

**Marriage & Family God's Way:
Love of the Husband
Eph 5:15-6:4 Part 7**

I. Introduction: Jewish Wedding Ceremony

A. First – BEAR with ME TODAY!

1. This week and next week are closely tied!
2. Today – LOTS of DOCTRINE / TEACHING
3. = Lay the Groundwork for the DUTY of the HUSBAND next week
4. As I will repeat at the end – Husband's duty would seem SHALLOW if not built on the DOCTRINE we see today.
5. To merely tell a husband to LOVE HIS WIFE AS HE LOVES HIS OWN BODY – is superficial WITHOUT the verses before it
6. HAVE to SEE Christ's LOVE for HIS BODY – the CHURCH first, then ADD Husband's love for his body – TOGETHER a COMPLETE PICTURE of the SANCTIFYING love a husband must have for his wife
7. THEREFORE – absorb the teaching today!

B. Second – remember what the Church is to Christ – we are not just the “body of Christ” BUT ALSO – are the BRIDE of CHRIST

C. THREADED THROUGH this passage is the METAPHOR of a JEWISH WEDDING CEREMONY

1. Christ's love for the church is PICTURED as Christ PREPARING His BRIDE for MARRIAGE
2. Understanding the Jewish Wedding Ceremony is KEY to GETTING THE COMPLETE PICTURE GIVEN HERE!

D. Jewish Wedding Ceremony

1. Wedding was MOST CELEBRATED SOCIAL EVENT.
2. Everyone in a village involved.
3. Time of great happiness and festivity.
4. Jewish marriage consisted of THREE PARTS
 - a) ENGAGEMENT - arranged by the fathers of the bride and groom, the engagement amounted to a contract of marriage in which the couple had little direct involvement.
 - b) BETROTHAL = marriage ceremony at which the bride and groom exchanged vows in the presence of family and friends.
 - c) = married in all ways but one
 - (1) One way - the marriage IS NOT physically consummated as the two never live together.
 - (2) betrothal lasts many months
 - (3) The groom establishes himself in a business, trade, or farming
 - (4) AND makes provision for a place for the couple to live.
 - d) WEDDING FEAST –up to a week,
 - (1) Now -entire community became involved.
 - (2) began with the groom's coming with his groomsmen to the bride's house,
 - (a) Her bridesmaids were waiting with her.
 - (b) She had bathed to cleanse herself in preparation.
 - (3) Bride / groom / attendants would then parade through the streets proclaiming that the wedding feast was about to begin.

- e) Procession began at night, and lamps or torches were used by the wedding party to illumine their way and to attract attention.
- f) At the end of wedding feast, groom presents her to Father / family
 - (1) Last - Best man-, would take the hand of the bride and place it in the hand of the groom
 - (2) couple would for first time be left alone together.
- g) The marriage would be consummated
- h) The couple would live together in their new home (happily ever after!).

E. Keep this picture in mind – ESPECIALLY the THIRD PART –WEDDING FEAST as we go through passage!

F. TURN TO Eph 5!...

G. Proposition – Studying Marriage & Family God’s Way

1. Finished: SUBMISSION of the WIFE
2. Started: LOVE of the HUSBAND (v.25-32) – now continue!

H. Now let’s READ the HUSBAND’S PART!

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so 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 would be holy and blameless. 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. 31 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless, each individual among you

also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see *to it* that she respects her husband.

I. OUTLINE:

1. COMMAND to Love (5:25a)
2. CHARACTERISTICS of Love (v.25b-32)
3. CONCLUSION to both Husbands and Wives (v.33)

II. REVIEW: COMMAND to Love (v.25a)

25 Husbands, love your wives,

A. = Love of Choice! AGAPAO LOVE!

B. =COMMAND – God COMMANDS you to DO IT

C. =CONTINUAL - CONTINUALLY, ALWAYS, NEVER-STOPPING CHOOSE to LOVE

D. =KEY WORD of SECTION -LOVE! SIX TIMES by v.33!

E. Next - The Characteristics of Love (v.25b-32)

III. REVIEW: Characteristic #1: Love is SPIRIT-FILLED!

A. REMEMBER – Every Passage has a context!

B. Husbands – You cannot do verses 25-33 UNLESS you are ALREADY doing verses 15-21 in Eph 5!

C. You MUST be WALKING in WISDOM / FILLED/ Controlled by the Spirit(v.15) – not by FLESH!

D. + This ALL FOR UNITY / HARMONY! Eph THEME!

E. If ATTEMPTS to LOVE YOUR WIFE FAIL from your SIDE - Go back to V. 15 – NOT to V.25 - FIRST!

IV. REVIEW: Characteristic #2: Love is SELF-WILLED

A. This is SELF-WILL under the CONTROL of the SPIRIT'S WILL! Got that?

B. Now let's go back to our COMMAND and see what Characteristics are in it!

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives,

C. What are the Characteristics of Self-willed Love?

1. = SELF-WILLED, VOLITIONAL, CHOICE!
 - a) NOT = “When I feel like it”
2. = “it’s intent is to seek the highest good in the one loved.”
 - a) = do what is Godly best for her
 - b) = do INSPITE of her response/ what you think she deserves
 - c) = SIMPLY do what is BEST because you CHOOSE TO.

V. Characteristic #3: Love is SACRIFICIAL

25...just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

A. SPECIFICALLY see how Paul defines this love!

B. As expected – He goes RIGHT to Christ!

C. And – this isn’t the first time we’ve been called to SHOW the LOVE that CHRIST SHOWED for US!

Eph 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

1. ALL Christians are called to the SACRIFICIAL love of Christ
2. A LOVE that is a PLEASING SACRIFICE to GOD! (“fragrant aroma”).
3. Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as
 - a) “just as” is a COMPARISON
 - b) COMPARISON to SHOW US THE MANNER in which we are to love our wives

D. Just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

1. = Died on the Cross for the church!
2. Love for the church = SACRIFICIAL LOVE

3. Hence, our love for our wives is to be SACRIFICIAL!
4. Didn't Jesus say?
Jn 10:11 "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.
Jn 10:15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.
5. "gave Himself up for her"
 - a) =very personal phrase
 - b) = Christ CHOSE to LAY DOWN HIS life for the CHURCH HE LOVES!
 - c) Application = Comanded to LOVE our WIVES – BUT ALSO we are to CHOOSE to LOVE and SACRIFICE for our WIVES!

VI. Characteristic #4: Love is SANCTIFYING

A. = PURPOSE of SACRIFICIAL LOVE – TO SANCTIFY

B. "sanctify" = to set apart for holiness for God's purposes

C. Christ's PURPOSE (for the church) & Example

→ Let's read in the context of v.25 – FOLLOW the FOLLOW and the CONNECTIONS of the PHRASES...

→ Context leading up to Christ's Example

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

→ Christ's PURPOSE & Example (notice the purpose clauses (that & so that)

26 so 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 would be holy and blameless.

1. THREE PURPOSE CLAUSES / PHRASES
 - a) = THREE PURPOSES of Christ's SACRIFICIAL

LOVE for the CHURCH

- (1) Purpose #1 – v.26 Sanctify / cleanse
26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
- (2) Purpose #2 –v.27a- Present the church in all her glory
27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing;
- (3) Purpose #3 – v.27end - Church be holy and blameless
but that she would be holy and blameless.
- b) BUT – which is most important? Is there order here? Yes!
- c) V.26-27 Follows a CHIASTIC Structure
 (1) A - B - A'
 A 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
 B 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing
 A' but that she would be holy and blameless.
- d) A and A' say the same thing from two different perspectives
 (1) A = the ACTION of sanctifying and Cleansing
 (2) A' = the RESULT of sanctifying and cleansing
- e) B = the PRIMARY PURPOSE of SACRIFICIAL and SANCTIFYING LOVE – the GLORIOUS CHURCH!
- f) Let's CALL these THREE PURPOSE CLAUSES – “the THREE PEARLS of PURPOSE” and look at them individually

- g) Why call them PEARLS?
- h) BECAUSE we have to DIVE DEEP into the THEOLOGY / DOCTRINE of What Christ did for the CHURCH
- i) AND – we have to REMEMBER to COME BACK up with these PEARLS and USE them – apply them!
- j) Can't just dive into the details of doctrine and not let these pearls see the light of day in our lives! ☺

D. Love is SANCTIFYING: The THREE PEARLS of PURPOSE of Christ's SACRIFICIAL LOVE

E. Pearl #1: Sanctify and Cleanse the CHURCH

[26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,](#)

1. "so that" = first purpose of Sacrificial love
2. TWO PARTS here
 - a) BOTH OCCURRED AT THE CROSS
 - b) BOTH HAPPENED TOGETHER, SIMULTANEOUSLY to the Church
3. "He might sanctify her" =
 - a) = consecrate, dedicate, set apart for God
 - b) Fits the OT concept of someone in a state or condition of purity for God's use
 - c) Notice – it is the POSITIVE SIDE of WHAT HAPPENED on the CROSS
 - (1) Positive – sanctify - set aside TO God / FOR God
 - (2) Again – this happened AT THE CROSS
 - (3) Christ SET ASIDE the CHURCH to GOD
 - d) BUT – there's a negative – something that must be removed also!
 - e) AT the CROSS CHRIST ALSO...

4. having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

a) having cleansed her

(1) negative = cleansed from the defilement of sins.

(2)= opposite side of the same coin

b) by the washing of water with the word,

(1) First – this is not BAPTISM!

(2) Some people see water and jump to baptism!

(3) “washing of water” has OT meaning

(4)= metaphor for cleansing from sin

(5) 1 Cor 6:11 says

1 Co 6:11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

(6) Washing is the cleaning from all sin

(7) RESULT of washing is to be set apart to God

(a) Individually = Regeneration

(b)= re-creation / new life

(8) Jesus

“saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5).

(9) Washing leads to re-creation.

John 3:3–8 SAYS - When a person is washed by Christ he is born again

2 Cor. 5:17 “Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come”.

Eph. 2:10 “We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus”

Heb 10:22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

c) BL: CLEANSING EFFECT of the CROSS that REMOVES SIN

5. BUT – There’s an ADDITIONAL PICTURE INVOKED here that PERFECTLY PICTURES Christ and the Church

a) Jewish Marriage custom of the Bridal Bath BEFORE Marriage

b) Seen in the imagery of God’s Marriage to Israel in Ezekial 16

c) Remember the picture of Israel at her birth?

Eze 16:4 “As for your birth, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water for cleansing; you were not rubbed with salt or even wrapped in cloths. 5 “No eye looked with pity on you to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you. Rather you were thrown out into the open field, for you were abhorred on the day you were born. 6 “When I passed by you and saw you squirming in your blood, I said to you *while you were* in your blood, ‘Live!’ Yes, I said to you *while you were* in your blood, ‘Live!’

d) BUT – what did God do with Israel?

Eze 16:8 “Then I passed by you and saw you, and behold, you were at the time for love; so I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness. I also swore to you and entered into a covenant with you so that you became Mine,” declares the Lord GOD. 9 “Then I bathed you with water, washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil.

- e) Picture = God CLEANSING in PREPARATION of TAKING ISRAEL as HIS BRIDE
- f) Out of this came the PRE-MARRIAGE Bath of the Bride
- g) Aside - verses that follow show
 - (1) Israel committed Spiritual Adultery
 - (2) Became a harlot
 - (3) Ever use the phrase "Like Mother, like daughter"?
 - (4) You won't again after reading Eze 16:44-45!!!
[Eze 16:44](#) "Behold, everyone who quotes proverbs will quote *this* proverb concerning you, saying, 'Like mother, like daughter.' [45](#) "You are the daughter of your mother, who loathed her husband and children. You are also the sister of your sisters, who loathed their husbands and children. Your mother was a Hittite and your father an Amorite.
- 6. But there's one more phrase here to finish this picture of the church's sanctification
- 7. [26](#) so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
 - a) "[word](#)" NOT LOGOS
 - (1)= ray-ma = that which is said / spoken = message, statement, saying
 - (2)= words that come from God / Christ = message from God IN WHICH YOU PLACE YOUR FAITH / TRUST / BELIEF
 - (3)= the GOSPEL which you BELIEVE
 - b) By the WORD you are SAVED / SET APART / CLEANSED:
 - (1) Peter
[1 Pe 1:23](#) for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*,

through the living and enduring word of God.

(2) Paul

Ro 10:8 But what does it say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, in your mouth and in your heart”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,

Ro 10:17 So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

c) Remember – the WORD CONTINUES to SANCTIFY / CLEANSE you after salvation too!

Jn 17:17 “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

8. V. 26 What has Paul done here by using this phrase?

a) A: FIRST – all the credit and WORK to CHRIST

(1) He sacrificed Himself to SET ASIDE
(sanctify) the church BY CLEANSING HER
from SIN with HIS WORD

b) But SECOND – He ties all of this to us
INDIVIDUALLY

(1) Our PERSONAL Sanctification / Setting Aside
(2) THAT CAME from TRUSTING the Word of GOD
(3) SO – that then TIES INTO our PROGRESSIVE
SANCTIFICATION –the growth we have as
CHRISTIANS in this LIFE

c) Why is that important – HE’S about to CALL
HUSBANDS to the RESPONSIBILITY toward their wives!

9. Transition: That’s the first PEARL of Purpose of
Christ’s Sanctifying Love

a) Pearl #1: Sanctify and Cleanse the CHURCH

b) Now the SECOND PURPOSE – THE PRIMARY
PURPOSE

F. Pearl #2: Present the Church in all her Glory

that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory,
having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing

1. For what reason are we sanctified and cleansed?
2. So that Christ can PRESENT TO HIMSELF the Church!
3. Back to the Jewish marriage ceremony –
 - a) 3rd part – end of the betrothal period
 - b) Bride prepares HERSELF by BRIDAL BATH
 - c) Bridegroom and friends go get her and bring her to bridegroom's house and present her to HIS FATHER at the wedding feast
 - d) Do you remember seeing this as part of a parable in the Gospels?

Mt 25:1 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 “Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. 3 “For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. 5 “Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and *began* to sleep. 6 “But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet *him*.’ 7 “Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8 “The foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 “But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you *too*; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ 10 “And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. 11 “Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’ 12 “But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’ 13 “Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

- e) Parable Pictures the BRIDEGROOM coming home to GET the BATHED BRIDE and take her to the WEDDING FEAST!
- f) Now back to our verse (v.27)

4. that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing
- a) that He might present to Himself the church
- (1) What do you notice different about what Christ does versus what the Jews did?
- (2) A: Christ BATHED the BRIDE
- (a) (sanctified and cleansed her)
- (b) She didn't do it to herself!
- (3) A: Christ goes / picks her up (yes, he is the bridegroom)
- (4) BUT – Christ presents her TO HIMSELF (not to His Father).
- (5) IOW – Christ DOES EVERYTHING and RECEIVES EVERYTHING in the WEDDING!
- b) How does He receive her?
- c) in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing
- (1) Positive – IN FULL GLORY / Holiness
- (2) Negative – no spots, wrinkles “or any such thing”
- d) Paul is emphatic – Christ's work with the church is COMPLETELY FINISHED
- (1) He has brought her to ABSOLUTE PERFECTION
- (2) = ABSOLUTELY NO IMPERFECTION LEFT!
- (3) COMPLETE GLORIFICATION
- (4) Complete Christ-likeness
- (5) What a picture!
- e) Remember the picture from Ezekiel?
- Eze 16:10 “I also clothed you with embroidered cloth and put sandals of porpoise skin on your feet; and I wrapped you with fine linen and covered you with silk.

11 “I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your hands and a necklace around your neck. 12 “I also put a ring in your nostril, earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. 13 “Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your dress was of fine linen, silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour, honey and oil; so you were exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty. 14 “Then your fame went forth among the nations on account of your beauty, for it was perfect because of My splendor which I bestowed on you,” declares the Lord GOD.

f) = a picture of an absolutely beautiful woman
PERFECTLY adorned = same picture as Paul in Ephesians 5.

5. Before we leave this key purpose –

that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing

a) There is one obvious question –when does He present the Church to himself?

b) A: At the Rapture

c) Can’t happen until we are glorified!

d) Certainly not that now!

6. We’ve now seen two PEARL of PURPOSE for Christ’s Sacrificial Love

a) Remember the CHIASTIC Structure (on the back of your handout)

b) Pearl #1: Sanctify and Cleanse the CHURCH

c) Pearl #2: Present the Church in all her Glory –
THE PRIMARY PURPOSE of his SACRIFICE
on the CROSS

G. Pearl #3: The Church be holy and blameless

but that she would be holy and blameless.

1. Now we’re back to the same purpose as the first!

2. Holy

- a) The church has become holy as God is Holy (Lev 19:2, 1 Peter 1:15)
- b) We are now completely SET ASIDE to GOD – the GLORIFIED CHURCH – CHRIST-LIKE!
- c) That's the positive again then...

3. Blameless

- a) Without blemish, without fault
4. Remember what Paul told us all the way back at the beginning of the letter?
[Eph 1:4](#) just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.
- a) WELL – v.27 talks about WHEN WE GET THERE!
5. Remember how Paul said it to the Romans as we saw last week?
[Ro 8:29](#) For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.
6. Paul, knowing this KNOWS that HIS MINISTRY is to Participate in this
[Col 1:28](#) We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.
[2 Co 11:2](#) For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.
7. NEXT we're going to see that OUR MINISTRY as HUSBAND'S is to PARTICIPATE in the WORK of CHRIST for our wives!
8. MEN – CHRIST USES US to PREPARE our

WIVES to be HOLY and BLAMELESS when He PRESENTS the CHURCH to HIMSELF

9. Q: Are you HELPING or HINDERING CHRIST?
(i.e. does He have to work around you!)

H. let's come back up from the bottom with these PEARLS and see the whole picture again!

I. We've now seen ALL THREE PEARLS of PURPOSE for Christ's Sacrificial Love

1. Remember the CHIASTIC Structure (on the back of your handout)
2. Pearl #1: Sanctify and Cleanse the CHURCH
 - a) Set us aside to God
 - b) Cleanse the Church of ALL SIN / DEFILEMENT
3. Pearl #2: Present the Church in all her Glory – THE PRIMARY PURPOSE of his SACRIFICE on the CROSS
 - a) He will take the Church to the Wedding Feast
 - b) Present her to Himself in FULL GLORY – not a wrinkle or spot!
4. Pearl #3: The Church then is HOLY AND BLAMELESS
 - a) Christ's work done
 - b) FULLY GLORIFIED, the Church is Christ-like and Ready for eternity!

J. THEN – after ALL this SACRIFICAL Love and ALL THIS SANCTIFYING LOVE, what does Christ do?

1 Co 15:24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death. 27 For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that

He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. 28
 When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son
 Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected
 all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

1. Christ gives it all back to His FATHER – SO THAT
 GOD MAY BE ALL IN ALL.

VII. Conclusion

A. We've seen how Christ loves His own Body – the church

B. Guess what us husband's will be called to next week?

Eph 5:28 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.

C. Do you see how this is going to flow?

1. Start with Christ and His love for His Body – the
 Church
 - a) How He sacrificed for it
 - b) How He cleansed it and purified it
2. Then He calls us husbands to love our wives as we
 already love our own bodies!
3. Cherish / Nourish
4. JUST AS Christ does the church

***D. As I keep saying –the RESPONSIBILITY of
 HUSBANDS is STAGGERING.***

***E. Men – the key is to let yourselves be FILLED with
 the AWE and SPLENDOR of what Christ has done /
 is doing and will do for the CHURCH***

F. Let it overwhelm you and fill you

G. THEN LET IS SPILL OUT on YOUR WIFE!