

Spirit-Filled Marriage and the Curse

David J. Roseland, 3 and 10 Feb 2019

What is missing from most Christian marriages is the same thing that is missing from most Christian experience: the filling of the Holy Spirit.

I. What is the Filling of the Holy Spirit?

Mistaken ideas about the Filling of the Spirit:

- Emotionalism—it's about my feelings primarily
- Mysticism—it's a source of special revelation apart from the apostolic scriptures
- Ecstasies—it's evidence is a lack of self-control

The truth about the Filling of the Holy Spirit today: The Holy Spirit exerts His influence on our character through His use of the Word of Christ, when it richly dwells within us. The effects of this ministry are evident in our thoughts, words, and actions.

Ephesians 5:18–19 (Byz)

¹⁸Καὶ μὴ μεθύσκεσθε οἴνω, ἐν ᾧ ἐστὶν ἀσωτία, ἀλλὰ πληροῦσθε ἐν πνεύματι,

¹⁹λαλοῦντες ἑαυτοῖς ψαλμοῖς καὶ ὕμνοις καὶ ᾠδαῖς πνευματικαῖς, ᾄδοντες καὶ ψάλλοντες ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ ὑμῶν τῷ κυρίῳ,

And do not become drunk with wine, in which is dissipation, but **be filled by the Spirit, speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord.**

Colossians 3:16 (Byz)

¹⁶Ὁ λόγος τοῦ χριστοῦ ἐνοικεῖτω ἐν ὑμῖν πλουσίως ἐν πάσῃ σοφίᾳ· διδάσκοντες καὶ νοθετοῦντες ἑαυτοὺς, ψαλμοῖς, καὶ ὕμνοις, καὶ ᾠδαῖς πνευματικαῖς, ἐν χάριτι ᾄδοντες ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ ὑμῶν τῷ κυρίῳ.

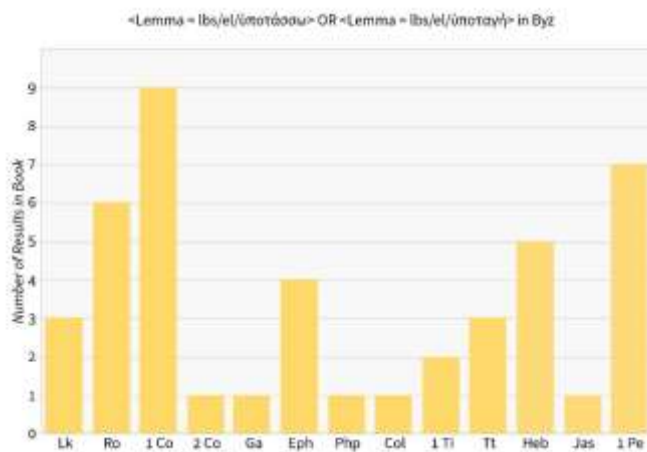
The word of Christ must dwell in you richly, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing yourselves with psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, in gratitude singing in your hearts to the Lord.

II. What does the Filling of the Holy Spirit have to do with marriage?

In a word: SUBMISSION

We submit to God and conduct ourselves in our assigned role for His sake and in His power.

Submission is a bad word today. But what does it really mean?



HUPOTASSO/HUPOTAGĒ, from HUPO (preposition meaning “under”) and TASSO (verb meaning to arrange, set, or place) = to order/set under.

“Submit to one another” in 5:21 has been seen throughout church history as the submission to authority of persons within God’s institutions. Only the recent

feminist movement has proposed “mutual submission” or the removal of headship from the man in marriage.

The design of Eph 5:21-33 will showcase what submission in marriage is supposed to look like. We have “to one another” and then wives to husbands in terms of authority and headship. Husbands “submit” not to their wives’ authority over them but to God’s mandate to love them. This means they self-sacrificially serve their wives’ needs. The wife is called to follow her husband’s lead, and the husband has to prioritize her needs. The same pattern continues in terms of authority—children to parents and slaves to masters (labor and management).

III. A Great Error: Mistaking Christian marriage in Ephesians 5:22-24 for the curse in Genesis 3:16

The curse is the curse. But it is not the origin of headship in marriage. Authority is never a curse itself; the problem is the people with the authority.

A definition of authority: The right and responsibility to make decisions.

The Christian Marriage Model: The roles of head and body are given to us to understand how this relationship is supposed to work: **intimate cooperation**

through constant communication, with the head setting the agenda and maintaining the initiative. The body is not supposed to be afraid of the head or ignored by it, but to help it and work with it. If you have to spend a lot of time trying to discern headship you're probably doing it wrong.

IV. **The Benefits of Headship in Christian marriage:** Men need to see themselves as “saviors of the body.”

What are the responsibilities of men in marriage in Eph 5:25-33?

It starts with vision: what is your idea of this is supposed to work?