

Church in Regina

The Enjoyment of Christ and Our Growth in Life unto Maturity—Week 6

In Ephesians Paul deals with the **four categories of negative things** in a very good sequence. Related to the creation of the new man, we have **the ordinances**. Related to the growth of the new man for function, we have doctrine. Furthermore, related to the daily living of the new man, we have **the old man with his old way of life**. For the creation of the new man, **the ordinances must be abolished and slain**. For the growth of the new man, **doctrine must be depreciated**. For the proper daily living of the new man, **the old man must be put off**. However, after these three categories of negative things have been dealt with, we must still face the problem of **the spots and wrinkles**. Because they are so subjective, the spots and wrinkles are more difficult to deal with than the ordinances, the doctrines, and the old man. We cannot simply abolish the spots and wrinkles or put them off, for they are in our organic tissue and natural makeup. **Spots are of the natural life, and wrinkles are a matter of oldness**. Humanly speaking, there is no way for us to remove such things. However, God has a way. **The water of life in the word can metabolically wash away these defects by the transformation of life**. The more Christ sanctifies the church and cleanses her through the washing of the water in the word, the fewer spots and wrinkles there will be. Furthermore, as Christ nourishes and cherishes the church, the spots and wrinkles will be removed metabolically. Every flaw, defect, and imperfection will be **removed by Christ's transforming life**.

Imparting the Rich Element of Christ

Instead of trying to correct others or to adjust them outwardly, we need to minister to them the sanctifying, purifying, nourishing, and cherishing element of Christ. This element will produce an **inward change** that will take away the oldness and the defects. We should not rely on any method or way. If a particular way is prevailing, it is not because of the way itself but because of the life contained in that way and released by it. What we should impart to others is not a method or way of doing things; **we should impart the rich element of Christ that will sanctify, purify, nourish, and cherish them**. If you contact Christians whose way of meeting is different from yours, do not try to change them. Instead, take the opportunity to minister the riches of Christ to them. We should not care for a way, a method, or a form. We should care only to release the riches of Christ and to impart them to others. **It is Christ who sanctifies and cleanses**. Through His transforming work, all the spots and wrinkles are removed and replaced by His living element.

Experiencing the Sanctifying Element of Christ

We should not place our trust in **mere outward change**. Such change **can take place suddenly without having any effect** on the spots and wrinkles in our being. God's concern is not that we simply change with respect to our outward appearance; **His concern is that the spots and wrinkles be washed away by the sanctifying element of Christ**. Only through such a process of sanctification can we become a beautiful and glorious bride for Christ, a bride without blemish or imperfection. We should forget about trying to improve ourselves and concentrate instead on experiencing the sanctifying riches of Christ. We all need more experience of the purifying element of Christ. The more we experience this element, the more our defects and shortcomings will be metabolically removed. As the result of this process, we will become a beautiful bride ready to be presented to Christ. **Only by the supply of life from Christ can our natural defects and organic blemishes be removed**.

If we are clear about this, we will realize that mere teachings can do nothing to eliminate spots and wrinkles. To repeat, only the sanctifying element that comes through the nourishing and cherishing of Christ can deal with such things. Praise the Lord that the element of Christ is **gradually eliminating our defects** (Excerpts from The Life-Study of Ephesians Msg 95).

Local Announcements:

1. Prayer Mtg—June 11—
Combined in person at AECC
2. Sisters' Meeting—June 19
3. Brothers' Meeting—June 30

Conferences and Trainings Information:

1. Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference—Feb.10-11, Taipei, Taiwan
2. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Apr.12-14, Anaheim, CA
3. Memorial Day Blending Conference—May 24-27, Bellevue, WA
4. Summer Training—July 1-6, Anaheim, CA
5. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Oct.4-6, Warsaw, Poland
6. Thanksgiving Blending Conference—Nov.28-Dec.1, Atlanta, GA
7. Winter Training—Dec.23-28, Anaheim, CA

Prayer Burdens

1. Thank You, Lord for taking away our sins and even becoming sin for us. We look away unto You as the Author and Perfecter of our faith. You endured the cross to redeem us and died as the grain of wheat to release Your life and enliven us.
2. Lord, we praise You for Your victory on the cross – making us alive together with You, nailing the ordinances, and stripping off the rulers and authorities. As we face any situation, remind us that our need today is not the law but for You to enliven us.
3. Save us from missing the goal of our salvation – to be Your Bride in the millennial kingdom. Transform us and fill us with the divine life causing us to reach maturity and ready for the wedding day.
4. Lord, make us overcomers who live Christ as our subjective righteousness day by day. Clothe us with white linen, outworking the inner life through us. Cause us to be those who meet the requirement of the righteous God and the overcoming Christ.
5. Lord, remove our ordinances, doctrines, old man, and the spots and wrinkles. Nourish, cherish, sanctify, and purify us to beautify us and match You as our Bridegroom.
6. Lord, we take Your word to deal with the enemy and every negative element in our being. May we all live You out today as our garment, qualifying us to be Your Bride and army. Preserve us to fight in and with the Body.

North America/Europe/Other Burdens

1. Please pray for the upcoming Bible distribution at the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris. Please pray in particular for the fresh and detailed consecrations of all the saints who will go out and that the fire of the gospel will be cast on French-speaking Europe, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Switzerland.

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1. Pray for the college students who will be joining the College Training.
2. Pray for the propagation work in Foam Lake and Moose Jaw. Strengthen the saints who are there to be a shining testimony. Remember their whole families and open them that there will be household salvation and lampstands in these places.
3. Pray for our contacts: Abe Friesen, Shane McClellan, David Hyman, Lianne and Jeff Racette
4. Pray for positive and immediate approval of all the immigration papers of the newcomers and their settling down, that their personal lives will be blessed and that their church life will be enriched:
 - > Alforte Family (Radam and Rosalina)
 - > Orolfo Family (Wilson and Jenny and their three children)
 - > Jerome Family (Pravin and Abinaya and their two children)
 - > Miranda Family (Ann Margarette and her family)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

- Lord's Table & Prophesying—Lord's Day 10:00-12:00PM
- Prayer Meeting—Tuesdays 7:00-8:00PM
- Home Meeting—Wednesdays 6:00-7:00PM
- Chinese-Speaking Bible Reading—MW 8:30-9:00PM
- College Meetings—Fridays 7:30-8:30PM
- YP Meetings—Fridays 7:00-8:00 PM
- Children's Meeting—Saturdays 10:00-11:00AM
- Small Group Meetings—Fridays/Saturdays 7:00-9:00PM

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