
God Explains Marriage – Ephesians 5:22-33 (Part 8)

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband.

First Observations for the Husbands

1. *God Begins with Wives but Has Much More to Say to Husbands (40 vs 112 words)*
2. *God Requires Wives Only to Submit, but Husbands to Sacrifice*
3. *God Gives Wives One Command, but Husbands Many Tasks*
4. *God's Measurement to Husbands Seems to Be More Strict ("just as" vs "as")*

More Observations for the Husbands

1. *If "love" must be commanded, it does not happen naturally.*
2. *The goals of sanctify and cleanse assume imperfection.*
3. *We must enter marriage with Biblical expectations.*
4. *A husband is to focus on the spiritual needs of his wife.*
5. *A husband is to proactively provide spiritual leadership*

A Husband Is to Love His Wife (25)

- *Continually, sacrificially be loving your wife as Christ loved the church*
- *We're Commanded to Love Multiple Times: Enemies/One Another/Wives*
- *3 "Before's" of Love: Right Order (Lu 14:26), Purpose (1 Cor 13:1-3), & Target (1 John 2:15)*

HOW a Husband Is to Love His Wife (25) (How Did Christ Love the Church?)

1. *I am to love my wife at the expense of my own comfort & convenience, & my life*
2. *I am to love my wife with a focus on what she needs (may not = what she / church wants)*
 - Leadership • Sanctification • Provision
 - Instruction • Protection • Mercy & Grace
3. *With an attitude of humility (Phil 2:1-8):*
 - Esteem her higher than yourself
 - Consider her needs as well as your own
 - Be willing to shed your own reputation (or pursuit of one)
 - Count her as worth living for, and worth dying for
4. *With loving behavior (1 Cor 13:4-7):*
 - What love looks like and sounds like

WHY a Husband Is to Love His Wife (Ephesians 5:26-27)

1. The Purpose – Sanctification

- Positional – on the "sanctified" team
- Practical – training to "play" as a sanctified team member

2. The Process – Cleansing

2 Cor 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

3. The Procedure – Washing of Water

Psalm 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

Heb 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies [lit. "the body"] washed with pure water.

John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word [logos] which I have spoken to you.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word [logos] is truth.

1 John 1:6-10 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the **light** as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the **truth** is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

4. The Prompting – In a Word

It is the active application of the Word in life's circumstances

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

Men – *Are you accepting God's appointed spiritual responsibility for your wife? Are you actively learning the Word? Are you speaking to your wife the sanctifying Word in the circumstances of life? God not only thinks you can do this, but expects you to do this!*

Women – *Are you listening? Are you desiring to be sanctified through your husband? Do you understand and expect your husband to highlight the circumstances of life by the Word, so that you might be "cleansed?"*