

E-Series

Relationship Residue (Continued)



21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. **22** Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. **24** Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. **25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, **27** and to present her to himself as a **radiant** church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. **28** In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29** After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- **30** for we are members of his body. **31** "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." **32** This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. **33** However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. **—Ephesians 5:21-33**

Before Heather and I moved to Prosperity, actually before we knew we would be moving to Prosperity, I pressured-washed our parsonage in Florence. Dirt and mildew had accumulated in places on the brick and on the vinyl fascia and eaves. In places the residue was pretty thick.

My intention was to wash the house. That's what I did, and it was a big enough job. But, by mistake I also ended up having to pressure wash our concrete patio. That was not my intention.

What happened was that, while I was pressure-washing over my head, my arm got tired. I let it drop by my side for a rest. When I got ready to go at the washing again, I pulled the trigger before I picked up my arm over my head again. The result was a white stripe on an otherwise greenish-black concrete patio.

The white stripe was so obvious that I felt like I had to pressure wash the patio as well. The thing is, before the white stripe, I hadn't even noticed that the patio was dirty. But it was. The residue was very thick and black, but it had accumulated so slowly and subtly that we had not paid it any attention.

The same is often true in our lives. Years of neglect and inattention result in lots of dirt and grime, particularly in our marriages. Relationship Residue and Marital Messiness usually build up slowly, but very surely. Thick, dark grime is the result.

After making the white stripe on the patio, I resolved to clean it. I took Clorox and poured it all over the concrete and let it soak. Then, I came back with the pressure-washer. Chunks of grime and residue flew everywhere as the gunk disappeared. When all was said and done the patio was gleaming white. I'm sure you think I'm exaggerating about the gleaming part, but that's the way it seemed. Without exaggeration, that night when the moon shone down, the patio appeared to glow.

That's what happens with the residue is gone.

If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. —1 John 1:9

Looking for a Pressure-Washer,
Pastor Michael



Time to Shine in 2009!