



[Ephesians 5:25-26](#)

(25) Husbands, love your own wives, in the same way that Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; (26) So that He might sanctify it, having cleansed *it* with the washing of the water by *the* Word;

A Faithful Version

Why did He give Himself? So that we can be cleaned up! He had to die. We have to recognize this death, so there can be the [forgiveness](#) of [sin](#), that we might repent, and that we might be a fit receptacle of His Spirit. [God](#) will not put His [Holy Spirit](#) into a "dirty" receptacle. The underlying meaning of *holy* is "clean." It also suggests "different."

God's Holy Spirit is not defiled and dirty - unlike the spirit we have by nature, the spirit of [this world](#), human nature. God's Spirit is different! The spirit of human nature is murderous, hateful, and iniquitous in every way. God's Spirit is holy, righteous, good, pure, kind, gentle, [merciful](#), submissive, and childlike. Every good quality we can think of is resident within that Spirit. Will God defile it by putting it into a vessel that is not fit for it? No. So we have to be led to [repentance](#) - there has to be a change.

What does [baptism](#) symbolize? Death and purification. After baptism, God considers us clean enough to put His Spirit in us. If there had not been the sacrificial death of the Creator God, and on His death a will or testament left, none of this could ever have occurred. Unless He died, there would be no recipient for the blessings! There could be no New Covenant, because the Spirit could not be given.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The Covenants, Grace, and Law \(Part 12\)](#)



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Related Topics:

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