section and the “Household Code” as its own section, admitting and understanding that Paul makes no such separation. “But where does this section end? In terms of content, the focus on life within the community continues throughout the household code. In terms of syntax, the participial clause of v 21, on which the exhortation to wives and husbands in vv 22-33 depends, is itself, in fact, dependent on the main verb πληροῦσθε [plērousthe], ‘be filled,’ in v 18. There is a strong case, therefore, for seeing this particular exhortation about conduct, ‘walking wisely,’ as including the household code and extending from 5:15 to 6:9. **In terms of the structure of the letter, 5:15-6:9 is the next overall unit. But for convenience of analysis in this commentary, such a large unit needs to be divided.**” [Lincoln, 338]*

OVERVIEW OF THIS PORTION — “The introductory **inferential conjunction** connects this passage not only to the previous passage, but also to the central idea informing the second half of the letter that *the readers now possess a new identity in Christ and they are called to live in accordance with this new identity. They have been called into a relationship with Christ (4:1-6), received a special gifting from the resurrected Christ (4:7-16), have been taught the truth in*

Inferential conjunctions: these conjunctions introduce some inference. For example: ‘therefore, for, so’, etc. ‘Work hard, for nobody can succeed without hard work.’ ‘He was lazy, therefore, he failed.’

Christ (4:20-21), have put on the new self (4:24), and have become light in the Lord (5:8). In view of this amazing array of profound blessings, they are obligated to give careful attention to how they live (5:15).... Paul shifts from the metaphor of light (5:8-14) to the themes of wisdom and the Spirit. He presents these as two complementary and essential features of the Christian life that believers need if they are to conduct their lives in ways that are pleasing to God. Paul's exhortation in this text gives further expression to his prayer in 1:17 that the Father will provide them with the Spirit, who will impart wisdom to them." [Arnold, 341]

STRUCTURE — This section could be divided into two main thoughts: 'wisdom' (vv. 15-18) and 'worship' (vv. 19-20 [21?]). The first thought is grouped around three main exhortations and three 'not ... but' contrasts [μὴ ... ἀλλὰ — mē ... alla]. In v. 15 the contrast is added after the exhortation while in vv. 17,18 the contrasts are part of the exhortations themselves.

THEME 1: "WISDOM"

¹⁵ *See, then, how exactly ye walk,* [‘see’ = ye see, ye be careful – 2nd person plural present active imperative verb, a ‘continuous active command’]

FIRST CONTRAST: UNWISE vs. WISE — *not as unwise, but as wise,*

¹⁶ *redeeming the time, because the days are evil;*

SECOND CONTRAST: BECOME NOT FOOLS vs. UNDERSTAND THE WILL OF THE LORD — ¹⁷ *because of this become not fools, but — understanding what is the will of the Lord,*

THIRD CONTRAST: (NOT BETWEEN TWO ENTITIES, WINE vs. SPIRIT BUT ...) DRUNKENNESS vs. SPIRIT-CONTROLLED — ¹⁸ *and be not drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in the Spirit,*

THEME 2: "WORSHIP" (NOTE: THE THIRD CONTRAST FORMS THE TRANSITION FROM "WISDOM" TO "WORSHIP") — THIS CENTERS AROUND FIVE PARTICIPLES, EACH DEPENDENT UPON 'BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT'

¹⁹ speaking

one to another

in psalms

and hymns

and spiritual songs,

singing

and making melody

in your heart

to the Lord,

²⁰ giving thanks

always for all things,

*in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to the God and Father;*

²¹ *submitting yourselves*

to one another

in the fear of God.

“Household Code of Conduct”

²²⁻³³ *(husbands and wives)*

^{6:1-4} *(children and parents)*

^{6:5-9} *(servants and masters)*

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIVES OF BELIEVERS — The Holy Spirit has been prominent throughout this letter:

‘In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.’ (1:13,14)

‘that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him’ (1:17)

‘For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.’ (2:18)

‘in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit’ (2:22)

‘that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man’ (3:16)

‘And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.’ (4:30)

‘And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints’ (6:17,18)

Paul now will focus on the importance of being surrendered to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, both as individuals and in corporate worship:

‘And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,’ (5:18-20)

“[Paul] associates this infilling with the corporate community of believers coming together for worship. As they sing, worship, and give thanks, God responds with his empowering touch. But Paul also asserts that an attitude of humility in service to one’s brothers and sisters in the body is essential within the community to prevent any obstruction to the Spirit’s coming in power. The language of this passage continues the sharp contrast between the lifestyles that should

A true and faithful Christian does not make holy living an accidental thing. It is his great concern. As the business of the soldier is to fight, so the business of the Christian is to be like Christ.

— Jonathan Edwards

characterize the lives of Christians compared to those of non-Christians.” [Arnold, 341]

v. 15 — Take heed therefore; (Tyndale, Geneva); See then (KJV, YLT, NKJV); Look therefore (RV, ASV); Look [carefully] then (RSV, ESV, NET); Be [very careful,] then, (NIV); Therefore (NASB) — βλέπετε οὖν [blepete oun] — ‘Watch’, lit. ‘to see’, refers here to *spiritual perception*. The sense is given by Ernest Best as ‘consider then carefully’; by Andrew Lincoln as ‘pay careful attention then’; by Harold Hoehner as ‘look how carefully you are walking.’ As those who have ‘learned Christ’

(4:20) are new people (4:24) and are light (5:8), it is important that believers should consider their daily behavior carefully, ‘take heed therefore ...’. ***“Paul begins this new section of exhortations by appealing to his readers to give careful attention to how they conduct their day-to-day lives. He is eager for the transformation process to continue in their lives so that they will reflect their new nature in Christ. The conjunction ‘therefore’ does more than simply introduce a new section. It links the present set of exhortations to the immediately preceding paragraph, where Paul has warned against the dangers of a lack of moral vigilance. ‘Watch carefully’ contrasts sharply with the state of believers who are ‘sleeping’ and need to ‘get up’ (5:14). It may also reach further back to the many ways that Paul has sought to establish their new identity in Christ as the basis for their Christian conduct. Just a few lines earlier he exhorted them to ‘walk as children of light’ (5:8).... The imperative ‘watch’ (βλέπετε, blepete) appears repeatedly in Jesus’ Olivet Discourse, where he prepares his followers for a life of discipleship in the context of the difficulties of the last days (Matt 24:4; Mark 13:5, 9, 23, 33; Luke 21:8). This provides a point of connection with Paul’s admonition which he sets in the context of ‘evil days’ (5:16b).” [Arnold, 345]*** Both our Lord Jesus and Paul regularly uses ‘watch, look’ when speaking of conduct:

‘And Jesus answered and said to them: Take heed that no one deceives you.’ (Matt 24:4, || Mark 13:5; Luke 21:8)

‘But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues.... But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.... Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.’ (Mark 13:9, 23, 33; note in v. 33 the immediate use of ‘watch’ after ‘take heed’, lit. ‘see, watch’ + ‘be alert’)

‘According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.’ (1 Cor 3:10)

‘But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.’ (1 Cor 8:9)

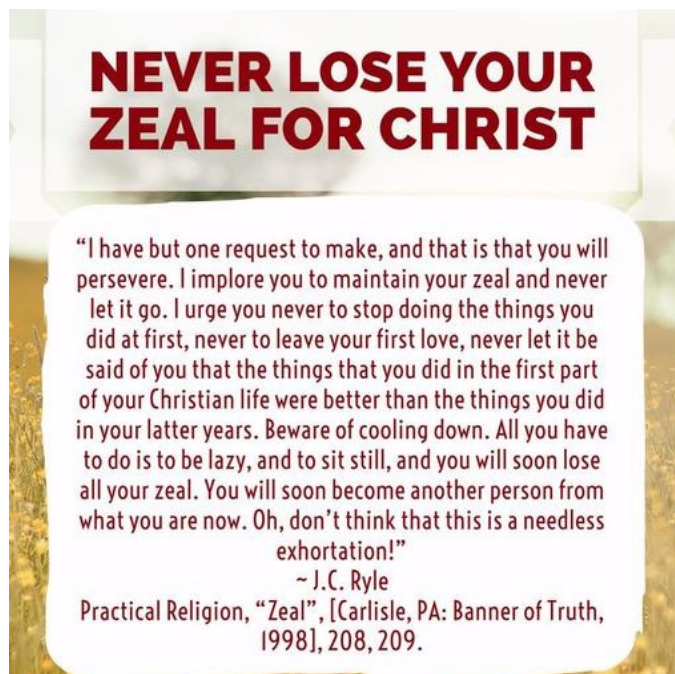
‘Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.’ (1 Cor 10:12)

‘Now if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do.’ (1 Cor 16:10)

'But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!'
(Gal 5:15)

'Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men...' (Col 2:8)

that ye walke circumspectly (Tyndale, Geneva, KJV, NKJV); how exactly ye walk (YLT); carefully how ye walk (RV, ASV, RSV, NASB) carefully [then] how you walk (ESV); how you live (NET) — πῶς ἀκριβῶς περιπατεῖτε [pōs akribōs peripateite] — 'Consider then carefully how you behave; pay careful attention then to how you live.' *"The adverb 'carefully' strongly underlines the importance of engaging in intentional and focused moral introspection. It compares to the kind of care a judge would take in investigating a case (Deut 19:18)."*
[Arnold, 345] *"Akribos (careful) has the basic meaning of accurate and exact, and carries the associated idea of looking, examining, and investigating something with great care. It also carries the idea of alertness. As believers walk through the spiritual mine field of the world, they are to be constantly alert to every danger that Satan puts in their way. That is why Jesus warned that 'the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life' (Matt. 7:14)."* [MacArthur, 219]



PAUL STRONGLY WARNS: BELIEVERS CAN LIVE FOOLISHLY! — Paul's admonition *'be careful, watch therefore carefully how you live, not as fools but wise in the eyes of the Lord,'* implies it is possible to not be careful, to not pay attention to live as wise, to live foolishly in the eyes of the Lord. Paul gives us a warning that we are to consciously and deliberately be aware of how we are living! ***There is no place for passivity in the Christian walk.*** Growth in our spiritual walk requires us to make a conscious effort to grow in Christ. If we are not being consciously careful to live wisely, it is very possible (and maybe probable?) that we are living as fools. ***"The adverb rendered 'carefully' signifies something done accurately, precisely, or after close attention has been given. Together***

with the imperative 'watch', it indicates that this admonition regarding godly behaviour is both important and urgent." [O'Brien, 380] ***"Observe how the illuminated Christian is to keep his eyes open. No guidance is promised him which shall dispense with patient watchfulness."*** [Moule, 134]

'WATCH CAREFULLY' RATHER THAN 'WALK CAREFULLY' — There are some minor discussions as to whether Paul intended *'watch that you walk carefully'* or *'carefully watch how you walk'*, the difference being which word is modified by the adverb. This does not seem to be an 'either-or' type of choice; there are good men who will argue for either side (**adverb modifying walk: 'watch that you walk carefully'** = Hoehner, 690; H.C.G. Moule, 134; Hodge, 218; Eadie, 391; Salmond, *Expositor's Greek Testament*, 360f; Ellicott, 126; Alford, 133; MacArthur, 217; **adverb modifying watch: 'carefully watch how you walk'** = Best, 503; Lincoln, 337; Arnold, 345; O'Brien, 350; Bruce, 378; Foulkes, 149; Thielman, 356; Merkle, 94). The Bible versions

themselves are also divided (most Byzantine texts, KJV, NKJV prefer ‘carefully’ to modify ‘walk’; most newer versions prefer ‘carefully’ to modify ‘watch’). But whichever Paul originally was thinking when he dictated this letter, thankfully for us it does not make a lot of difference since both makes good sense.

‘WALK’ — “In this section, Paul continues to express his deep concern about the lifestyles of his readers. *This is now the sixth [and last] occurrence of the verb ‘walk’ in the second half of the letter* — clearly his favorite term for expressing moral exhortation in Ephesians (see 4:1, 17 [2x]; 5:2, 8).” [Arnold, 341]

not as fooles: but as wyse (Tyndale, Geneva, KJV, NKJV); not as unwise, but as wise, (YLT, RV, ASV, RSV, NIV, ESV, NET) — *μὴ ὡς ἄσοφοι ἀλλ ὡς σοφοί [mē hōs asophoi all’ hōs sophoi]* — **FIRST CONTRAST** — *The adjectives ‘fool, unwise’ and ‘wise’ appear for the first time in Ephesians (this is the only place in the NT that the Greek word for ‘fool, unwise’ is used).* “Verse 15b contains the first of the three contrasts of vv. 15-18, in this case relating to wisdom.... Two kinds of behaviour (‘the two ways’) are possible, expressed here as wise and unwise (cf 1 Cor 1.18-3.23); the pre-Christian life of readers lacked wisdom; its presence should characterise them now.... *Wisdom is a wide term needing definition from its context; here it is not primarily insight into God’s workings (1.9, 17; 3.10) but the practical wisdom which, depending on such insight, relates to conduct;* it is to this aspect of wisdom that a large part of the Jewish Wisdom literature is devoted. Whereas Jewish thought connected it with a life lived in accordance with Torah, Christian thought connects it to Christ who is the wisdom of God.” [Best, 503] “*The conduct of all believers should be characterized by wisdom. This is consistent with Paul’s prayer for his readers that God will impart wisdom to them through the Spirit (1:17). It is important, however, to distinguish culturally defined wisdom from God’s wisdom. Paul repudiates a wisdom that is ‘worldly’ (2 Cor 1:12) and ‘of this world’ (1 Cor 3:19). Such wisdom is ‘foolishness in God’ sight. God promises to ‘destroy the wisdom of the wise’ (1 Cor 1:19, citing Isa 29:14). It was precisely this kind of ‘wisdom’ that led the rulers of this world to crucify the Lord (1 Cor 2:6-8). By contrast, there is a wisdom from God that guides his people to order their lives and conduct themselves in ways that please him.*” [Arnold, 345f] “*The word fool commonly refers to a person who acts unintelligently and irresponsibly. But Scripture defines a fool as a person who says ‘in his heart, “There is no God”’ and who is morally corrupt, doing ‘abominable deeds’ (Ps. 14:1). The fool is the person who lives apart from God — either as a theological or practical atheist or as both, denying God by his actions as well as his words. The supreme fool is the person who has anti-God thinking and living patterns.... Wisdom begins with fear of the Lord (Prov. 1:7) and continues by acknowledging His truth and ways. ‘Righteous men, wise men, and their deeds are in the hand of God’ (Eccles. 9:1). The way to wisdom and the way to life is the way of God. The only power that can overcome a man’s foolishness and turn him to wisdom is salvation, turning to God through Jesus Christ. Turning from foolishness to wisdom is turning from self to God. And it is God’s own Word that is ‘able to give [us] the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus’ (2 Tim. 3:15).*” [MacArthur, 215, 217] “The new exhortation is not simply ‘walk/live as wise people,’ but its importance and urgency are reinforced by the use of both ‘watch,’ and ‘carefully.’ ... The contrast between the walk of wise people and that of unwise people has its roots, of course, in the wisdom tradition with its contrast of two ways and of the wise person and the fool (cf., for example, Prov 4:10-14; 9; 10:8, 14). In the Qumran literature, those who have been contrasted as the sons of light and the sons of darkness in 1QS 3.19-25 are then said to walk in wisdom on the one hand and walk in foolishness on the other in 1QS 4.24. *To live as a wise person is not just to*

have knowledge but to have skill in living, to have the sort of perception that authenticates itself in practice. This requires ethical insight into God's will. Whereas for the Jewish wisdom tradition such wise living was living in accordance with Torah, now in Ephesians it is a living informed by an understanding of the will of the Lord (cf. v 17), meaning the will of Christ, and this is something no longer identical with Torah." [Lincoln, 341] "Since they are God's children, believers are to walk carefully, not as ones who walk without true insight into God's plan for their lives; not unwisely, as characterized by the Gentile world (Eph 4:17-19), but in a new lifestyle in conformity to God's wise plan." [Hoehner, 692]