

## **GODLY MARRIAGE #2: HUSBANDS LOVING THEIR WIVES**

### **Ephesians 5:25-33**

*“Are you married or happy?”* – Groucho Marx. Marriage is often diminished in our world. But God planned for marriage to picture Christ’s relationship to the Church. A godly marriage displays Christ to the world.

#### **1.HUSBANDS ARE CALLED TO A CHRIST-LIKE LOVE – Ephesians 5:25-27**

- Wives were generally treated poorly in the ancient world. Jewish men prayed thanking God they were not created a Gentile, a slave, or a woman. Greeks said “we have wives for legitimate children and courtesans for pleasure.” What Paul teaches on marriage was radical then, and it is still radical now.
- Husbands are called to self-sacrificing love like Christ – Ephesians 5:2. Christ put the Bride’s needs above his own. A husband is to do this for his wife – Philippians 2:3-5. We are to die to our own sinful self. The headship of the husband is not to be used selfishly to meet his own needs, but is a headship of ministry to the wife. Christ’s sacrificial love is a foot-washing love which serves our spouse.
- The gospel is at stake in our marriages. *“The gospel is the story of God’s Son winning a Bride who will bring Him glory and joy forever.”* – Richard Phillips.
- How can a man ever live up to this? Only by the power of the Holy Spirit is it possible to even begin to do this – Ephesians 5:18.

#### **2.HUSBANDS ARE CALLED TO A CARING LOVE – Ephesians 5:27-30**

- Husbands are to love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife, loves himself. *“As Christ is one with His church, husbands are one with their wives. Therefore...a husband who violates his marriage violates himself. A husband who destroys his marriage destroys a part of himself.”* – John MacArthur.
- Husbands are to nourish and cherish their wives. It includes listening and paying attention to our wives. Loving husbands seek to encourage them, and build them up – Ephesians 4:29. It includes knowing their needs and encouraging them spiritually. The couple that prays together stays together. Are you helping your wife grow in Christ-likeness? *“Is your wife more like Christ because she’s married to you? Or, is she like Christ in spite of you?”* – Kent Hughes.

#### **3.HUSBANDS ARE CALLED TO A COMMITTED LOVE – Ephesians 5:31-33**

- Like our Lord Jesus, Paul quotes Genesis 2:24 as the foundation of Biblical marriage. We transfer allegiance from our parents to our spouse. He is to be “glued” to his wife as his first earthly priority.
- Marriage is designed by God to picture our relationship with Christ as His Bride. Jesus is the Ultimate Example of committed love. He will never divorce or give up His Bride – John 6:37-39. Jesus will bring His Bride home to Himself and the marriage supper of the Lamb – Revelation 19:7. If marriage pictures the mystery of Christ’s union with His Church, then there is no more sacred, solemn, and profound relationship than marriage. But this human relationship is not eternal – Mark 12:25. But human marriage points to the eternal. Christ has committed Himself to us for all eternity. *“He has promised to complete our redemption from sin until one day we*

*will shine in glory. He cares for our needs, nurturing our spirits and keeping our souls for eternal life. Best of all, He promises to receive us as a groom receives his bride with delight, and to give of Himself – His treasures, His pleasures, and His glories – forever and ever in unbreakable love,”*  
– Richard Phillips.

- Are you happily married? Much of the responsibility lies upon the husband to love the wife as Christ does the Church. “And they lived happily ever after” does not happen without daily commitment.

#### Concluding Applications:

- Life begins with knowing Jesus as Savior. Have you said “I do” to Jesus? The greatest marriage union is Jesus receiving sinners to Himself.
- If you are convicted of sin - repent and begin afresh to obey Jesus Christ ‘from this day forward.”
- Whether you are married or single, how are you honoring marriage? Part of our witness to the world is encouraging godly marriages.
- If married, men are you loving your wife as your #1 earthly relationship for the glory of God? Do you know her needs, joys, sorrows, and struggles?