

Husbands: Cleanse Your Wives Through the Word

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Main ideas

I. Husbands love

Paul describes love by showing how Jesus loves.

1) Jesus' love is seen in the context of conflict

2) Ephesians does not give a general or abstract look at love.

3) Jesus' love does not create a lofty and unattainable ideal, but a practical one.

In Ephesians, God's people were alienated and estranged from him.

In this context, God loves first.

His love is unceasing and uninterrupted by the conflict.

Verse:

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." Eph 5:25

Notes:

Summary/discussion/questions:

Main ideas

He moves in two directions:

-He breaks down the wall of hostility.

-He draws us near, (does not withdraw or become passive).

God's movement toward us in conflict is counter-intuitive to a husband's movement of becoming passive or withdrawing.

"... the apostle tells the husbands in three statements to "love" her, love "her," "love her," and he has nothing to add beyond this...It is hardly possible to render the urgency contained in the underlying Greek verb. Not only haste and passion, but a full effort of the whole man is meant, involving his will, sentiment, reason, physical strength and total attitude...[this] excludes passivity, quietism, a wait-and-see attitude... Yours is the initiative! Do it now! Mean it! You are to do it!" "mean it!" (Barth, 428)

Notes:

Summary/discussion/questions:

Main ideas

II. Husbands sanctify

Does this mean daily devotions or prayer with a wife?

The text uses all past tense verbs: Christ loved, gave himself, and cleansed her.

Paul is talking about **positional** or **definitive sanctification**, the one-time act of cleansing & forgiving & setting apart.

We now relate to him forever out of a definitive and secure position.

“Word” is God’s declaration of love for his people.

God declares our position as his bride forever.
His declaration gives us the security to grow.

Verse:

“in order that he might sanctify her (make her holy) having cleansed her with the washing of the water in connection with the word,” (Eph 5:26)

Notes:

Summary/discussion/questions:

Main ideas

Experiencing, knowing, and grasping God's love is foundational to our growth.

Husband cleanses his wife when she knows the security of his love and the certainty of her position before him.

Not for who she ought to be, or should have been.

Not for who she might be if she tried harder.

Not only when she protects his tranquility and self-fulfillment.

“the difference between a lady and a flower girl is not how she behaves, but how she's treated. ... 'I know I can be a lady because you always treat me as a lady and always will.'”

-Pygmalion

A wife is deeply impacted by how her husband loves, cherishes, accepts, and values her.

Notes:

Summary/discussion/questions:

Main ideas

Christ's view of us affects how we see ourselves; a husband's view of his wife can empower & nourish her or devastate & depress her.

Often a husband's love is a thermostat.

Christ's love is no thermostat. It flows with warm love even in the heat of conflict.

A husband has the deepest impact on how a wife sees herself.

III. Husbands empower

Paul concludes the description of God's love by describing wedding garments: good works.

A husband's love, like Christ's, empowers his wife to good works.

Notes:

“to present her to himself as a radiant/glorious church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.” (Eph 5:27)

Notes:

Summary/discussion/questions:

Main ideas

Marriage's purpose goes beyond the exclusive husband-wife bond and satisfaction.

Marriage has an outward movement of public service.

Genesis 2 shows the helper does not just provide an extra set of hands (or remedy loneliness), but a way to qualitatively improve and complete the work in the Garden.

1. God indicts his people's lack of producing and discipling godly offspring in Malachi 2.

2. Hallmark of marriage is not just for mutual love and intimacy but shared mission and vision.

Notes:

Summary/discussion/questions:

Main ideas

3. Shared vision and work leads to intimacy and bond (& vice versa).

4. The difference between Ananias & Sapphira and Priscilla & Aquila

5. Do not be unequally yoked – the oxen’s closeness is not about them, but about the work they’re undertaking.

6. Husbands and wife are not left behind when we are called to follow Jesus and promote the gospel *because* marriage is God’s plan for spreading the gospel. (Mark 10:29)

“We’re partners in the Garden.”

Reversing:
“The couple that stays together prays together.”

Notes:

Summary/discussion/questions: