

**“SAVED & SANCTIFIED BY THE WASHING
OF WATER WITH THE WORD”
EPHESIANS 5:25-27
DECEMBER 28, 2008**

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. Do you value and cherish the Word of God as David did (see Psalm 19:9-10)? No matter how you answer that question, are you growing in your passion for the Word of God?
2. Who “gave Jesus up” for the church? Why is this an important question to answer?
3. Pastor Charlie said that the words “having cleansed” mean to heal or to make whole or to make holy before God, and that in this verse they refer to the past, once-for-all, decisive action of Christ saving us. Read the following texts and then formulate your own opinion about how Paul is using the words in Ephesians 5:26 (Acts 15:9, 2 Cor. 7:1, Tit. 2:14, Heb. 9:14, 10:2, James 4:8, & 1 John 1:7-9). What are the practical implications of your position?
4. Pastor Charlie said that the term “washing of water” refers to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Read John 7:37-39 and Titus 3:4-5 (the only other occurrence of the word “washing” in the NT) and formulate your own opinion. What are the practical implications of your position?
5. Pastor Charlie said that the word “word” refers to the gospel, at least in Ephesians 5:26. Read Romans 10:8, 10:17, Ephesians 1:13, and 1 Peter 1:25 and formulate your own opinion. Again, what are the practical implications of your position?
6. Knowing that Christ has cleansed us by “the washing of water with the word,” how does he go about working the process of sanctification in us? Are you cooperating with his work in you?
7. Take some time to think about the vision of Ephesians 5:27. How ought this vision to affect your daily life?
8. Knowing that the Word has such a prominent place in Christ’s work in us, are you planning to increase your commitment to it in any way this year? How so? Who will help you?