God's Role for Husbands

Ephesians 5:25-33

7-12-2023

INTRO: Paul, after exhorting wives to submit to their husbands the way the Church submits to Christ, now exhorts the husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the Church.

*** MEN, WE MUST LOVE OUR WIVES THE WAY CHRIST LOVES US (THE CHURCH)!**

What is Biblical LOVE? **See: Ephesians 5:25-33**

The word "love" is the Koine Greek word "agapao." This is a special love.

The love that husbands are to have toward their wives is:

1. A spiritual love (Eph. 5:18)

2. An unconditional love

3. A volitional love (a willing love)

4. A continual love

5. A Christ-like Love *"even as Christ also loved the Church" (v.25)*

6. A sacrificial Love *"and gave Himself for her [it]" (v. 25)*

Why did Christ sacrifice Himself for the Church?

a. Christ sacrificed Himself so that He could have a special relationship with His Bride ("Sanctify" = to set apart)

b. Christ sacrificed Himself so that He could have a spiritual relationship with His Bride ("not having spot or wrinkle...holy...without blemish")

7. A similar Love (v. 28, 29)

8. A caring Love (v. 29)

a. Provide for her (Meet her physical needs) ("Nourisheth" – Feed her)

b. Protect her (Meet her emotional needs) ("Cherisheth" - Warm her)

CARE FOR HER CONTINUALLY BECAUSE YOU ARE ONE WITH HER (v.30-33)

God's Role for Husbands

Ephesians 5:25-33

7-12-2023

INTRO: Paul, after exhorting wives to submit to their husbands the way the Church submits to Christ, now exhorts the husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the Church.

* **MEN, WE MUST LOVE OUR WIVES THE WAY CHRIST LOVES US (THE CHURCH)!**

What is Biblical LOVE? **See: Ephesians 5:25-33**

The word "love" is the Koine Greek word "agapao." This is a special love.

The love that husbands are to have toward their wives is:

1. **A _____ love** (Eph. 5:18)

2. **An _____ love**

3. **A _____ love (a willing love)**

4. **A _____ love**

5. **A _____ Love** *"even as Christ also loved the Church" (v.25)*

6. **A _____ Love** *"and gave Himself for her [it]" (v. 25)*

Why did Christ sacrifice Himself for the Church?

a. *Christ sacrificed Himself so that He could have a _____ relationship with His Bride ("Sanctify" =* to set apart)

b. *Christ sacrificed Himself so that He could have a _____ relationship with His Bride* ("not having spot or wrinkle...holy...without blemish")

7. **A _____ Love (v. 28, 29)**

8. **A _____ Love (v. 29)**

a. _____ for her (Meet her physical needs)
("Nourisheth" – Feed her)

b. _____ her (Meet her emotional needs)
("Cherisheth" - Warm her)

CARE FOR HER CONTINUALLY BECAUSE YOU ARE ONE WITH HER (v.30-33)

God's Role for Husbands

Ephesians 5:25-33
7-12-2023

INTRO: Paul, after exhorting wives to submit to their husbands the way the Church submits to Christ, now exhorts the husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the Church.

The husband and wife relationship is to picture the relationship of Christ to the Church.

1) The church at present is engaged (espoused, betrothed) to Christ (II Cor. 11:2 - "For I am indeed jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.")

2) The Church has an engagement ring ("earnest" = downpayment) which is the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14)

3) The Church will one day be joined to Christ in Heaven for the wedding reception (Rev. 19:7-9). We are Christ's Bride (Rev. 21:17).

Jesus said, "I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Husbands should say, "I will build my family . . ."

* **MEN, WE MUST LOVE OUR WIVES THE WAY CHRIST LOVES US (THE CHURCH)!**

What is Biblical LOVE?
See: Ephesians 5:25-33
The word "love" is the Koine Greek word "agapao." This is a special love.
It's a love that GIVES (Jn. 3:16; hence it is often translated "charity" - I Cor. 13)

The love that husbands are to have toward their wives is:

1. A spiritual love (Eph. 5:18)

By this I mean it does not come naturally.

It is a capacity that comes only from God.

This love has its source only in God (I John 4:7 - "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.") No unsaved man has the capacity (ability) to have such a love.

This love is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) and therefore can only be part of a life which is yielded to the Spirit (Eph. 5:18).

2. An <u>unconditional</u> love

The kind of love God expects the husband to have is <u>not</u> dependent upon the worthiness of the wife.

This love, as ultimately exemplified by God, is a love that gives even when the recipient of that love is an unworthy, evil wretch (Rom. 5:8).

3. A <u>volitional</u> love (a willing love)

Love is a choice; a decision; an act of the will.

"Love" - not a mere emotional feeling, but does not exclude feeling either. It means to <u>feel for</u> someone (to empathize) and thereby be motivated to <u>respond to meet</u> their <u>needs</u>.

This type of love is possible even toward an enemy (Matthew 5:44)

4. A <u>continual</u> love

The present tense imperative emphasizes the constant year by year, day by day, minute by minute nature of the love.

God's love for us is permanent! (Romans 8:35-39):

> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,
> nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

5. **A <u>Christ-like</u> Love** *"even <u>as Christ</u> also loved the Church" (v.25)*

How should I relate to my spouse?
Answer: The same way Jesus does with His Spouse.

WWJD = What Would Jesus Do?

Or better, WDJD = What DID Jesus Do?

Basically, to answer the question:
"<u>How</u> should I love my wife?"
Ask yourself another question: "<u>How</u> does <u>Christ</u> love His Church?"

How does Christ love His Church?

<u>Christ to His Church</u>	**<u>The Husband to His Wife</u>**
Psalm 23:4	By <u>protecting</u> her.
Matthew 11:28-30	By <u>teaching</u> her.
John 10:11	By <u>sacrificing for</u> her.
John 13:12-15	By <u>serving</u> her.
John 14:2-3	By <u>providing for</u> her.
John 17:20	By <u>praying</u> for her.
Romans 8:38-39	By <u>remaining faithful</u> to her.

6. **A <u>sacrificial</u> Love** *"and <u>gave Himself</u> for her [it]" (v. 25)*

Interesting parallel - creation of Eve for Adam and redemption of the Church for Christ. "Adam had to give part of himself in order to get a bride, but Christ gave <u>all</u> of Himself to purchase His bride at the cross. God opened Adam's side, but sinful men pierced Christ's side." (Wiersbe, p. 145).

HAVE A LOVE FOR YOUR WIFE THAT <u>SACRIFICES</u>
(<u>SACRIFICE</u> FOR HER <u>SPIRITUAL</u> WELL-BEING) (v.25-27)
(Christ sacrificed for the Church because of a <u>purity</u> He desired in Her)

"Gave Himself" = lit. Himself <u>He gave up</u>.

Christ gave up Himself that He might marry the Church (those who would believe).

When you got married, you determined (or you should have) to give up your independence, your rights, your "freedom," to now be joined to one whom you would now live for.

I did not say (merely) live with - but live for.

You are to live for your wife's spiritual well-being.
The world says, "Be macho, defend yourself, live for yourself, etc. But God says to give up yourself for others - especially for your wife."

The world loves that which has physical attractiveness, personality, wit, prestige, or some other desirable positive characteristic. As soon as this appeal is lost, so is the "love."

Christ's sacrifice for us was purely of grace (we didn't deserve it). There was nothing desirable in us!

Our wives won't always deserve our love either, but we must love the way Christ did - graciously. God has given us this ability to love as He does (I John 3-4). And such love is an act of the will.

Love without sacrifice is not real love.

"For God so loves the world . . . He gave . . ." (Jn. 3:16)

Real love gives. It meets needs. It goes out of its way!

Are you willing to die for your wife? To find out the real answer, ask yourself: Am I willing to live for her?

Why did Christ sacrifice Himself for the Church?

a. Christ sacrificed Himself so that He could have a special relationship with His Bride

"Sanctify" = to set apart

Christ set us apart after He cleansed us (aor. pt.) with the Word. What is the word? That Christ "gave Himself."

When we believed the Word we were washed by the Holy Spirit and regenerated. (Tit. 3:5; Rom. 10:17). Now cleansed, we can serve Christ properly.

Ladies, you must be clean or else you will not live for your husband properly. Sin always ruins relationships.

Husbands, it is our responsibility to do all that is in our power to keep our wives clean spiritually. Love does not just point out sin, it seeks to cleanse it away!

If your wife has a problem with sin, don't just point it out - do something about it. Help her. You are the spiritual leader in the home.
Being set apart, we have a special relationship with Christ. You are special to Christ.
Is your wife special to you? Out of all the women in the world, you chose your wife. She now has a special relationship with you.

Just as Christ does not call for the unsaved to love and adore Him, so we don't call for any other women to love and adore us the way our wives should.

When you said "I do"/"Yes" to Christ, you said "No" to the world. When you said "Yes" to your wife, you said "No" to all others.

You have a special relationship with your wife which you share with none other.
How special is your wife to you? Peter said: I Pet. 3:7 - "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

Know your wife - be sensitive and considerate of her feelings and needs
Honor your wife - treat her as valuable, as priceless, as special!

b. ***Christ sacrificed Himself so that He could have a <u>spiritual</u> relationship with His Bride*** ("not having spot or wrinkle...holy...without blemish")

He gave Himself for the spiritual purity He desired in His Church.
If you love your wife, you will desire her to be pure. You will want her to be Godly, not worldly.

Love never <u>defiles</u> the one it loves; rather, love desires <u>purity</u>.
If you love your wife, you will not put her in circumstances where her purity might be jeopardized.

ILLUS: Why does a bride wear a white wedding dress? Without spots, wrinkles, or blemish? It symbolizes purity.

Because Christ loves the Church, He does not want it to be spotted (stained) by sin or the world. He wants it set apart unto purity. "Keep yourselves unspotted from the world" (James 1:27).

If you love your wife, you will desire her to be pure. You will want her to be godly, not worldly.

Love wants what is <u>best</u> for the one it loves. It is protective. I don't want my wife contaminated by anything that would harm her, or our relationship. I will protect her from bad TV, bad books and magazines, movies, etc. NOTE: You protect her by protecting yourself.

Some say, "I like <u>playing the field</u>" (going after all kinds of women). My reply: "I'd rather stand at home plate."
Why is adultery so wrong? Ask: Would Christ ever forsake us and go out and take a bride different than us--one that did not belong to Him--and show His love to her?

7. A <u>similar</u> Love (v. 28, 29)

LOVE HER COMPLETELY AS YOU DO FOR YOURSELF (v.28-29)

Love your wife as you naturally love yourself.

The better you treat your wife, the better you treat yourself. If you harm your wife, you are harming yourself. If you care for your wife, you are caring for yourself! Why? Because you are <u>one</u> with her.

Do <u>yourself</u> a favor - Love your wife!

We would not do anything to harm ourselves; so we should not do anything that would harm our wives.

8. A <u>caring</u> Love (v. 29)

a. <u>Provide</u> for her (Meet her physical needs)
("feed her")

"Nourisheth" = word has the idea of <u>bringing up</u> to maturity by providing the necessary nutrition.
Cp. Eph. 6:4 - "Bring them up" - same word.

Men, we are to <u>provide</u> for our families - Today in USA, it is totally backwards. Women are out working and providing for the family! Women are to be <u>provided for</u> not to provide!

Question: In our relationship to Christ (the groom), do we provide for Him or does He provide for us (the Bride)?

A woman's job is to be in the home (espec. when there are children).

"Keepers [lit. workers] at home" - Tit. 2:3-5.

The word comes from the Greek:
oikos = house
ergon = work

I Tim. 5:14 - "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."

Even widows were to be cared for, and not expected to have to go out into the work place. A woman's place is in the home! I Tim. 5:8 ff.
(EX: Christ made arrangements for his widowed mother to be cared for - Jn. 19:26-27).

Most women work today - 1) because husbands are not doing their job; and 2) because they want to live on a "higher standard" of living.

NOTE: working women is a major cause of inflation. Because families are earning more money, the value of a dollar is less.

b. Protect her (Meet her emotional needs)
("warm her")

"Cherisheth" = lit. to keep warm, to keep out of the cold.

You put a coat around yourself to keep yourself protected from the cold.

Similarly, the husband is to continually put his arms around his wife and is to keep her warm emotionally by showing her affection.

To cherish is to use tender love and physical affection to give her warmth, comfort, protection and security (MacArthur, p. 301).

CARE FOR HER CONTINUALLY BECAUSE YOU ARE ONE WITH HER (v.30-33)

"Nourisheth" - a continual providing
"Cherisheth" - a continual protection

Why continual? Because you are one! Never to be separated! READ verse 30. Will we ever be separated from Christ? No! We are eternally secure!

Paul said: "The one who joins himself to the Lord is one Spirit with Him" (I Cor. 6:17).

Your love for your wife should be stronger than parental love.

"Leave father and mother" = marriage is a priority relationship.

Your marriage will not be what it should be until you have your needs for security, companionship, emotional stability, etc. satisfied by your mate, not your parents.

"Cleave unto his wife" = marriage is a permanent relationship.

This is a mysterious math equation: 1 + 1 = 1

Why does divorce happen? Answer:

1) Because husbands and wives don't care about each other. All they care about is themselves!

2) Because there is no conviction about the permanency of marriage.

Paul is quoting Gen. 2:24.

"I hate divorce, says the Lord, the God of Israel" - Mal. 2:16.

He can forgive it, but He hates it - just like He hates all sin. Because He hates it, He makes no grounds for it, just as He would make none for any other sin. Sin is never justified.

Only death is to dissolve a marriage (Rom. 7:1ff).

ILLUS: Hosea married Gomer who committed adultery and even became a prostitute. But God told Hosea to stay with her and keep on loving her. Finally God restored the marriage. Hosea's love reflects God's gracious forgiveness to Israel and the restoration foretells God's restoration to Israel (Hos. 14:4-5).

Divorce is never God's will!

Determine to work out your problems and make the marriage work.

Christ's love for His bride is PERMANENT!

Conclusion:

The real test of a man is not how well he works, leads, speaks, or helps others, but by how well he treats his wife and children at home when no one else is around.

Do you love her?

Today people are starving for love.

Even some Christian wives.

ILLUS: a man was afraid that he loved his wife too much. He was asked if he loved her as much as Christ loved the Church. When He answered "No," he was told, "Then you must love her more." (cited from MacArthur, p. 304).

Practical Ways to Love Your Wife

1. Say "I love you" often.

2. Touch, hug, and kiss her frequently (do so to unselfishly please her).

3. Lead her by setting the right example of Godliness.

4. Provide security by being the "breadwinner" of your family.

5. Talk to her (share your life plans, dreams, burdens, fears, weaknesses, and needs).

6. Carefully listen to her (Note: Listen to what she says and what she means by what she says).

7. Do acts of kindness to show her that she has great worth to you.

8. Praise her in sincerity (Prov. 31:28)
--Thank her
--Tell her what is good about her

9. Give tokens of affection (Example: notes, gifts, flowers)

10. Don't be a passive male. Be involved in your family.
*Love is giving, not getting!