

FREEDOM OF CHOICE

Let love be the basis for your motivation:

Ephesians 5: **The Church** is likened to a **Bride**. Her duties are: To be separated: v 1-13, Serving: v16 "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil". Searching: v17 "*Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is*". v18: To be Spirit-filled, "not drunk", v19,20: To be singing. v21 Having mutual respect, The **Bridegroom**: His devotion is to the church, illustrated through marriage, which is instituted by God between man and woman. Marriage was chosen to demonstrate Christ's love for the church. Christ's devotion to His church was displayed on the cross (John 13:1).

(Eph 5:26, 27) "*That He may sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having a spot, (imperfections from without), or wrinkle (imperfections from within), caused by the flesh or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.*" We are the Church.

Ephesians 5:18-21, 6:24 KJV

18. *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess;(that cheapens your life) MSG; but be filled with the Spirit.*

- To be filled with the Spirit is to be under the control, inspiration and direction of the Holy Spirit. To live a life of drunkenness, by contrast means to be the control of intoxicating beverages.
- Paul's advice is to seek comfort in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, rather than in strong drink.
- Biblical Warnings against drunkenness: **Proverbs 20:1, 23:20,21, 29-35**
- Drunkenness: Alters your mind, destroys lives, families and relationships.
- **Romans 8:5** "*Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires*" : Greedy, never satisfied.
- **1 Timothy 6:10** "*For the love of money is the root of all evil.*" **1 Corinthians 15:33** "*Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.*"

The Betrayal

Matthew 26:14-16 KJV *Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, v15 and said unto them, What will you give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for (counted out for him) thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from that time he sought (watched for) opportunity to betray Jesus.*

Why? Judas allowed the leaven (yeast) in his life, grow until it produced malice and wickedness: **1 Corinthians 5:8** "*For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth*".

Judas: (Jn 12) He was the treasurer for the group, (Jn 6:70, 71) a thief, Mt 26:15,16 Given over to Satan. He allowed Satan access to use him. Mt 27: Judas suffered great remorse and hanged himself. He committed suicide instead of seeking forgiveness. Jn 17:12 Judas is called the son of perdition because he was never saved.

Ephesians 4:26-27 NIV ``*In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry. 27 and do not give the devil a foothold (opportunity).*

Psalms 10:4 NIV *In his pride the wicked man does not seek Him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.*

Ephesians 5:19. *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*

- 1 Chronicles 28:9 NIV "*And you my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.*"

Spiritual Worship and Adoration

Matthew 26:6-8 KJV "*Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, there came unto him a woman (Mary) having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, (spikenard) and poured it on his head, as He sat at meat. But when his disciples (Judas) saw it, they had indignation, saying, *To what purpose is this waste?**

- Mary often sat at Jesus' feet and listened. Our last glimpse of Mary: sitting at the feet of our Lord, washing his feet with perfume and wiping them with her hair. Jesus said her act of worship would be told everywhere, along with the Gospel, as an example of costly service. She prepared Jesus' body for burial.
- John 12:6 let's know that Judas was not concerned about the needy. He was consumed with greed and wanted the perfume sold so that he could benefit from it.

Ephesians 5:20 *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- Paul now shifts to the language of prayer: giving thanks. As spiritually minded believers, we should never lose sight of our *dependence* on God. A grateful heart remembers what God has done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. A worship song addressed to God, is a prayer.

Ephesians 5:21 *Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.*

- This verse is a bridge between Paul's discussion of the spiritual life in the context of worship and his counsel on how to put the spiritual life into practice on the family level. The common factor is submission, **a voluntary yielding of control**. Recognition of God's power and submission to His authority are at the core when we worship. Paul is

calling for mutual submission in the body of Christ, a Spirit of loving others more than oneself. **Eph 4:3 NIV** "*Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*"

Ephesians 6: The Church is likened to a soldier: v13 "*Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand.* v14 *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness ;*

Ephesians 6:24 KJV "*Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.*"

- Apart from God we can do nothing. Together with the Holy Spirit, we can build unity in the body of Christ through willing submission to Christ's leadership and humble service to one another.
- "I Choose to Worship"