

Without Spot or Wrinkle

The Perfect Church

March 7, 2004

Ephesians 5:25-27 – Uses the church as an example to teach husbands how to love their wives

- Christ sacrificed everything for the church
- So he could sanctify (make holy) and wash it with water and the word (clean it)
- So he could present it to himself as a glorious (honorable) church without a spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but holy and without blemish.
- Spot – to stain or soil; blemish

Matthew 5:48 – Be Perfect

- Jesus was teaching how our life should be different than the sinners
- We are called to do more than is asked of us; love more than just those that love us even our enemies; show honor not just to the brethren
- That's no more than what the heathens do!
- But be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect

I Peter 1:15 - Be Holy

- Don't live like you did before you knew Christ
- Gird up the loins of your mind; be sober
- But as he which hath called you is holy so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written Be ye holy for I am holy.

We think of our condition – how can we be all these things God is telling us to be - **Perfect; Holy; without a sport or a wrinkle.** That's the church Christ is coming back looking for. How can we be in this condition when he returns. We live in this human flesh which has not been redeemed yet and we miss the mark sometimes. Woe is me!!!

I Peter 1:13 – Grace has been brought to us through the revelation of Jesus Christ

- We know that we have not been redeemed with corruptible things like silver and gold
- But with the precious blood of Christ; as a lamb without blemish and without spot!

John 15:1-6 - Jesus said abide in me

- Jesus said he was the true vine and the Father is the vine dresser
- He said we have been cleaned through his words
- Now abide (stay in a given place; dwell; continue; remain in relationship) in me and I in you; for without him we can do nothing. Live a repentant life. Stay in fellowship.

Our righteousness; justification; sanctification; and perfection – where did it all come from? Him! **Stay in Him and we will be found Holy and Clean when He comes for us.**