

## **Ephesians 5:25-27**

My faith journey carries its own stains, wrinkles, and blemishes—marks that will always remain. Being denied communion is a powerful symbol of that stain, a reminder of my imperfections and the brokenness in my walk with God. Yet, it is through these very imperfections that grace finds its way, teaching me humility, perseverance, and the depth of Christ's redeeming love.

Redemption is the act of being saved, freed, or restored from sin, error, or brokenness. In a spiritual context, it refers to God's deliverance of humanity from sin through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is a profound expression of love and grace, where something or someone that seemed lost, damaged, or unworthy is reclaimed, renewed, and made whole.

Redemption reflects God's willingness to forgive and transform, offering hope and a fresh start. As described in Scripture, it's a gift—not something earned but freely given through faith. It's the journey of being brought back into right relationship with God, symbolizing both liberation and restoration.

**The church is not perfect, but Christ loved the church. As Ephesians 5:25-27 says:**

***“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”***

That's the kind of love and grace I want to embody. It's why I stay, why I go back, and why I share my story—not for pity, but to remind others of the beauty of redemption.

In My Father's Name,  
**Teddy**