
God Explains Marriage – Ephesians 5:22-33 (Part 9)

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 – 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?

Northridge Baptist Church – Pastor Kevin Subra – May 11, 2014

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

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.*

1. The Presenter

"that He might present to Himself"

2. The Presented

"the glorious assembly"

3. The Particulars

NOT HAVING

- *Spot*
- *Wrinkle*
- *Any such thing*

BUT MIGHT BE

- *Holy*
- *"Blemishless"*

Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Col 1:21-23 ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight--²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

God's Goal

- **To Purify**
- **To Sanctify**
- **Presently**
- **Continually**
- **Progressively**
- **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?