

Series on marriage and the family – sermon 8 - 30/05/10 (am)

# **Divine Washing**

Ephesians 5:26-27

*Theme: Jesus is progressively making the Church more holy in order to present her to Himself as perfect.*

## Positional or Progressive Sanctification?

There is debate over the verb *cleanse*  
in 5:26.

Does it refer to positional or  
progressive sanctification?

The context suggests progressive  
sanctification should not be ruled out,  
*cf.* 5:27.

# What Jesus is presently doing for the Church (5:26b)

He is sanctifying/cleansing her.

Twofold thrust:

- the Church has been cleansed from the **guilt of sin**;
- the Church is being cleansed from **power and pollution of sin**.

# The Means and the Agent

The means:

*Washing with water.*

Hinting at the Jewish bridal bath, *cf.*  
Ezekiel 16:9.

Not baptismal regeneration.

Reference to water baptism – sign of  
*spiritual* cleansing,  
*cf.* 1 Corinthians 6:11.

*Through the word.*

Not baptismal confession.

The Gospel, *cf.* 6:17; John 17:17.

The Church is being made pure by  
**spiritual cleansing.**

This is accomplished through  
**application of the word.**

The **Holy Spirit** is the Agent of  
sanctification, *cf.* Titus 3:5.

# What Jesus will do for the Church in the future (5:27)

He will present her to Himself morally and spiritually perfect – 5:27.

When?

At Jesus' return,  
*cf.* Revelation 19:6-9.

# Husbands and Wives

## Three principles from the above:

- 1. Husbands are to be men of God.*
- 2. Husbands are to be responsible for the spiritual development and maturing of their wives.* Ultimately a husband can't make his wife holy but he can:

- read the Scriptures with her and pray with and for her;
- clothe her with unconditional love;
- ensure she has time alone with God herself and encourage her in this;
- encourage her to meet with God's people and give opportunity!

3. *Husbands are to help wives develop their full potential under God.* The sanctifying love of a husband is an effective instrument in Jesus' hands.

Jesus loved the Church and continues  
to love her.

His concern is her good.

His goal is her maturing to full  
potential.

*Husband, is your love for your wife  
manifesting itself with the same  
desires and results?*