
God Explains Marriage – Ephesians 5:22-33 (Part 10)

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.

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 "Befores" 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 – Instruction – Sanctification – Protection – Provision – Mercy & Grace
3. *With an attitude of humility (Phil 2:1-8) – 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 (26)

1. *The Purpose – Sanctification (Positional vs. Practical)*
2. *The Process – Cleansing (2 Cor 7:1; James 4:8)*
3. *The Procedure – Washing of Water (Ps 119:9; Heb 10:22; John 15:3; 17:17; 1 John 1:6-10)*
4. *The Prompting – In a Word (Titus 2:11-14; Deut 6:6-7; 2 Cor 3:18)*

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

Men – Are you speaking to your wife the sanctifying Word in the circumstances of life?

Women – Do you look to your husband to highlight the circumstances of life by the Word?

The GOAL of a Husband's Love for His Wife (27)

1. *The Presenter: "that He might present to Himself"*
2. *The Presentee: "the glorious assembly"*
3. *The Particulars:*

- *Not having: Spot, or wrinkle or any such thing*
- *But might be: Holy and "blemishless"*

God's goal (and each husband's goal) is to purify & sanctify presently, continually, progressively, and fully.

Believers: Are you obediently participating with God in pursuing His goal for you?

Husbands: Are you obediently participating with God in pursuing His goal for you and your wife?

Love Your Wife Like Your Own Body (28-29)

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.

1. The Indebted Action to Your Wife

"So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies"

The Easiness of "Body"

Simple; rubber meets the road. Bone meets the flesh...

The Obligation of "Ought"

"Ought" seems to mean "should," but actually means "must"

Phmn 1:18 But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account.

Rom 1:14 I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.

Matt 6:12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

The Glaring Nature of "Own"

Used 4x in Verse 28 and 1x in Verse 29

The Privileged Debt of Continual Love

Present active infinitive

What we've talked about already – ongoing care

2. The Logical Reason to Love Your Wife

"he who loves his wife loves himself"

- *She is part of you*
- *Caring for her is caring for you*
- *Benefitting her is benefitting you*
- *What part of loving your wife is a poor investment?*

3. The Truthful Reality of How We Care for Our Own Bodies

"for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it"

- *What you do for yourself*
- *What you protect yourself from*
- *Nourish – feed*
- *Cherish – protect and care for*

4. The Spiritual Example of Such Care

*"just as the Lord *does* the church"*