

Bay City Wesleyan Church
April 22, 2018

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Sunday Morning 04-22-2018

Jesus promised, "You will bear fruit, lots of fruit, lasting fruit." John 15:5

Let's pray at 1:55 PM daily to see Jesus producing fruit in and through us.

<http://bible.com/events/399634>

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[Image]

Claiming the promise in 2018

<https://imageproxy-cdn.youversionapi.com/152x152/https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/mushroom-event-images-prod/5722009-1514675144006.jpg>

The Promise:

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

[Image]

There's one attitude that can vaccinate your marriage against most relationship diseases.

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We lean toward worshiping the idol of power and control. How often do we act as if our lives only have meaning or that we only have worth if we have power and influence over others?

Inside of every adult, there's a kid who resents being told what to do. There are two impulses in us. One drives us to manage and control others. The other defies and denies those who try to control us. These two impulses warp our ideas about all our relationships, particularly marriage.

Ephesians 3:16-19 NET

I pray that according to the wealth of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner person, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, so that, because you have been rooted and grounded in love, you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and thus to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

<https://bible.com/bible/107/eph.3.16-19.NET>

Ephesians 4:7-10 NET

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he captured captives; he gave gifts to men." Now what is the meaning of "he ascended," except that he also descended to the lower regions, namely, the earth? He, the very one who descended, is also the one who ascended above all the heavens, in order to fill all things.

<https://bible.com/bible/107/eph.4.7-10.NET>

Ephesians 5:18-33 NET

And do not get drunk with wine, which is debauchery, but be filled by the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for each other in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, 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. But as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her to sanctify her by cleansing her with the washing of the water by the word, 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. In the same way husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 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, for we are members of his body. 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. This mystery is great — but I am actually speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless, each one of you must also love his own wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

<https://bible.com/bible/107/eph.5.18-33.NET>

Sermon in a Sentence:

Wives, the fullness of God in your lives can be measured by your respect for your husband.

What prevents us from submitting to each other?

We're afraid of being hurt because people have used, controlled, and abused in the past. This call to submit to each other sounds good but we wait for other people to take the first step. We want them to submit to us as a condition for our love and respect.

Genesis 3:16 NET

To the woman he said, —I will greatly increase your labor pains; with pain you will give birth to children. You will want to control your husband, but he will dominate you.—

<https://bible.com/bible/107/gen.3.16.NET>

Philippians 2:5-13 NIV

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now

much more in my absence"continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/php.2.5-13.NIV>

Left to ourselves we cannot follow Jesus's example of loving and serving. But we are not left to ourselves. Jesus can fill us with the fullness of God's infinite love by the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit.

Be filled by the Spirit and you can submit to each other.

FIRST STEPS for wives:

- * Know that submission and respect are NOT "enduring abuse.
- * Know that submission and respect are NOT "silence or manipulation
- * Know that submission and respect are NOT "remembering and reminding him of all the times he let you down
- * Start asking how you can serve your husband

FIRST STEPS for everyone:

- * Train your mind to view submission in terms of love and respect instead of power and control.
- * Read John 13-21 at least twice this week