

Introduction

Brandon

Ephesians 5:22-33

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.

NKJV

To summarize this passage, Paul said....

- 1. The husband should lead his wife (verses 22-24)**
- 2. The husband should love his wife (verses 25-33)**

Jerry

- 1. The husband should lead his wife (verses 22-24)**

Last week we learned a husband is supposed to lead his wife and that a wife is supposed to submit to his leadership. We also learned that a Christian husband's most important responsibility as a leader is to lead his wife to love God.

Isn't that what Jesus did for His church? Isn't that what Jesus said it means to be His disciple? You lead others to love God.

So, how does a husband lead His wife to love God?

By His example of loving God!

What does loving God look like according to Jesus?

- You spend time alone with God and His Word (Luke 5:16)**
As you get to know God, your love for Him will grow.
- You love His church. (Matthew 16:18)**
You faithfully attend. You faithfully serve. You faithfully give.

As you love His church, your love for God will grow.

- You obey God. (John 5:19)**
As you obey God, your love for God will grow.

In these ways, your love for God grows and you will naturally lead your wife to love God.

So, the Christian husband's first responsibility as a leader of the family is lead your wife to love God.

Body

Brandon

Then Paul said the Christian husband's second responsibility is love your wife in verses 25-33.

Jerry

Yes, a husband is not going to have a lot of credibility leading his wife to love God if he is not loving her.

What does loving your wife look like?

Brandon

God is always taking things that sin ruined and redeeming them for His purposes. That is what He does with a husband and wife in a Christian marriage.

Paul's said that a Christian husband should love His wife as Christ loved the church.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her...

Brandon

I can hear some woman out there saying, "I want some of that!"

Jerry

Well Houston, we have a problem. The biggest complaint that most Pastors hear in the church comes from women complaining that their husbands are falling short when it comes to loving them. Falling short may be way to politically correct. For some we might want to call it a failure to launch.

Brandon

A lot of men get married with the wrong intention or motive. Their main reason for getting married is to fulfill their lusts. Their wife will never feel loved until this husband has a change of heart.

Some men get married because they have a genuine love for their wife. Genuine love means they intend to sacrifice their life for her welfare and well-being. But they fail to love their wife as Christ loves the church because they are not wise.

So, for those husbands that do love their wife, what does a husband loving His wife look like?

Jerry

It has always been true, even in Ephesus, the church that was known for its love, Christian husbands need some instructions.

We have already read what Paul said in Ephesians 5. Let us read a few other passages of scripture and then summarize what they collectively say.

1 Peter 3:7

7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them (your wife) with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

NKJV

Colossians 3:19

19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

NKJV

Jerry

To love your wife means...

- **You sacrifice your life to provide for her needs. (Ephesians 5:25)**
Jesus laid down his life to provide for the church everything we need. That provision came from His work.
- **You study your wife to know what she needs. (1 Peter 3:7)**
- **You handle your wife with gentleness and kindness. (1 Peter 3:7; Colossians 3:19)**
- **You cherish your wife like she is your own body. (Ephesians 5:28-31)**
- **You seek your wife's wisdom and counsel. (1 Peter 3:7)**

Conclusion

It seems like to me that many husbands in the church have set their bar way to low as far as what it means to love their wife.

Brandon

We tend to do that when our love for God is small and we do not have faith in God's Word.

Jerry

I have met a lot of older Christian couples that consider their marriage to be a success just because they have stayed together.

Well, there is something to be said for Christian endurance to protect the reputation of Jesus and His church.

But Paul said the love a husband has for his wife should be like the love that Christ has for His church. A husband that loves his wife like that will reveal to the world the love that Jesus Christ has for His church. That is what we should be aiming for as Christian husbands!

Invitation

But now that we know what expects from us men in His church, what are we going to do about it? What are you going to do about this brothers?

Brandon

Here is what we believe we should do...

We should make sure that we are Christians. You cannot love God, lead your wife to love God, or love your wife as Christ loves the church if you are not a Christian. (Share gospel)

Jerry

We should get connected to a church that preaches the whole gospel of Jesus Christ.

Brandon

We should get connected to a small group of men that understand the full gospel are committed to leading their wives to love God and to loving their wives as Christ loves the church.

I am in! Are you in brothers?

Prayer for the church.

Jerry

As some Christian men hear this message, they feel totally defeated.

Brandon

If your feelings of defeat are being caused by your willful disobedience to God, you need to repent.

Jerry

If your feelings of defeat are being caused by your wife's verbal assault on you, you need to lead your wife to love God by your personal example of loving God.

Many Christian women use the truth of God's Word to beat up and verbally abuse their husbands. Just like some husbands do to their wives.

If you are one of those verbally abusive wives that uses the truth of God's Word to beat up and verbally abuse your husband, you need to stop. You need to learn to love God and respect your husband even if your husband is not a very good example of loving God for you.

Brandon

How do wives do that?

Jerry

That is next week's message.