

Husbands Love Your Wives

Ephesians 5:25-27 - 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

A. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her - Here is the husband's role in mutual submission. In submitting to God, he is to love his wife with the same self-sacrificing love that Christ gave for the church. In this love the wife would never be violated but rather always encouraged, supported, nurtured and protected. The husband should at all cost, give of himself in order to meet his wife's needs(whatever they are), even if it means his life! What an example of selfless love that we have in Christ! Truly husbands have a noble and lofty goal. How should a husband love his wife? – ***“Just as Christ loved the church,”*** consider the love of Christ.....

Christ's Love Is:

Sacrificial – Christ was willing to give everything He had for the well being of His bride the church. He gave “Himself.” Even His very life He did not withhold from her. Here is an example of the **DEGREE** to which a husband should love and care for his wife.

Husband's should be willing to die for the protection and support of their wives. ***Are you a sacrificial husband?***

Gracious – Christ loves and gives regardless of merit. In fact, Christ gives to those who do not deserve it. Jesus gave His life in the midst of our rebellion. Oh that we would love so freely as our precious Christ! Husbands are to grant their wives honor, she is your partner, bone of your bone, the love of your life! Give all that you have for her joy, has not Jesus done this for you? ***Are you're a gracious husband?***

Romans 5:8 - 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us. NAS

Patient - Husbands should be patient with their wives, allowing them time for Christ to be formed in them. Oh that we were as patient as Christ! His patience is endless for the objects of His love. His love is truly unfailing. When a husband is impatient with his wife, his love fails. Husbands must be patient with their wives, remembering the patience of Christ with them. ***Are you a patient husband?***

1 Corinthians 13:7-8 - 7 **bears all things**, believes all things, hopes all things, **endures all things.** 8 **Love never fails;** NAS

Kind – Jesus is kind to the church with a benevolent disposition which always seeks the comfort and blessing and joy of His church. He seeks her highest good, and her joy – no matter the cost. Husbands should speak kindly to their wives. Husband should practice kindness. This is the example of Christ. ***Are you a kind husband?***

Romans 8:28 - 28 And we know that God causes all things to **work together for good to those** who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. NAS

Meek & Gentle – Christ's love is gentle. Although He is “God very God” and has the command of angels, He stoops to wash the feet of those He loves. He speaks gently and possesses meekness toward all. Husbands must be gentle with their wives. They are precious gifts from God, made of “sugar and spice and everything nice.” They ain't your huntin buddies! A godly husband treats his wife tenderly. ***Are you a gentle husband?***

Matthew 11:29-30 - 29 "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for **I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls.** 30 "For My yoke is easy, and My load is light." NASB

Sincere – Christ has a sincere and genuine love for His bride. He loves in deed and in truth (1 John 3:18), not with a mask on the outside and grumblings in His heart. If a husband has an insincere love, although he will try to cover up his wicked heart and play the part, on the outside it will be quite obvious that his love is hypocritical for he will have true lack of affection, and devotion to his wife's joy. This will be destructive to the marriage indeed! Husbands must have a sincere and non-hypocritical love for their wives.

Romans 12:9-10 - 9 **Let love be without hypocrisy.** Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; NASB

Selfless & Serving – Christ's love does not seek its own, but rather the benefit of its object. Jesus did the "work of love." He demonstrated His love in the washing of His disciples feet. He was willing to humble Himself and serve the ones He loved. He offered His back to be torn, He offered His hands to the nails. This was none to His own benefit, except the joy that it brought His beloved. ***Are you a selfless and serving husband?***

Love is a choice - Love is primarily an act of the will. Here it is a verb, "***Husbands, love your wives***" and it requires ACTION. Although it produces deep and profound emotions and affection, love is a commitment rather than a feeling, otherwise it could not be commanded. Here husbands are commanded to love their wives. God is not demanding an emotion from us but rather an ACTION motivated by the will.

Colossians 3:19 - 19 **Husbands, love your wives**, and do not be embittered against them. NASB Husbands should "***not be embittered against their wives***," this is very destructive. Consider the attitude of Christ toward His church. Although she falls short of His favor in her practice, in position before Him she is "***holy and blameless***" and "***in all of her glory***." A husband's contempt towards his wife tears her down, it does not edify her or grant her the healing she needs. Instead he should "***nourish and cherish her***."

Ephesians 5:28-30 - 28 So **husbands ought also to love their own wives** as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, **but nourishes and cherishes it**, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body. NASB

Ephesians 5:26-27 - 26 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. NASB

A. that He might sanctify her - Why is it that Christ loves the church? He will stop at nothing to make us holy, even give His own flesh for crucifixion, if it will purify us. And all of this "***that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless***." Now a husband is to seek this holiness in His wife at all costs, and why? Because it is the example that was given of Christ, more than that, that she might be a "***in all her glory***," for she is a fellow heir of the grace of life. Any godly man has a great desire for his wife to be holy and pure. He seeks the holiness of his wife and marriage, even as he seeks the holiness of himself. It is his highest goal in glorifying God.

Purifying – Christ's love is a righteous love. It always seeks the holiness of its objects, for holiness is the very essence of His character and His great desire for His beloved. Husbands should have a holy zeal to purify their wives and families. This, for the husband, is a relentless pursuit. ***Are you a purifying husband?***

Galatians 4:19 - 19 My children, with **whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you.**

Protecting – Jesus has given us the greatest protection of all, the hope of eternal life. He has secured for us an eternal salvation, indeed we are in for an eternity of blessing and

fulfillment. Wives should feel secure in the love of their husbands. Husbands, it is your responsibility to be sure your wife has a sanctuary in your love. She must know that she is loved unconditionally and accepted by you at all times. You must communicate your love and affection to your wife! ***Are you a protecting husband?***

Matt 11:28-30 - 28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and **I will give you rest.** 29 "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for **I am gentle and humble in heart;** and you shall find **rest for your souls.** 30 "For **My yoke is easy, and My load is light."**

B. having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word - So how does a husband purify his wife? He being the head and spiritual leader in his home, continually holds the Word out before her. Purifying his own life, in order to lead her by example, he ***keeps bringing the Word before her*** that she might be transformed by the renewing of her mind. Prayer and scripture reading should be regular practice in the home, ***at the husbands lead.*** The husband is to set standards and give wisdom and guidance according to God's will for his family. He is Prophet, Priest, and King in his home. Christ fills these three offices to the church. The ***Prophet*** sees, hears, and speaks the Word of God, the ***Priest*** mediates between God and family, the ***King*** rules the home through servant leadership and lovingkindness. Not in the sinful human character, but in the gracious character of Christ.

Romans 12:2 - 2 And **do not be conformed to this world,** but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that you may prove what the will of God is, **that which is good and acceptable and perfect.** NAS

Ephesians 5:28-30 - 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body. NASB

Nurturing – Christ nurtures us each and every day. Why, He gives us life and breathe and all things! He richly provides for us His abundance of Joy and Peace, his mercy and His love endure forever! Husbands should nurture their wives. We are their provider and should seek to meet all of their needs, spiritual, emotional, social and physical. ***Are you a nurturing husband?***

How does Christ nourish His church?

Cherishing – Christ treasures His church. He loves her and cares for her. He continually seeks her joy and blessing. This is the great focus and entire purpose of His life and ministry. In fulfilling the Father's plan, he labored and strived to redeem the church, giving His own life in sacrifice to show His love and "win her to Himself" by His great devotion to her. Husbands cannot show their wives genuine lovingkindness unless they genuinely cherish them in the hearts. Otherwise it is only duty and not motivated by true affection and desire. Husbands should mimic Christ's devotion to His bride. ***Do you cherish your wife?***

How do we know that Christ treasures His church?

Can a husband cherish his wife if he does not genuinely value her in his heart? _____
Why/Why not?

Affectionate – If a husband genuinely cherishes his wife, he will manifest it by godly affection. This meets a deep and profound need in the life of a wife, she needs affection. A husband must tenderly give visible manifestations of his affection to his wife, and not for the motive of sexual gratification but out of genuine affection in his heart. This would include actions and words. ***Are you an affectionate husband?***

In what ways do we see Christ's affection for His church?

Rewarding – We often focus on bad things rather than good and noble. Christ overlooks our failures and *commends us for our righteousness*. We often take our wives for granted. Christ appreciates and *rewards our love to Him*. When you've worked hard, do you reward yourself? Of course, if nothing else you rest when you're tired. How then can you disregard rewarding your wife if you are to love her as your own self? ***Are you a rewarding husband?***

Does Christ reward His church? _____ How? _____

A. **Meeting a woman's emotional needs** – Husbands have a divine calling to meet the needs of their wives, just like they care for their own. You wouldn't deprive yourself of food or clothing. Nor would you ignore your own spiritual and emotional needs, would you? We are therefore to meet these same needs for our wives. You wouldn't starve yourself, so why then would you starve your wife of affection?

- The most important thing to most wives is a ***daily time of intimate communication*** with their husbands.
- Women have a need to feel appreciated and accepted as do men. A husband must ***verbalize his appreciation and acceptance*** of his wife.
- Husbands need to praise their wives and ***speak affectionately*** to them! They must know that we adore them! Remember how you would speak to her when you were courting....
- A husband's love should not be controlling and binding, but generally speaking it should be ***freeing, encouraging and uplifting***.
- The most beneficial thing a father can do for his children is to love his wife.

What are some of a woman's emotional needs?

1. Quality *time together* with husband, doing whatever, the time is important.
 2. A husband who is spiritually whole, who meets her spiritual needs. One who models Christ in his behavior and *leads her and her family to Christ continually*.
 3. A husband who is sincere in his love to her and *expresses genuine love* from his heart.
 4. When overloaded or stressed, a woman needs "*space*" or a brief time away to unwind, or at times "*help*" with her responsibilities or even a "break." The stresses and work of motherhood and wifery are constantly there to weigh her down.
 5. A husband that will *comfort her frequently*, rather than lecture or criticize. She needs your shoulder not your mouth in times of failure or crisis.
 6. She needs your *understanding, kind-hearted attention and listening ear*.
 7. Constant *criticism is destructive*. At times criticisms may be necessary, but they should be done gently and tenderly and motivated by prayerful godly love.
 8. Verbally express your love to her and her kids. Saying "I love you" when you leave to the family gives them security. Don't just think they know you love them, tell them.
- wives.