

The Mystery, The Great One

How the Body is preserved to becomes the Bride

- I.** The Mystery: The Great One (Eph. 5:25-28, 30, 32).
 1. The human husband who loves his wife, loves himself:
 - 1) Because of their relationship to one-to-another (Eph. 5:21-23, 25, 28).
 - 2) This marital bond pictures Christ's relationship to the Church (Eph. 5:23).
 2. The saints in the Church are members of the Body of which Christ is the Head (vv. 30, 23).
- II.** The Current Problems:
 1. The Body is incomplete except in the mind of Christ (Eph. 4:13).
 - 1) Much of the Church is in heaven (1 Thes. 4:14).
 - 2) Some of the Church is on earth (1 Cor. 15:51).
 - 3) Others of the Church are yet to be saved (Eph. 1:4).
 2. The members are 'practically', in practice, not always righteous.
 3. God is Holy and therefore must be separate from all unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18).
 4. Thus, the entire Body/Church must become cleansed before Christ can present the church to Himself (Eph. 5:26-27).
- III.** Christ is currently cleansing the Body members (Eph. 5:25-26).
 1. "Lavor" KJV, should be 'washing'.
 2. "Word" KJV, should be 'utterance'.
 3. This cleansing is by Christ's spoken word now; it is not the purification at the Rapture.
 4. When acting lawless, not heeding the restraints from God, Christians are kept saved and not condemned with the world by Christ (1 Cor. 11:30-32; Heb. 7:25).
 5. This does not make the Christian without spot, but it does mark out every believer individually, who will be included at the Rapture.
 6. This cleansing is unearned; it is provided by the word of Christ.
 7. This happens without the believer's knowledge; it is not experienced.
 8. However, understanding this cleansing gives knowledge of how and why child training is implemented by the Father.
 9. This is different than the cleansing of 1 John 1:9.