

Spirit-filled Wives

Ephesians 5:22-33

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Introduction

For the last several weeks,

- we have been looking at how the filling of the Spirit affects our lives.
 - After Jesus finished His work on the cross and ascended into heaven,
 - He poured the Holy Spirit on His church in order that the church might be filled the Spirit.
 - This is a chief component of what makes the New Covenant new...
 - there is this abundance of the Spirit given to the church.
 - The Spirit was not given in this way until Jesus had completed His saving work on the cross...
 - The Spirit was given at this time to open our eyes and to awaken our dead hearts to enable us to see and to appreciate what Christ had done!
 - To understand how much we need salvation and what marvellous lengths the Lord has gone to in order to provide for that salvation...
 - that God the Son has come from heaven and actually taken upon Himself the full penalty of our sins...
 - that He, who was without sin, has born the wrath and curse of God, suffering the pains of Hell for us.
 - The Spirit comes to everyone who believes to show them these things...
 - They are awakened to see their sin and to hear the call of the Lord Jesus and to come to Him...
 - And the more you are filled with the Spirit, the more you are able to see these things,
 - You are able to see Christ and His love and His justice and His grace...
 - And you more and more want to follow Him and to be shaped by His will, being renewed by His word.

After issuing the command for us to be filled with the Holy Spirit...

- the Apostle explains some ways the Holy Spirit will affect us...
 - **In verse 19**, He says that we will sing praises to God from the heart...

- He refers to the songs that the Lord has given us in our Bible which were called Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs... we call them the Psalms...
 - He is not talking about the songs we make up, but the songs that God has given us in His Word...
 - And He says that when filled with the Spirit, our hearts will be the instrument that will accompany our singing of these songs...
 - In other words, we will sing the praises of God with sincerity.
- **In verse 20**, He explains that we will be filled with gratitude to God...
 - It is no wonder!
 - If the filling of the Spirit causes us to gain a fuller appreciation of the lengths to which Christ has gone to save us,
 - there will be at the root of your life a foundation of gratitude to the Lord...
 - Everything you do will be rooted in gratitude to Him rather than in bitterness, complaining, and snarliness.
- **Then in verse 21**, Paul shows a third way that the filling of the Spirit will affect our lives...
 - namely, that we will submit to one another in the fear of the Lord...
 - The word submit means “to line up under” each other...
 - The idea is that when we are filled with the Spirit,
 - those who are called to lead will lead,
 - and those are called to come under their leadership will follow...
 - When the Spirit fills a household,
 - He will establish a harmony in that home that will be like the harmony we have with Jesus Christ when we have been truly reconciled to Him.
 - Husbands will love their wives and take pains for them in the same way that Christ loves the church and gave himself for her...
 - And parents will do the same for their children, and even masters for their servants...
 - And Spirit-filled wives and children and servants will respond to those who lead them with the same devotion with which the church responds to Christ.
 - Paul goes on to address each of these relationships individually all the way into the middle of chapter 6.

Today, as we move along in our series,

- We will continue to look at what he says about the Spirit-filled person in marriage...
 - And in particular today, on the Spirit-filled wife.
- But in looking at this topic, I don't want all the rest of you to zone out...
 - Yes, wives should pay particular attention, but some of you will some day become wives—and you need to pay careful attention for that reason...
 - And not only that, but if you are Christian, then you the bride of Christ.
 - Therefore, you have something to learn about the way to treat your husband.
 - And if you are husband, you are responsible for your wife (we will see more about that next week).
 - Therefore it is important for you to understand what God has called her to be and to do so that you can help her to understand and to do God's will...
 - And if you are not a believer at all,
 - there is something here for you too...
 - You can look and understand the beautiful relationship that Christians have with the Lord Jesus Christ...
 - A relationship in which He loves us so well and so works change in us that we become entirely devoted to Him.
 - It is the most beautiful relationship ever and it truly lasts forever!

TRANS> Okay then, let me get on with it...

I. Wives, according to Ephesians 5, you are given the unspeakable privilege of living out the beauty of the church's submission to Christ in your marriage.

- You really need to think of your marriage in this way!
 - A. Too often, Christian woman look at the call to submit to their husband as something they have to bear—
 - something distasteful that you have to go along with if you are going to be faithful...
 - something demeaning and even de-humanising.
 - 1. And of course with this kind of attitude about it,
 - It is no wonder that there are many Christian women who look for all sorts of ways to get around the clear call that is presented here...
 - There is an effort to adjust what the apostle is saying here.

2. But really, it is pretty hard to get around it...

- I mean how many times does he have to say it to make it understood?
 - Eph 5:22: Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
 - Eph 5:24: just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.
 - Eph 5:33: 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.
- His main point is that you, when filled with the Spirit, will submit to your husbands.

TRANS> You see, when you are filled with the Spirit, submitting to your husband is not something you even want to get around—not at all...

- The problem is, a lot of believers (and therefore a lot of wives) are not filled with the Spirit...
 - The Spirit indwells every believer and once He is there, He remains there forever,
 - but the Bible makes it clear that not every believer is filled with the Spirit.
 - That is why Paul commands us to be filled in Eph 5:18...
- And as I have already told you when we looked at the filling of the Spirit in previous sermons,
 - When the Spirit fills you, you see Christ and you understand more fully what He has done for us...
- And so, when it comes to being a spirit-filled wife...

B. You need to develop a whole new mindset about submission by looking at Christ.

- Paul keeps saying you are to submit to your husbands as the Church submits to Christ...
 - Let me explain how this new attitude about submission develops when you look at Christ and the relationship you have with him...

1. We live in a world of broken relationships...

- a. And the root of all of our broken relationships is our broken relationship with God.
 - 1) You know about this—
 - Adam and Eve rebelled against God...
 - To put it in the language of Ephesians,
 - they did not want to submit to God.
 - They did not want to line up under Him.

- Satan, who had also rebelled, tempted them...
 - He said, “Why should God be the one to decide what is good and evil?”
 - “You are perfectly able to do that for yourself.”
 - “You will be much better off if you decide what is best for you.”
 - “Don’t listen to God and what He wants, listen to yourself!”
 - “That is the way to live!”
 - “Submission is bad, independence is good.”

TRANS> Essentially, Satan was encouraging them to live independently of God—to no longer submit to God’s will.

2) And as you know, Adam and Eve listened to Satan...

- They rebelled.
 - They broke away into autonomous independence.
- And as Adam was appointed to represent all the rest of us,
 - His rebellion was the rebellion of us all...
 - We are all born of Adam and Eve, and we are all born with this rebellion and this attitude against submission.
 - That is where we all begin now as human beings.

b. And because we have this attitude about submission to God,

- it carries over into our relationships with each other...
 - And in particular it carries over into the relationship of marriage.

1) You see, God created women to submit to their husbands...

- a) He made them to be very relational beings who would find their joy in being loved by their husbands and in pleasing their husbands...
 - shall I even say it in the plainest way possible?
 - In living to please their husbands!
- b) That, my brothers and sisters, is the way of true feminine beauty.
 - And it is a beautiful thing whenever it is seen!
 - To see someone who is really and truly devoted to another person—

- eagerly, joyfully, cheerfully, giving herself to please him!
- 2) But because submission is despised by the human race, fallen and broken away from God as it is...
 - wives perpetually struggle with submitting to their husbands...
 - and their difficulty is exacerbated by the fact that their husbands do not love them as they should...
 - That instead of giving themselves sacrificially for their wives and being responsible to see that they are blessed so far as it is in their power,
 - Husbands are selfish...
 - They are either demanding and overbearing, or they are slack—shirkers.
 - 3) The result is that marriages are fraught with all sorts of problems and difficulties...
 - all sorts of unhappiness...
 - And in this way they are true pictures of our broken relationship with God.
 - But Christian marriage is supposed to be something very different!
 - It is supposed to be a picture of our restored relationship with God!
2. This is where the Spirit-filled woman has an opportunity to be a very different kind of wife...
 - a. The Spirit who fills her shows her how Christ has repaired her broken relationship with God...
 - How He came and sought her out and took her to be His bride...
 - And how He shed His blood to redeem her that she might have the forgiveness of sin!
 - 1) The Church, inasmuch as we are filled with the Spirit, is enamoured with the love of God in Christ...
 - We are amazed that the very Son of God should love us so much that He should humble Himself and become obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross!
 - As the Spirit causes us to come to grasp the magnificence of what He has done—the wonder that He should do this for us...

- as the Spirit renews us so that we understand and appreciate it more and more...
 - We come to Christ with eagerness to give ourselves wholly to Him because we know that He has loved us so well.
- 2) He changes us completely...
- from rebels...
 - to persons who are totally consumed with pleasing Him.
 - We are those who say with Paul, "For me to live is Christ!"
 - Our lives are all about Him.
- 3) The more we are filled with the Spirit, the more this is so!
- The Church is the bride of Christ,
 - And He is working in her that feminine beauty of a bride that is totally devoted to her husband...
 - that lives to please Him in every way...
- b. One way to say this is that the Bride of Christ has become one with her Lord...
- 1) On the part of Christ, He makes us one by taking us as His bride and doing everything for our salvation...
- He loves us with this amazing love and does for us what needs to be done that we might live with Him in His Father's house...
 - That is His part...
- 2) But she, on her part, has become one with Him by submission...
- She (I'm talking about the church) follows Him as her Lord...
 - She gives up her will into His so that instead of having two wills, the church has only one will.
 - Instead of division, there is unity—there is harmony...
 - Not a unity that destroys personality—not at all!
 - But rather a unity that brings out the beauty of the bride as she lives under the security and direction of Jesus her Lord.
 - Her submission is beautiful!
 - She does not lose her life by submitting, but finds it!
 - He leads her into the full glory of His house!
 - Into perfect communion forever and ever.

- c. The Spirit-filled woman understands all this...
- 1) She understands the beauty of submission,
 - of the church's devotion to her Lord's happiness.
 - She is a different person—
 - A person who has come to know the beauty of unity that comes through submission.
 - A person who delights in serving her Lord...
 - This is true of every Spirit-filled person...
 - It is true of every Spirit-filled wife.
 - 2) And it is with this totally different attitude about submission that the Spirit-filled woman comes to her marriage.
 - She realises that her beauty, as a wife, is most clearly seen in her devotedness to her husband...
 - In her submission to him—her obedience to him—her respect that she shows toward him...
 - And she realises that the Lord has called her to display and live out the glorious beauty of submission in her marriage.
 - She realises that she has the unspeakable privilege of, at least on her part,
 - showing the beauty of submission by living it out in her marriage!
 - Even if her husband is not filled with the Spirit so that he is a picture of Christ,
 - the Spirit-filled woman is still able to show the beauty of submission on her part.
 - In a certain way,
 - the depth and beauty of that submission shines forth all the more gloriously when her husband does not do what God calls him to do in the marriage...
 - Even if he will not give himself in self-sacrificial love for her,
 - she will still do what she can on her part to make them one...

- she will submit to him and make it her aim to please him in every way as far as it is in accordance with God's law.
- She will consider it her privilege to do so.

TRANS> Christian wife, this is the attitude you will have about submission when you are filled with the Spirit...

- When the Spirit is showing you the glory of Jesus Christ and the glory of submission to Him, you will,
 - as a wife, joyfully bring that submission into your marriage.

II. Now let me show you some of the particular ways you can submit to your husband...

A. First, that you are to conform your life to your husband's...

1. Perhaps I can illustrate this with work...

- I used to work for two furniture makers at the same time...
 - One of these built very high quality pieces—that was his business.
 - He even sanded all the saw marks out of the bevel edges on the bottom of the drawers.
 - The other built a cheaper product that had to be put out more quickly.
- When I worked for these two woodworkers,
 - I had to conform to what they wanted...
 - If you were to ask me,
 - I thought it was a little extreme to sand the bevel edges on the bottom of the drawers...
 - But at the same time, I preferred to do higher quality work.
 - But it really didn't matter what I thought because I was not the head of either shop...
 - I could let them know my preferences and the one who built cheaper furniture would often give me the higher end jobs when he got them,
 - but as I was working for them, I had to relinquish my preferences to do what they wanted me to do.
 - It was my privilege to submit to them, it was not my privilege to run the business...

- That meant that they got the headaches and the pressure and I got a lot of the day to day work.
 - It was my place to do all I could to please them—and to do my work the way they wanted it to be done.
2. Now wives, so it is with you in your home.
- You are not the head of your home, but your husband is.
 - You are to adjust the way you do things to please your husband.
 - And men are going to be different...
 - You may have a husband who puts a high value on keeping a tidy house, but is perfectly content with Kraft dinner every night...
 - If your preference would be to have gourmet meals every day,
 - but it doesn't really bother you to have a little dust and few horizontal surfaces that are piled with junk,
 - you need to readjust your priorities to please your husband.
 - I do not say that before God it is not his responsibility to know what you desire and to adjust to that...
 - nor do I say that if you give him a few gourmet meals, he might begin to change the way he looks at things...
 - but he is responsible as the head of the home and it is for you to be his helper, not his manager.
 - To use another illustration,
 - There may be one man that very much wants his children to be scholars—he wants to equip them to be great thinkers who will be able to influence the world in that way...
 - There may be another man who wants his children to care for the needs of others.
 - To him, education is not as important...
 - Who is to say which is better?
 - Not me! I am not the head of his home, I am his pastor...
 - Not you! You are not the head of his home, you are his wife...
 - It is his responsibility to decide where the emphasis is to lie, and it is for you to come alongside of him.
 - This way, instead of having two wills pulling in two different directions,

- you have one head and one helper who is devoted to her head.
- A family with two heads is a monster.

TRANS> These are rather simplistic illustrations, and there is more involved—

- a husband should consult with his wife as she is his helper,
 - he should be mindful of her gifts and her inclinations,
 - but in the end, he has to decide how the home is to be shaped and he must answer to God for it,
 - and you, as a wife must answer to God for how well you have submitted to your husband.
3. Your place (and your beauty) as a wife is seen in conforming yourself to what pleases your husband...
- a. As it says in 1 Cor 7, the married woman's concern is how she may please her husband.
 - That is her calling.
 - It does not mean that she is not to be concerned about pleasing the Lord,
 - but it means that her way of pleasing the Lord is to seek to please her husband inasmuch as she can do this lawfully.
 - b. The beautiful language of Ruth in expressing Ruth's submission to her mother in law is a pattern for every wife to follow...
 - assuming of course, that she has married in the Lord...
 - Naomi had told Ruth to return to her own people...
 - But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. (Ruth 1:16)

TRANS> That is what it means to conform your life to that of your husband...

- Now let me show you a second particular way you will submit to your husband if you are filled with the Spirit.
- B. Secondly, you will recognise your husband's place as the head of your home, and relinquish responsibility to him.
- This is closely related to what we were just looking at, but fills out the idea a little more...

1. It is often the case that a husband will make an important decision (say purchasing a house), and his wife, for various reasons, will begin to second guess the decision.
 - a. Sometimes, it will be because of her insecurity...
 - She would do the same thing if she had been solely responsible to make the decision...
 - She would second guess her own decision if she were by herself.
 - It is not so much that she disagrees with him, but that she is unsure.
 - She challenges, in part, to see if he is secure with it (so she can be more secure), and in part because she wants to work it through.
 - b. At other times, she will question his decision because she is *convinced* that the decision is unwise—
 - not that it is sinful, but that the house is not suitable or that it is in a bad location...
 - or perhaps that it is bit more than they can really afford.
 - c. And then there will be those other times when she honestly believes the decision to be sinful—
 - Perhaps it is...
 - Maybe her husband is buying a house in a place where there will be no access to a biblical church...

2. What should you do as a wife do in each of these situations?
 - Let's look at each...
 - a. First, what if it is a problem of insecurity?
 - 1) The first thing you need to do is realise that you are not responsible for the decision—your husband is.
 - And on top of that, that the Lord is sovereign over all this, and that if the decision is one that brings hardship,
 - that is hardship the Lord has appointed for you.
 - The Lord has not called you to overrule your husband or to nag him,
 - but to submit to him.
 - And if you do,
 - the Lord will give you the grace you need to deal with a bad decision on your husband's part.

- 2) But if your relationship with your husband is good, you should also confess your insecurity to him...
 - Rather than bombarding him with all your objections,
 - you should assure him first of all that you are trusting him to make the decision,
 - (you may not actually have to say that if that is already understood between you, but you get the idea...)
 - and then you need to confess to him that you are insecure about it and ask him to help you in your weakness...
 - With this kind of attitude, he is much more likely to hear your concerns, and he may even change his mind after he hears them.
 - You are his helper, and you may raise things that he never even thought about.
 - Or, perhaps he will be able to give you assurance by answering your concerns.
 - I might note here to husbands that a wise husband will always consult much with his wife about such matters...
 - both that he may have the advantage of her insight and wisdom which will often be superior to his own...
 - and that he may help her to be more secure in the decision.

TRANS> What about the second scenario...

- b. What if you, as a wife, are convinced that the decision of your husband is unwise?
 - What should you do then?
 - Well, you should proceed along similar lines...
- 1) First, remember that God has given him the responsibility to make the decision and the God has called you to submit...
 - Pray that you will be able to trust the matter into God's hands and be at peace about it,
 - knowing that God is sovereign and will give you grace to bear whatever hardships may arise.
- 2) And then, if your relationship with your husband is good, you can talk to him about it...
 - tell him your concerns and ask him to consider what you have to say.

- If he is convinced, then leave it with the Lord and show the beauty of a meek and quiet spirit that trusts in God...
- Shall the Lord, who has given His Son to die for you, bring harm to you if you submit to your husband?

TRANS> But now, what about third situation...

- c. What if you believe the decision to be sinful? What should you do then?
 - 1) First, you need to tell your husband so—you need to try to persuade him of it.
 - You need to tell him before you tell others...
 - If he hears you, you have gained your brother!
 - 2) But if not, it is for you to follow the principles given in Matthew 18.
 - Take someone with you to talk your husband—
 - Tell you husband that you want to talk about this with one of the elders or with the pastor.
 - Then, if they concur that your husband is sinning against God,
 - it will be their responsibility join you and try to persuade him and to call him to repentance.
 - If he still won't hear, then the whole session will have to speak to him.

TRANS> But this is an exception...

- ordinarily, it is your place to relinquish the responsibility to him—let him have it!
 - Concentrate on being beautiful as a submissive wife who is trusting the Lord.
- Now let me move on to a third particular way a Spirit-filled wife will submit to her husband...

C. Thirdly, a Spirit-filled wife will be actively submissive.

1. By that I mean that when your husband has **not** told you what he wants to do,
 - you will go to him to ask him what he wants...
- a. Suppose you are the book keeper in the home and your husband just went out and bought himself a big boy toy...
 - An ATV that you really couldn't afford
 - or a plasma TV with the latest sound system...

- And you go to pay the bills and you realise that you don't have enough in the account to cover everything...
 - What should you do?
 - Go and give your husband a piece of your mind?
 - Go and tell him how stupid he is and how inconsiderate of his household and all that?
 - No, you can let the pastor or the elders do that...
 - You go to him meekly and explain to him that you don't have enough money to pay all the bills,
 - and ask him what he wants you to do.
 - You can even tell him that you want to please him in this matter...
 - that will help to diffuse the situation.
 - In this way, you are simply giving him the responsibility that belongs to him, and you are doing it in a way that honours him.
 - That's active submission.
- b. Or suppose that the children are growing up and it is time for them to start school—and you are wondering if you should home school or send them to a Christian school, or what...
- Well, go to your husband and ask him what he wants to do.
 - That is active submission
2. Similarly, suppose that your husband is really upset—and he is taking it out on you—he is blaming you unjustly...
- a. Well, you can get into a big fight, of course, and if it is word battle, you may even be able to best him—
- wives are pretty good with words...
 - but if he is bested by your arguments, you may end up with him using his strength—strong words or even physical aggression!
 - But besides that, quarrelling is not what God calls you to do as a wife!
- b. But if you are filled with the Spirit, you will instead use active submission...
- You will say,
 - “My dear husband, it is my great desire in life to please you, and I can see that I have not pleased you...

- Please do not hold this against me... can you find it in your heart to still love me?
- With God's help, I will do better.
- Please show me what you want me to do next time.”

- Now of course I don't mean that you have to use all the cheesy words...
 - but you get the idea—
 - I know that some of you feel like your husband will just take advantage of you if you do that...
 - perhaps he will...
 - but he will have to answer to God for it if he does, and you, on your part, will have nothing to answer to God for...
 - Furthermore,
 - If you really do respond to your husband like that,
 - it is more likely that he will feel so badly about the way he has treated you that he will want to give himself up to four days of fasting in the stocks with a thirty-nine lashes.

TRANS> And now let me move on to a fourth way that you will submit to your husband as a Spirit-filled wife...

D. You will present to him an open and teachable spirit...

1. This does not mean that you will be gullible, but it means that you will be eager to learn all you can from him and to embrace all you can.
 - I have seen insubordinate wives who take pride in holding to different doctrines than their husbands...
 - It is not so much their conscience as it is their pride that keeps them holding to their views...
 - Such women are unwilling to honestly listen and to try to understand what their husband is saying.
 - There is resistance instead of a teachable spirit.

2. For example,
 - suppose the issue has to do with when to leave a church...
 - A few years ago, I counselled couple who were in a church that was starting to drift...
 - It was not quite apostate, but it was headed in that direction...

- The husband was convinced that the family needed to stay in the church and do all they could to turn things around.
 - His wife was of the opposite mind.
- When I spoke to them, I could perfectly understand some of the husband's arguments, and had no reason to doubt his sincerity...
 - but it was clear that his wife had not even really bothered to understand what he was saying...
 - I am sure you have had that kind of discussion with people before...
 - You can tell that you might as well be speaking to a post...
 - They are not even trying to understand your position.
- After speaking to them, I admonished this man's wife to submit to her husband.
 - It was one of those situations where, if the husband had been on the other side of the issue, I would have had the same counsel for his wife.
 - It was not the issue so much as it was her attitude.
 - She needs to be open to understand and embrace his reasons and even to defend what the family is doing...
 - even if she believes it would be better to do something else.
 - She should at least be able to present what her husband has chosen to do as a reasonable decision.
3. Wives, you need to understand that God has appointed your husband to be your teacher...
- Yes, you will have other teachers that will help you, but he is in particular *your* teacher...
 - the one that God has appointed for you.
 - That means that you should be especially opened to receive his correction as well as his instruction...
 - Again, I am not telling you to turn off your mind,
 - I am really saying the opposite...
 - Rather than being stubborn, endeavour to at least fully understand his instruction...
 - If you will do that, you may even come to discover that you actually agree with him!
 - But who knows,

- when he recognises that you really do understand his position and still hold to a different view,
- it may be that you will be able to convince him.

TRANS> And now for a fifth characteristic of wifely submission,

E. As a Spirit-filled wife, you should respect your husband.

1. The word **respect** is used in verse 33 to translate the word *fobew* (*fob-eh'-o*) in verse 33, where it says,

- Eph 5:33: let the wife see that she respects *fobew* her husband.

a. This is obviously a word that means *fear* from which we get the word *phobia*.

- The idea of fearing a person is that you do not want to do anything to displease him.
 - I have already spoken about how the Lord has so captivated our hearts by saving us, and has so transformed us, that we earnestly desire to please Him.
- We fear Him instead of other gods which are idols, or instead of fearing men...
 - Whenever it comes down to a choice, we will sooner displease anyone than the Lord.
 - When we are filled with the Spirit, we are convinced that nothing else matters but pleasing the Lord.
 - But if you are married to a husband,
 - then one aspect of pleasing the Lord is to fear your husband...
 - The Lord calls you to fear your husband even as you fear Christ.

b. That means that whenever your friends or your mother or whoever it may be is displeased with you for doing what pleases your husband,

- you need to need to fear your husband rather than your friends or your mother...
 - even if they are less kind than your husband...
 - Let them be angry with you if they insist, the Lord has told you to see to it that you fear your husband.

2. Let me add further that this fear, this respect, this honour for your husband should be visible.

- If it is not visible, the truth is, it is not there...

- It is very popular for people to say that love someone in their heart when there is no tangible evidence of that love...
 - It is also very popular for people to say that they respect someone when there is no display of that respect.
 - What are some of the ways it will be seen?
- a. It will be seen in the way you speak to your husband...
 - 1) Instead of belittling him, you will honour him...
 - I will grant you that husbands often act more like little boys than men...
 - I cannot tell you that you have to pretend it is not so...
 - But I can say that this does not give you license to speak to your husband like a child.
 - This is too often the case, and it should not be.
 - 2) Likewise, instead of complaining, you will express gratitude to him...
 - Instead of focusing on all the things that he hasn't done, you will thank him for all the things he has done...
 - Instead of complaining about the tightness of your budget, you will thank him for all the things that he has provided for the household...
 - Instead of picking at him about the neglect of family worship, you will thank him for taking you to church.

TRANS> Not only will respect be shown in the way you speak to your husband...

- b. It will be seen in the way you speak about your husband...
 - 1) Some of you have been involved in women's Bible studies where the main topic was problem husbands...
 - Everyone shares by telling all the things they struggle with with their husbands.
 - And then they act really spiritual and pray for each other and feel like they are so close.
 - 2) Think about how this correlates with your relationship to the Lord...
 - a) Do you honour the Lord by getting together with your friends to complain about Him and to speak of all the things that displease you about Him?
 - b) Well, you are supposed to treat your husbands as you treat Christ...
 - But I will tell you something...

- If your conversation is full of nasty little digs and comments about your husbands,
 - I can assure you that you in fact do the same with the Lord!
- You will say,
 - “But the Lord is perfect—he has no faults.”
- Yes, that’s true, but I can assure you that you complain about the things He has given you to do—
 - And if you do that, you are complaining about Him and saying that He is unjust and even cruel in the way he treats you.
 - You may not say those words, but that is the implication.
- I know that you do this, because one of the most important things He has given you to do is submit to your husband...
 - and there you are complaining about the husband God had given you and showing disrespect to him.

c. But most of all, it will be seen in your desire to please him above all others.

Conclusion: And that brings us right back to where we started...

- The Spirit-filled woman is the woman who, like every Spirit-filled Christian, desires nothing else but to please the Lord...
 - We have come to know how wise He is and how gracious He is and He has changed our attitude by the working of His Spirit...
 - with the result is that we give ourselves to pleasing Him...
 - We blend our lives into His life.
 - And we know that our beauty as Christ’s bride is seen in our devotion to Him and our joyful submission to Him...
 - In being a bride that is consumed with pleasing our Lord...
- And the Spirit-filled wife realises that the Lord has given her the privilege to exhibit that same beauty of submission and devotion and respect to her husband.
 - She is able to display to the world a thing that is quite alien to them—quite unknown...
 - a heart that is devoted to another person
 - a heart that has been transformed by the grace of God into something beautiful in place of the selfish, stubborn, rebellious heart she once had.