

“EPHESIANS: WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE LIVE – IN CHRIST”

“Spirit-Filled Marriage – Part 2”

Part Thirteen: Ephesians 5:25-33 September 13, 2020

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INTRODUCTION: Ephesians chapter 5:22-33 is the longest and most detailed passage in the Bible on the roles and responsibilities of the husband and the wife in the marriage relationship. We talked last week about the role of wives and understanding what submissiveness means in the context of a Spirit-filled marriage. Now the Bible gives direction and guidance to the husband in a Spirit-filled marriage. Strikingly, husbands are not instructed to rule, dominate, or even lead their wives...but to love them! The leadership of the husband must flow from Spirit-filled and Christ-like love. It is repeated multiple times in this passage and makes clear that each husband will need a sustained commitment of our will to love our wives sacrificially by serving her through loving her. Certainly, the aim of a godly husband's love is his wife's best interest.

Ephesians 5:25-33 (NIV) Instructions for Christian households: Husbands

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”

I. The Command: _____ **your wives.** (5:25a)

A. _____ **love.** (Agape)

B. _____ **love.**

⁸ *Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.* (I John 4:8)

C. _____ **love.**

¹⁶ *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* (John 3:16)

C.S. Lewis (*Four Loves*) “To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness.”

Low Risk – Low Reward (Just surviving)

High Risk – Low Reward (Gambling)

Low Risk – High Reward (Jesus offer of eternity)

High Risk – High Reward (Marriage)

II. Christ's Love for _____ **.(5:25 b)**

A. _____ **love.** (5:25)

• Christ gave _____ !

• I give _____ !

- Practical Tip #1: 12 Words for Marriage:
I am sorry. I was wrong. Please forgive me. I love you.

B. _____ **love.** (5:26-27)

- “Make her holy”; Cleansing / Washing (with water through the Word)
- Present / Radiant
- Holy / Blameless
- Practical Tip #2: 4 ways to show love
 - *Providing*—money, house, food
 - *Protecting*—difficult phone calls, not complaining about her, defending her name and reputation as a wife; mother; woman
 - *Passion*—Dates, interest in her, affection and heat
 - *Practical*—fixing doors, mowing lawn, grilling food, paying bills, doing yardwork, taking out garbage, putting the toilet seat down, clothes up off the floor...

C. _____ **love.** (5:28-30)

- 1st model for husbands: “JUST AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH.”
- 2nd model for husbands: “AS THEIR OWN BODIES”
- Practical Tip #3:
 - ✓ Verbally communicate your love to her. Frequently tell her you love her. The words “I love you” should be the commonly heard words around the home.
 - ✓ Satisfy her needs—whether they are physical, emotional, intellectual, social, recreational, sexual, and spiritual. Help her out at home.
 - ✓ Sacrifice your time for her. Hear and value what she has to say. Let her share your life. Tell her about your struggles, your hopes, and your dreams.
 - ✓ Demonstrate to her that apart from your relationship with Jesus Christ, she has first place. Show her that she comes before business, your children, your parents, your friends, your house, your hobbies, and your recreation.
 - ✓ Be tender, respectful, and courteous with her. Do not make jokes or cutting remarks about her. Do not correct her in public in a way that will make her look foolish. Always speak to her and treat her in a courteous way. Treat her as if she were a valuable jewel rather than a garbage can.

As we men love our wives as Christ loves the church, we will not only be helping our wives become who God wants them to be, allowing them to flourish and grow, we will also be helping ourselves become who God wants us to be, servant leaders in our homes. These are worthy goals, and nothing should keep us from it!

Final Words:

- **God’s Commitment to** _____ **(v.31)**
- **Our motivation is “Christ and the Church”**
- **Husbands LOVE! Wives RESPECT!**
- Next Week: Ephesians 6:1-4

REMIX STUDY GUIDE:

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the message notes, or simply dive deeper into just one.

Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions at the end of the document.

REMIX: Questions for today's study on Ephesians 5:25-33

Notice the links on our website for helpful information about hosting or guiding a REMIX discussion. You will find "Tips for hosting a REMIX group or class", suggested schedule for the class, and directions for the class. These notes will be helpful in setting up your REMIX. Here are some questions beyond the notes:

- 1. The Scripture calls husbands to "love their wives". Both men and women speak into what you think that means and how that could be better expressed in our relationships?**
- 2. Discuss the contrast of risk (see notes) between low and high risk in our marriage relationship?**
- 3. Discuss how these statements impact your view and practice of marriage: God ordained marriage. Jesus set the pattern for marriage through the cross. The Holy Spirit empowers marriage.**
- 4. If you are a husband, in what ways are you leading your wife in a Christ-like way? In what ways is the Spirit prompting you to be more Christ-like?**
- 5. How do you respond to the fact that the marriage of believers represents to the world Christ's relationship to His Church?**
- 6. If you are married, thank God for the gift of your marriage and the privilege of representing Christ to the world? Married or unmarried, how can your attitude and encouragement support marriages around you. Pray for marriages in your family, our Church and our community.**

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message!

- 1. What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
- 2. What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
- 3. What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you have learned today?*