

Ephesians 5:25-30 – Living as a Husband in modern times!

TSK, Handfuls, GreekLexicon, Gill, JFB, Rienecker, Robertson, PNT, Trapp, Geneva, Family, Clarke, Henry, Barnes, Calvin, Poole, INT, PS45
Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The Lord spends more time explaining the duties of a man than he does for the duties of a woman. Why do you think this is? God knows that **man has the greater responsibility in marriage and needs more explicit instructions**. Man has to be leader! And what great sin man would commit if he led his wife and children astray! Remember, if a man led one of God's children (young in age or in spirit), it would be better for him for a millstone to be tied around his neck and he be drowned in the depths of the sea. So hear God's instruction to husbands! His instruction to man is summed up in one word: Love.

Our headings are:

Manner of Loving

Motive of Loving

Measure of Loving

Our goals are: **That you would sacrificially love your wives (and train your sons to love their wives) as Christ love the church, so the Lord will receive praises!**

Manner of Loving – As Christ loved the Church

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.

1. A husband is not just to love, but he is to keep on loving his wife, as Christ continues to love his bride.

This would have been particularly difficult thing to do when morals and marriages were loose in Ephesus. A man could drop a wife and take another one without any sanctions. For example, if **he** determined she was barren, he could divorce her!

2. So how did Christ love his bride?

Ask your child how much she loves you, and she might say “this much” and extend her arms. But that doesn't say very much!

a. Christ showed how much he loved his bride by being her Passover Lamb to give her life! What an example!

John 13:1 Now before the **feast of the Passover**, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He **loved them** to the end.

1John 3:18 ...let us not love in word or in tongue, **but in deed and in truth**.

Christ gave himself as a sacrifice - FOR THE THINGS THAT WERE WORTH IT. **Talk**

is relatively cheap.

John 3:16 "For God so **loved the world that He gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Christ did not pity the church or merely desired her good – but he LOVED her. And there was a remarkable genuine willingness and tenderness in what he did.

b. Christ showed his love by teaching his bride what he did, and after she believed, separated her from the world by water baptism. Even so, **God declares that you were washed in the blood of Jesus when you were baptized.**

Revelation 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the **firstborn from the dead**, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. **To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,**

This was a picture of the **bridal baths in Roman cultures.** The brides had a ceremonial washing! They were sprinkled with perfumes as well. In Queen Esther's case, she was required to take a period of 1 year to purify herself! But Christ's bride was worse. His bride was like a pig wallowing in mire! But no more! She was called out, taught, cleaned-up, and marked!

Without the Word (the promise) the sacraments (baptism) have no purpose! The cleansing was symbolic. It was the Word than had the impact. Augustine: "The water without the Word is just water."

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Look at the work of the Lord for his bride pictured in the Old Testament.

Ezekiel 16:7 "I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were naked and bare. 8 "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord GOD. 9 "Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil. 10 "I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk. 11 "I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck. 12 "And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. 13 "Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour..."

And don't miss the point that God does the cleansing...not water.

c. Christ continues to work at purifying his bride, removing every spot, wrinkle (decay, rot, marks of superannuation), or fold in the bride. This is the sanctification process.

Hebrews 10:10...we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Song of Solomon 4:7 You are all fair, my love, And there is **no spot in you.**

His bride was so beautiful that the nations talked about her. You can read more about her in Psalm 45. Yes, ultimately Jesus will present his wife blameless before the Father.

d. Christ loved his church when his church hated him! Yes, he expiated her sins and propitiated God for all her sins.

3. So just as Christ loved his one bride, so a man is to love his one bride.

1John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And **we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**

A man's closest "brethren" is his wife. Christ's love was well guided and grounded, and so should a man's. (Phil 19).

A man should seek his wife's spiritual welfare by teaching and praying for her so that she would live a pure life! He should encourage his wife regularly. **Who here has done this?** A Pastor said to me: I don't tell my wife what to do. How sad! Who will tell her how to live, based on what the Scriptures say? How will she know what to do? A man's wife is an heir of the righteousness of Christ – his daughter. Don't ignore the king's daughter and let her be ignorant. Help to purify her!

A man should shelter his wife, even cover her faults, choosing to deal with them in private. (This is removing the wrinkles.)

A man should speak well of his wife, even with her imperfections.

A man should show affections toward his wife. The excuse that men made in Apostle Paul's time was that **women had many weaknesses so man had to be cruel, even beat women. But God rejected that.**

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, **love your wives and do not be bitter** toward them.

A man should supply his wife's physical needs...literally...feed her!

A man should serve his wife so she will be happy.

4. Lessons:

a. The basis for baptism is that Christ called you, made you his, and changed your name. It wasn't the bride who said she would come and she would decide to take baptism. Christ had a single, exclusive, and undivided love for his bride, so he marked her. What a difference from the man-ward view of baptism: "I have decided to follow Jesus and will allow the pastor to baptize me!" Sad! This robs God of the glory that rightly belongs to him.

b. You will only learn how to love when you experience and are reminded of Christ's love for you in his life and death.

c. The man who truly knows how to love will be willing to be killed and cut up in a thousand pieces to protect his wife! And remember, Christ loved the church when she hated him! But your wife loves you! So it is easier to love her! You will learn to deny yourself rest, and endure much toil in loving your wife. But much more than being willing to run into a burning building to save your wife is the desire to toil for her soul, removing her rough and her rust spots. And **if you should be willing to die for your wife, taking out the garbage or giving her a back massage shouldn't be too much!**

d. Not once does God tell the man to *make his wife submit!* Loving your wife is **not** based on her submission to you but on her salvation in Christ. So point her to Christ. You are not worthy of being submitted to.

The Motive of Loving – to Present her blameless

1. A man would love his wife with sacrificial love so that she would become blameless before her Lord and give him praise and worship!

This will all happen when all her wrinkles are removed!

2. A man is not to be kind to his wife because he wants the praise of men...or even because he wants her to praise him.

He serves his wife so she will submit to the Lord and bring honor to him.

3. Knowing your sin and your wife's sin, you realize this is a lifelong assignment to present your wife blameless to the Lord.

4. Lessons:

a. Don't desire to have the best wife so others think highly you! Your goal is to have the best wife so God will be glorified.

b. If you see marriage as "the old ball and chain" you will never be willing to make the sacrifices necessary. You will simply want to do the least that is necessary to get by. In some ways you will have limitations, but ultimately, marriage is about the glory of God. And of course, when you work for the glory of God, it is also good for you.

c. Christ did not love because the church was holy...It is his loves that makes her holy.

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

d. A man loves his wife because she is good for him, which is ultimately for the glory of God.

What proof does your wife have of your love? Is it enough? Can she convince someone with evidence that you love her? You are reckless if you don't teach your wife.

The Measure of Loving – as you love yourself

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.

1. So how much are you to love your wife...what is the extent of your love?

The Apostle Paul said you must love your wife as you love yourself. This, of course was not a command to love one's self, as self-love is sin.

2Timothy 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 **For men will be lovers of themselves**, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy...

Rather, he was acknowledging that **men love themselves so much that that would be a good measure of how much they are to love their wives**. For example, when you are cold you get a blanket. When you are hungry you want to feed yourself. When you are upset, you want someone to talk with. When you are sick, you want someone to take care of you. Men do not hate their bodies, men **nourish** and fatten their bodies, men **cherish** their bodies. To cherish means to "warm," or to "foster with tender care."

And that is the measure of how a man ought to love his wife. Love is self-sacrifice.

2. A husband "ought to" means to "owe a debt," so he must give his wife what he owes her – everything – provisions, instruction, encouragement, and support!

3. The husband must be show tenderness to his wife just as he shows tenderness to his body.

He literally must keep her warm. (Cherishes)

4. Lessons:

a. Calvin: The man who doesn't love his wife is a monster.

b. You may provide for your wife, and that is good, but does your wife feel your tenderness? Does she feel that you cherish her? Do you fall short? Do you end up loving yourself more? If you do, ask God today for grace to do better!

Conclusion:

A man must love his wife the way Christ loved his church. A man must love his wife so that she would honor her Savior. A man must love his wife deeply...even as he loves himself.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Reflect on the love of Christ for the church-his faithfulness-his sacrifice. His love for you causes him to put up with your weaknesses-your complaining-your unthankfulness. He loves his church even in its present day confusion. He never stops loving! And one day, because of his love, he will present you blameless before his Father in heaven.

2. It is a tough ask to love your wife in this way. You are not perfect like the Lord and your wife is not perfect. You are a sick, rotten sinner. But God never gives you a task without giving you the tools you need to do the job.

3. What tools do you need? You need the Word of God (where you will learn of God's love for you and the ground of you fearing God) and his Holy Spirit to reassure of Christ's love for you and his church. Ask God for a great measure of his gifts.

Finally, if you are not a Christian you can't love...not truly love. Worse, because you can't love you will have to go to hell. The only way out is to ask God to love you and to count Christ's death as yours.