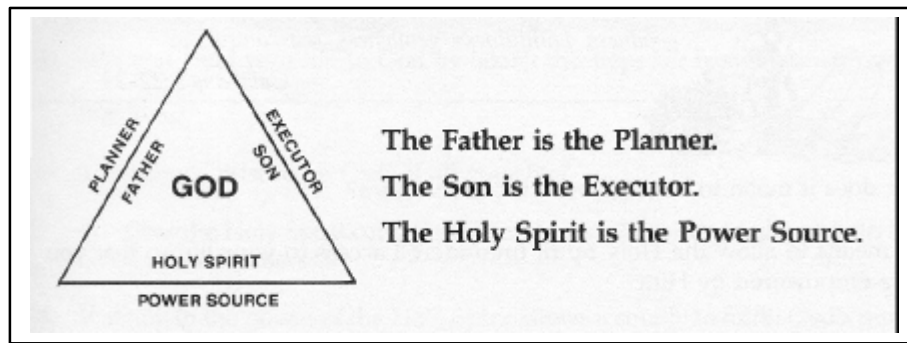


## The Power for Becoming One (Ephesians 5:18, Galatians 5:16)

- GOD'S PURPOSES REQUIRE → GOD'S PLAN
- GOD'S PLAN REQUIRES → GOD'S POWER

**Key Thought:** The Holy Spirit is the Power Source. When a couple walks in His power they are divinely enabled to fulfill the Father's plan and purpose for their marriage.



Marital oneness is threatened, however, when either spouse fails to appropriate the power of the Holy Spirit. Without His empowerment they are inherently prone to act selfishly in relationship to themselves and others (Rom. 7:14-23). Self-centeredness causes them to focus on getting their way which in turn interferes with problem solving, conflict resolution, and meeting the basic needs of their mate. As a result, an emotional wedge is driven between them that ultimately end in **isolation**.

**Ephesians 5:18** “And do not get drunk with wine, which leads to dissipation, but **be filled with the Holy Spirit.**”

- **Word Study:** (Gk. ‘pleroo’—to be filled or made full)
  - 1) Imperative mood (*be filled*) with the Holy Spirit
  - 2) Second person plural (*you be filled*) with the Holy Spirit
  - 3) Present tense (*keep on being*) filled with the Holy Spirit
  - 4) Passive Voice (*allow yourself to be filled*) with the Holy Spirit

**What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?** Just as a person's faculties would come under the influence and control of an alcoholic substance, a believer is commanded to place themselves under the Holy Spirit's full control and direction on a continual basis.

**Galatians 5:16** “Walk in (or by) the Spirit and you will not (i.e. double negative—absolutely will not) fulfill the lust of the flesh (i.e. desires of the sinful nature).”

- **Word Study:** (Gk. ‘peripateite’—used figuratively to signify all of the activities of one’s life)

1) Present imperative *keep on walking*

**What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?** As a believer walks through life he/she should depend on the indwelling Holy Spirit for guidance and power.

**Note:** The Holy Spirit does not operate automatically in the believer’s life. He will not choose for us. He patiently waits upon us to yield to Him. We must say ‘yes’ to Him.

- 1) **We must realize that He *indwells* every believer** (I Cor. 6:19). Start your day by reminding yourself that you have a divine guest living within you; treat Him with the respect that He is due.
- 2) **We must *yield* or *submit* to His prompting and guidance (Phil. 2:13).** Obey His prompting; do not delay or postpone your response. He is continually trying to lead, guide, direct, and control your life.
- 3) **We must deal with known *sin* in our life immediately (II Tim. 2:20-21).** The Holy Spirit will not use an unyielded or unclean vessel for His glory.

**What does it mean to “quench the Spirit”?** (I Thess. 5:19) When a believer refuses to listen or heed the promptings of the Holy Spirit. “Not now, I’d rather...”

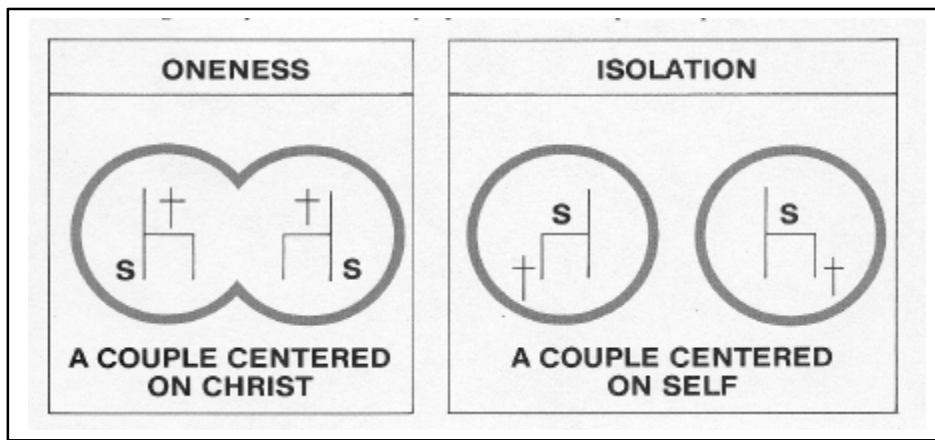
**What does it mean to “grieve the Holy Spirit”?** (Eph. 4:30) When a believer intentionally disobeys the express will of God; he willfully yields to his sinful desires.

**How do I know that the Holy Spirit has empowered me?** (Gal. 5:22-23) When the Holy Spirit is operative within a believer’s life there are certain qualities or characteristics that can be observed. These are known as the “**fruit**” of the Holy Spirit.

The word fruit is singular indicating that these qualities constitute a unity. In other words, all of them (i.e. **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**) should be seen in a believer who lives under the control of the Holy Spirit.

**APPLICATION PROJECT: Walking in the power of the Holy Spirit allows a couple to become one on their relationship.**

- 1) Which diagram characterizes your relationship?
- 2) Has isolation crept into your relationship?
- 3) If so, are you willing to take the steps outlined above to move toward oneness?



\* Diagrams taken from “**Family Life Conference**’ (Campus Crusade International) manual pages 66-67.