

## The Husband's Handbook Ephesians 5:25-33

INTRO: God has not left husbands helpless nor dependent upon worldly philosophy and literature when it comes to knowing how to love their wives. God has the answers in His Book, the Bible, for those husbands who want to love, even long to love their wives.

Husbands, your wives need to be loved, and you need to know how to do it!

Three times in the New Testament men are told to love their wives: here in Ephesians 5:25, 33, and in Col. 3:19 which reads, "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."

### I. VS. 25, THE MEASURE OF LOVE

A. How are men to love their wives? The Bible says that men are to love their wives, "as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it."

1. Here, God speaks a commandment and teaches by example.

2. Just as submission is required of all wives, love is required of all husbands. "Love," this is the Greek word *agapao* referring to the love that God is. "God is love," I John 4:8b.

a. Only the Christian man can know how to truly love his wife for I John 4:8a says, "He that loveth not knoweth not God." Until a man understands how much Christ loved the church, the bride of Christ, he will never know how to fully love his wife.

b. The only way to know the love of God is to believe on the Son of God (John 14:6).

B. "Christ loved the church." He loved the *ekklesia* which means local assembly. A church is a local assembly of baptized believers covenanted together seeking to fulfill the great commission.

1. Joe T. Odle, past editor of the Baptist Record said, "When the word 'church' is used of an institution, it does not mean one big universal church, but an institution made up of individual churches. When we speak of 'the home' or 'the school,' we do not

mean one big universal house or school. Nor is there one big church... nor are the words 'universal' or 'invisible' used with reference to the church anywhere in the New Testament' (14).

2. W.A. Criswell, longtime pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, commenting on Ephesians 5:25 says: "The church that we know and the only church with which we have anything to do and the church to which the apostles belonged is always a local congregation. 'Christ loved the church (the local church), and gave himself for it. He died for it. In the New Testament where we read of it, and in life when we have anything to do with it, the church is always the local congregation, the assembly of Christ" (258).
  3. Fellows, love your local, visible wife as Christ loves His local visible bride.
- C. The measure of His love is seen in that "He gave Himself for it." Kenneth Wuest says of this love: "This is a self-sacrificial love, a love that impels the one loving to give himself in self-sacrifice for the well-being of the one loved" (131). Christ loved His bride and gave Himself for her. A selfish husband cannot love in this way.
1. The love of Christ for the church is love divine, and love inconceivable.
  2. John 10:11,15,17-18; 15:13; Gal. 1:4; I Pet 2:24; 3:18.
- D. Men, Christ loved His bride so much that He gave Himself for her. How can we love our bride and meet her deepest needs?
1. Love her sacrificially. Love her so much you would die for her. You say, "I do love her that much." Then let me ask, "Do you love your wife enough to live for her?"
  2. Love her with a responsible love. Give yourself up for her as Christ gave himself up for His bride. This is a deliberate and purposeful act.
    - a. Take responsibility for her.
    - b. Look out for her every day in every way. This lets her know that she is important.

- c. In today's world, wives need protection. She needs your tender support.
- 3. Love her with a stable love.
  - a. In the Greek, our scriptures says, "Husbands keep on loving. . ."
  - b. Every woman needs stability. Don't threaten her with divorce every time something goes wrong.
- 4. Love her by cherishing her.
  - a. Cherish means to hold dear, to treat with affection. It comes from the root word caress.
  - b. It means encourage and support.
  - c. It means to let her know she's the only one.
- 5. Love her romantically. Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, and Snow White contain a romantic truth. Each woman needs the Prince's kiss, the Prince's choice, to be brought to fullness of life.
- 6. So much more could be said but these thoughts will help us men to love our wives as God would have us to.

## II. VSS. 26-27, THE WHY OF CHRIST'S LOVE

- A. Vs. 26, Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, "that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the word."
  - 1. Christ sanctifies His church by the Word. "Sanctify" is the Greek word *hagiazō*, "to set apart for a sacred use." The Christian wife will be happier if she is sanctified by a good and holy man.
  - 2. "Cleanse" shows in what manner the sanctification takes place.
    - a. "The cleanser, which is the Bible, is better than any cleanser advertised on radio or television. The Word of God will not only take out the soiled spots, it will keep you from getting further spots in your life" (Mc Gee Vol, 5, 269).
    - b. "The Ephesian passage mentions the washing of water in connection with the spoken word" (Hendrickson 251). The preached word. We

are to be Christian and to love and speak as a Christian men.

- B. Vs. 27, One day in the future, Christ will present to Himself a glorious bride.
  - 1. Every faithful member of one of the Lord's churches is being prepared for the wedding (4:11-12).
  - 2. "Not having spot or wrinkle...." This means a doctrinally and morally pure body. This certainly narrows down who the bride will be.
  
- III. VSS. 28-30, THE WAY OF LOVE
  - A. Vs. 28, "So ought," this is the way men are to love their wives as being their own bodies.
    - 1. The idea here is that of husband and wife being one flesh. Marriage makes the wife part of his body.
    - 2. He that loves his wife loves himself.
  - B. Vs. 29, It is unnatural for a man to hate his own flesh. The husband is to love the wife for she is his own flesh.
    - 1. Dr. Ed Wheat says, "Love is always doing the best for the object of one's love" (314).
    - 2. To love your wife means to nourish her--
      - a. Physically- food and drink- protect.
      - b. Emotionally- warms, cares for, that's what cherish means.
  - C. Vs. 30, Christ knows the weaknesses of His church, so He nourishes and cherishes His bride.
  
- IV. VSS. 31-32, THE UNION OF LOVE
  - A. Vs. 31, "One flesh" refers to the sexual union of husband and wife in which each gives himself and herself totally to the other. But this is not all; it goes beyond this to oneness of spirit which develops through living and loving together– dwelling together according to knowledge.
  - B. Vs. 32, The relationship between a loving husband and a submissive wife is a picture of Christ and the church. The more we live with Him and love Him, the closer we are drawn. This is why the Word has to be preached. By the Word, we learn more about the one who loves us and we learn how to love Him better.

CONCLUSION: The best conclusion for this passage is the thirty-third verse of this great chapter.

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