House Rules #3 The Power to Serve Ephesians 5:21

**Intro:** I would like to dunk a basketball… watching NBA… looks fun.

 I would like to leap from free throw, 360 spin, above the rim and slam the ball through the hoop!

* Russell Westbrook, and Thunder staff to teach me --- How to hold the ball, see the rim, practice… Could I with the best coaching in the world?
* My Problem is more than How To… My Problem is Power!

**t/s** – Honest Truth --- Even if I knew How, I could not.

***Even if you knew How, You could not.***

Say This with Me: ***For His Glory; Under His Authority; In His Power***.

*Christian Marriage Echoes the Gospel*

 This mystery is great--- Christ and Church.

 The Gospel and marriage explain one another

 *Jesus Is Lord at Home.*

 We live under His authority; even at Home!

**You Can’t Do It on Your Own. Ephesians 5: 18-22**

**Our Problem**

**Exp**– When Paul calls us to put one another first, he puts his finger on a sore spot. He exposes our core problem.

* ***We like to put ourselves First.***
* **Vs. 21** What?!

I thought marriage was going to make me happy

The Essence of Sin – **2 Corinthians 5:15**

*…might no longer live for themselves…*

**ILL** – Keller, “First year of marriage three things happen”

1. You are Selfish.
2. You think that I am selfish.
3. ***Your*** selfishness is the real problem with our marriage.

**App** – Family Relationships demand Self-Less Living.

Putting the Others First.

**t/s** – How can we restrain our self-centered way of life? (**vs. 21**)

 “*In the Fear of Christ*” (last week = ***deferential obedience***)

**His Power**

**Exp** – “***And be Subject***” is actually a participle, not an imperative verb.

 *And being subject*… the fifth participle in this sentence.

 ***Speaking, singing, making melody, Giving Thanks,***

***And Being Subject to one another***

**Be Filled with the Spirit** is the verb.

Plural = Every follower of Jesus

Imperative = Commandment; not an upgrade, an option

Present = keep on being filled… a daily lifestyle, continuous

Passive = What I allow HIM to do…

Thus, Allow the Holy Spirit to control you --- total control.

1. ***Fellowship***
2. ***Worship***
3. ***Submission***… Putting others first!

 **2 Corinthians 5:15** (again) ***Gospel***

*And He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live*

 *For themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.*

**ILL** – Pearl with BIG broom… “*I can do it on my own*!”

**App** – You cannot do Family on your own.

**Problem**: Two immature, needy, self-centered people get married;

 Thinking that the Other is going to “complete me”.

 Christ completes you!

**Conclusion –**

**Last week**, “I am ready for you to get to the Marriage part”

 This is the essential foundation for Family Relationships!

 ***For His Purpose, Under His Authority, In His Power***

* Most marriage problems, parenting problems are spiritual problems… Purpose, Authority, Power

Living for Myself; instead of submitting to one another.

**ILL** – Last movie to win Academy Award for both Actor and Actress

 Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt, “*As Good as It Gets*” (20 years)

 Explain Plot…. “***You Make me want to be a better man***!”

**Family forces us to fall at the feet of Jesus and ask Him for help.**