

Husbands, Love Your Wives

Ephesians 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church...”

Introduction: In Scriptures, Jesus Christ is figured as a husband to the church, His bride.

Revelation 19:7, “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready”

Mark 2:19, “And Jesus said to them, ‘Can the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast.’”

Jesus is the “Lamb,” the “groom,” and His “bride” is the church. Paul makes this correlation unquestionably clear in Ephesians 5:22-33. In fact, He lays down Christ’s relationship with His bride, the church, as a template for how husbands are to treat their wives. He writes, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her” (5:25). This pattern can guide marriages for our children and future generations. So, husbands, if you want to love your wife in a God-pleasing way it starts with knowing how Christ loved His church!

I. By Leading Her (Ephesians 5:23a)

A. Ephesians 5:23 says, “... the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church...”

1. What comes to mind when you think of the “head” attached to your “body?”
2. The idea of headship implies direction, instruction and guidance—this is what the brain does as it directs your body parts!
3. Likewise, this is what Christ, “the head,” did for His church!

B. When Christ looked out at the multitudes longing for His direction “He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd” (Matthew 9:36).

1. How many wives and children are suffering because of a lack of spiritual guidance from the one God appointed as the head of the family?!
2. If husbands will love like Christ, they must lead their homes like Christ—which means taking part in the spiritual leadership needed in the home!

C. We need not abdicate our roles as husbands but must step up and provide the leadership needed within the home (cp. Genesis 3:16; 1 Corinthians 11:1-3).

II. By Saving Her (Ephesians 5:23b)

A. Ephesians 5:23 adds, “... He is the Savior of the body.”

1. The term “Savior” reminds us of rescue, saving someone.
2. Jesus was given this special name because “He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

B. Wives need you to be their “Prince Charming” saving them from all danger and being there to pick her up when she falls (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).

C. Husbands must realize their job as the shepherds of their families is to rescue their homes from danger—sin—an area where Eli failed with his sons (1 Samuel 3:13).

III. By Sacrificing For Her (Ephesians 5:25)

- A. Ephesians 5:25 says, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her...”
1. The idea presented is the idea of sacrifice—Christ sacrificed Himself for the sake of the church—for others (Philippians 2:3-8).
 2. How many wives suffer through painful marriages because their husbands never sacrifice to better their wives?
- B. Husbands ought to be willing to sacrifice their...
1. Time for the sake of their wives—just as Jesus made time for others.
 2. Money for the sake of their wives—just as Jesus left the riches of heaven for us.
 3. Body for the sake of their wives—just as Jesus gave His body for us.
- C. If your husband does not know Christ, can you be sure he understands this important principle which is the cornerstone of a successful marriage?

IV. By Nourishing and Cherishing Her (Ephesians 5:28-29)

- A. “... husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones” (Eph 5:28-29).
1. Jesus is portrayed as feeding and nourishing the church—as a caring provider.
 - i. The word “nourish” means to “bring to maturity.”
 - ii. The word “cherish” means “to warm.”
 - iii. Many suggest it carries the idea of providing “food and clothing.”
 2. Jesus calls Himself the “living water” and the “living bread” because His words empower us for life—provide what we need for eternal life (John 4:14; 6:35, 51, 58).
- B. A husband’s key role is to act as a provider for his family (1 Timothy 5:8)—a principle truly established by Christ’s role in helping feed His church.
- C. Furthermore, your wife needs more than just \$—she needs your physical, emotional and spiritual support too (cp. 1 Corinthians 7:1-5; Colossians 3:19; 1 Peter 3:7; Proverbs 31:28-31).

V. By Being Faithful To Her (Ephesians 5:31-33)

- A. Paul continues, “... a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church... let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself...” (Ephesians 5:31-33).
1. In this passage, Paul uses the marriage union to describe Christ and His church.
 2. The passage from Genesis he cites speaks of the importance of “a man” being “joined to his wife” as “one flesh” (Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:31).
- B. The godly husband must be “faithful” to his wife rather than tarnishing their relationship (Hebrews 13:4; Proverbs 6:15-20)—he is faithful to His promises!

Conclusion: When your children and others look at how you treat your wife, do they see a picture of how Christ loved the church? Who would not gush to be married to someone who loves his wife like Christ loves the church? Isn’t it beautiful to consider that God gave men the opportunity to be living pictures of the gospel in their everyday home life?