

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

By Jon Quinn

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The special topic this issue deals with the church. Certainly one of the most thought-provoking passages in the New Testament dealing with Christ and His church is found in Ephesians 5:22-33 where the relationship between a husband and wife are compared with the relationship between Jesus and His church.

A part of that context reads as follows:

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her with the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless." (Ephesians 5:25-27).

Crucial aspects of God's plan of salvation are revealed in this passage:

Christ loved the church; (His people)  
Christ gave Himself up for the church  
Christ did this so that He might sanctify His people  
Christ cleansed His people  
This cleansing took place with the washing  
of water and the word  
A goal of this cleansing was the removal of spots and wrinkles  
Another goal was that His people might be holy and blameless

If you have any questions about any aspect of the above text; about Christ's love for you; about His sacrifice; about the cleansing process; about the washing of water with the word; about the removal of the spots, then please feel free to contact the editors of Expository Files at the following addresses. Thanks.

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