

**Marriage & Family God's Way:
Love of the Husband
Eph 5:15-6:4 Part 8**

I. Introduction:

A. TURN TO Eph 5!...

B. Proposition – Studying Marriage & Family God's Way

1. LOVE of the HUSBAND (v.25-32) – now continue!

C. 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.

D. OUTLINE:

1. COMMAND to Love (5:25a)
2. HERE NOW: 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!

B. =COMMAND – God COMMANDS you to DO IT

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

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

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

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

C. 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?

1. = SELF-WILLED, VOLITIONAL, CHOICE!

a) NOT = "When I feel like it"

B. = "it's intent is to seek the highest Godly good in the one loved."

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. = Died on the Cross for the church!

1. Love for the church = SACRIFICIAL LOVE

2. Hence, our love for our wives is to be SACRIFICIAL!

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. PART 1: Christ's PURPOSE (for the church) & Example

1. THREE PURPOSE CLAUSES / PHRASES

- a) = THREE PURPOSES of Christ's SACRIFICIAL LOVE for the CHURCH
- b) 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.
- c) 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
- d) B = the PRIMARY PURPOSE of SACRIFICIAL and SANCTIFYING LOVE – the GLORIOUS CHURCH!
- e) =“the THREE PEARLS of PURPOSE” and look at them individually -Why call them PEARLS?
- f) BECAUSE we have to DIVE DEEP into the THEOLOGY / DOCTRINE of What Christ did for the CHURCH
- g) AND – we have to REMEMBER to COME BACK up with these PEARLS and USE them – apply them!

D. Love is SANCTIFYING: The THREE PEARLS of PURPOSE of 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 –

- a) THE PRIMARY PURPOSE of his SACRIFICE on the CROSS
- b) He will take the Church to the Wedding Feast
- c) 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!

E. That's Christ's side of the Picture of SANCTIFYING LOVE – Now...

VII. Love is Sanctifying: Husband's Responsibility

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

A. Outline of V.28-32

1. The Principle
2. The Picture
3. The Proof
4. The Propellant

B. The Principle

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,

1. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives
 - a) So husbands ought also

- (1) Like the ESV translation “In the same way, husbands should love their wives”
- (2) “ought also” = same way, same manner
- (3) Same manner as what? A: As CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH
 - (a) Sacrificing Love/ Sanctifying Love
 - (b) Love that focuses on growing wife to FULL GLORY – without spot or blemish – holy and blameless!
- b) “ought” = OBLIGATION.
 - (1) Literally= “to owe someone a debt”
 - (2)= CONTINUAL ACTION
- c) to love their own wives
 - (1) As a good author who doesn’t want you to lose the flow of thought...
 - (2) Paul draws you back to the main point of v.25 to LOVE YOUR WIFE
 - (3) AND – he ADDS the WEIGHT of OBLIGATION with the “ought”!
- d) Paul – Let me REPEAT and ENHANCE: “Husbands are OBLIGATED to CONTINUALLY Love their own wives in the SAME WAY / SAME MANNER as Christ loved the church”
- e) Far beyond RECOMMENDATION & SUGGESTION!
- f) When you took the marriage vows you WEREN’T SAYING “I DO” to agreeing to HOW MUCH she would do for you!
- g) You WERE COMMITTING to the OBLIGATION to CONTINUALLY – FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, moment by moment, love your wife in the SAME WAY as Christ loved the Church!

h) BUT – Paul goes further

(1) He brings this LOFTY, Christ-like IDEAL
RIGHT DOWN to REALITY

(2) Maybe you can't fully COMPREHEND the
Love Christ HAS / HAS SHOWN for the
Church

(3) BUT, Paul SAYS, you can comprehend this love as:

2. [28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives
as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife
loves himself;](#)

a) Husbands, you can't hide from this one!

b) Let's look at the details first

c) We've now seen the word "body" 9X in this book!

(1) ALL previous references have been
– calling the Church, the Body of Christ

(2) HERE – BODY is PHYSICAL

d) [as their own bodies](#)

(1) If you think about this very literally you
WON'T INTERPRET this wrong!

(2) Two views

(a) Love your wife "in the same way that you
love your own body"

(b) Love your wife "as being your own body"

(3) A: Love your wife "AS BEING YOUR OWN
BODY"

(a) BUT – lest you forget – that INCLUDES the
first one BUT GOES FAR BEYOND IT!

(b) You love your wife AS YOUR OWN BODY
and, hence, you also LOVE HER in the
SAME WAY as your own body.

(c) However, doesn't work UNLESS you are
CLEAR THAT SHE IS YOUR OWN BODY!

e) What is Paul saying?

(1) As Christ loved the Church AS THAT WHICH IS HIS OWN BODY, Husbands, love your wife AS YOUR OWN BODY.

(2) Q1: Is the Church Christ's OWN BODY?

(3) A: yes! We are THE BODY OF CHRIST!

[Eph 1:22](#) And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, [23](#) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

(a) = In ALL the FULLNESS of GOD, the CHURCH "IS" Christ's Body!

(4) Q2: Is your wife YOUR OWN BODY?

(a) Paul answers in V.31 by quoting Genesis 2:24

[Eph 5:31](#) 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.

(b) Spiritually, YOU ARE ONE BODY

f) SPIRITUALLY, Husbands are to LOVE THEIR WIVES as THEIR OWN BODY – BECAUSE SHE IS HIS OWN BODY!

g) What immediate Conclusion can you draw from this?

h) [V.28 end...He who loves his own wife loves himself;](#)

(1) SINCE, she IS your own body...

(2) IF you LOVE HER, You LOVE YOURSELF.

(3) = This is a NATURAL LOVE

(4) = You are Loving yourself = natural to do!

(5) = NATURAL LOVE, not just a LOVE OF DUTY

(6) Notice –no command here to love oneself!

(a) OR that self-love is NECESSARY to attain BEFORE you can love another!

(b) NO! ASSUMED that LOVING YOURSELF is NATURAL and is ALREADY DONE!

(c) I always hated the song by Whitney Houston called "The Greatest Love of All"

I found the greatest love of all
Inside of me. The greatest love of all is easy
to achieve. Learning to love yourself -It is the
greatest love of all

→ WRONG! You already love yourself...

(7) NATURAL = YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO
THINK about LOVING YOURSELF! You
just do it naturally!

(8) Paul, "let me explain this further..."

3. 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but
nourishes and cherishes it,

a) "for no one" – do you know what that says?

(1) = As a general law of nature, no one ever
hated his own flesh...

(2) IOW – Let me EXPLAIN HOW THIS IS A
NATURAL LOVE THAT you HAVE

(3) Another way to say this, "AFTER ALL, no
one ever hated his own flesh..."

b) hated his own flesh

(1) "hated" = common word for hate, despise,
abhor

(2) When Christ said the world will hate you
(e.g. John 17:14), he used this word.

(3) Verb form is simply to indicate something
that is axiomatically true / always true

(4) = IT IS KNOWN that NO ONE EVER
HATED HIS OWN BODY

(5) Flesh = body = synonym for word above in
v.27 = physical body

(a) Probably switched to this synonym to get
ready for quoting Gen 2:24 below...

- c) **EVER!** – really strengthens the argument!
- d) Paul is **STRENGTHENING** the **SPIRITUAL ARGUMENT** by **SHOWING** that this **CONSISTENT** with a **LAW** in man’s own **NATURE** to **NOT HATE** his own body!
- e) **BUT** = in contrast, what **IS** the **NATURAL LOVE** you **HAVE FOR YOUR OWN BODY?**
- f) **but nourishes and cherishes it,**
 - (1) These two words picture the care we have for our body **IN A PICTURE** of **HOW** we **CARE FOR CHILDREN!**
 - (2) Both verb forms give a picture of continual, upward process leading to a goal
 - (a)= looks like graph that goes up to the right in a steady, linear line!
 - (b) **IOW** we continually, steadily, **INCREASINGLY** nourish and cherish our bodies!
 - (3) **Nourishes** = bring to maturity / growing in development from childhood!
 - (a) Used for raising children!
 - (b) It’s even sometimes used to **NURSE** a **CHILD** – some translations = “feed” here
 - (c) Used in Eph 6:4 - parents are called to **Eph 6:4 ... bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**
 - (d) Isn’t this how we care for our bodies?
 - (e) Aren’t we gentle with our bodies as we are a gentle with young children?
 - (f) Don’t we bring our bodies along in growth carefully and gently
 - (g) Think about that! How many of you husbands consider it your duty to “**RAISE**” your wife as you do children?

- (i) NOT in A CONDESCENDING WAY
- (ii) BUT = consider it your DUTY TO BRING THEM UP TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

(4) Cherishes Literally = to warm as a bird covers it's young under it's wings

(a)= comfort, care, warm

(b)= TLC = Tender Loving CARE!

(5) Together – Just like you nourish and cherish your own body, you are to gently, carefully, tenderly, raise up and care for your wife!

(6) Picture it as the gentle, loving care toward RAISING up a child – without the condescending part!

(7) Just to address that condescending part

1 Th 2:7 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.

(a) Exact same word

(b) In fact, = the ONLY other usage of this in NT!

(8) SPIRITUAL HEADSHIP = RAISING UP and TENDERLY CARING FOR – just like is done for young children!

g) Purpose of this argument?

(1) To IMPEL you – TO URGE / DRIVE you FORWARD by STRONG MORAL PRESSURE

(2) To EXERCISE SELF-LOVE toward your WIFE!

(3) To CONVINCEN you that it is RATIONALLY and NATURALLY IMPOSSIBLE NOT to love your wife as your own body!

(4) AND – to give you a SPECIFIC DETAILED picture of what this is like – NOURISHING and CARING, NOT HATING!

(5) Remember – SHE IS YOUR BODY!

- h) AND – lest you forget, let's go back to Christ and remember that this comparison is to Him too!

C. The Picture

29...just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body.

1. 29...just as Christ also does the church,

- a) “just as” pulls the comparison back to Christ!
 (1) Just as what? Just as Christ LOVES
 (2) Ties back to the LOVE that Christ has / shows
 (3) But is ENHANCED by the Picture of
 NOURISHING / CHERISHING / TENDER
 CARING LOVE!
- b) “Christ” keeps this formal!
 (1) Your ROLE = HUSBAND
 (2) Jesus' ROLE = CHRIST, MESSIAH, SAVIOR!
 (3) Husband's you're not being called to be like
 Jesus, the man
 (4) You are CALLED to be LIKE CHRIST, THE
 SAVIOR, the MESSIAH!
- c) also does the church.
 (1) Paul quickly pulls back in the whole
 argument from above
 (2) How does Christ Love the Church?
Eph 5:25 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.
 (3) That Love! =CHRIST'S NATURAL love for
 the Church!
 (4) Hoehner: “Even with all its imperfections

Christ nurtures and takes tender care of His body, the Church. Christ did not give birth to the church and leave it stranded. He nurses her with the warmth of His love..."

(5) WHY / WHAT CAUSES Christ to love the Church?

2. 30 because we are members of His body.

a) Because = the cause for this love.

b) we are members of His body.

(1)= third time this is mentioned

Eph 1:22 ... gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

(2) Different here = "WE"

(3)= PAUL and the EPHESIAN church are part of Christ's body

c) "members" = members of the body = limbs, body parts

(1) NOT = membership members of an organization!

d) Paul is saying that Christ's love for the Church

(1) IS sacrificial

(2) IS sanctifying

(3) IS nourishing and caring – raising up tender love care

(4) BECAUSE His BODY is AN ORGANISM

(a) NEEDS this CARE

(b) It is A WHOLE that NEEDS tender care of EACH PART – each MEMBER

(c) Very PERSONAL, INTEGRAL, ORGANIC picture

e) AND – intrinsic here is that this IS ONE BODY – the BODY of CHRIST!

f) What did Paul tell the Colossians?

[Col 3:15](#) Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

(1)ONE BODY/ HIS BODY

g) To the Corinthians...

[1 Co 12:12](#) For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. [13](#) For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. [14](#) For the body is not one member, but many.

(1)That sure says it clearly!

h) OK – IF you are holding a NKJ, it will read

[30](#) For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

(1)= additional phrase NOT in the NAS, ESV, etc.

(2)How did they get there and should they be included? Good questions!

(3)A: one of the characteristics of the KJV family of translations are what is called “LONGER READINGS”

(4)Families of LATER manuscripts (NOT EARLIER) have words added to them

(5)Best example would be texts in GOSPELS

(a)In parallel passages

(b)One might say “Our Lord Jesus”

(c)Another gospel might say “Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”

- (d) SO – translators came along and said –
These are supposed to be the same!
- (e) So – they made the shorter reading
LONGER to SO THAT BOTH said “Our
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”
- (f) This is called “conflation” = blending /
merging texts
- (g) BL: words were added to
 - (i) Make parallel passages the same
 - (ii) TO ADD CLARITY to a passage.
- (6) Should these words be included? No.
 - (a) Key argument: Not found in the oldest /
best Greek Manuscripts
 - (b) Extremely redundant to what is already
present in the text.
- (7) BUT – do they change the meaning of the
text? No. So, don’t worry about them!
- i) Alright – we are we?! Isn’t it amazing how just
walking through the text reveals so much!
- j) But - you can’t forget where we are!
[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. THEN...

D. The Proof

[Eph 5:31](#) 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.

→ **Immediate question:** What’s the connection of
V.31 to the previous verses?!!!

1. When in doubt, assume the immediate context –

IOW v.31 TIES DIRECTLY to the thought of V.30

2. That is the case here for many reasons.
3. AND – Paul has quoted whole verse to just pull out the last phrase – “the two shall become one flesh”
4. Let’s talk about Genesis 2:24 and Adam and Eve!
5. First – were Adam and Eve one flesh? YES! Eve was formed out of Adam’s rib!
 - a) Very LITERALLY ONE FLESH!
6. AND – Gen 2:24 goes on to state that FOR ALL FUTURE MARRIAGES, the husband and wife WILL BE ONE FLESH!
7. Think about this...
 - a) Paul has been arguing that husbands are to love their wives AS THEIR OWN BODIES (one body, same body)
 - b) JUST AS Christ loves the CHURCH- ONE BODY, SAME BODY, CHRIST’s BODY – “because we are all members of His body” (v.30)
 - c) NOW – PAUL CONCLUDES SHOWING that husband and wife ARE TRULY ONE BODY - SO –
 - (1)ALL of What he has called husbands to
 - (2)What he has COMPARED to in Christ and the CHURCH
 - (3)ALL TIES TOGETHER PERFECTLY
 - (4)Because the last piece of the puzzle nicely ties everything out
 - d) You CAN love your wife AS YOUR BODY, BECAUSE YOU ARE INDEED ONE BODY
 - e) You CAN compare to the Body of Christ, ONE BODY, HIS BODY BECAUSE YOU ARE ALSO ONE BODY!

E. The Propellant

[32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.](#)

1. This verse confuses soooo many people!
2. KEY – what is the meaning of mystery?!
3. We have already seen the word 4 times before this and have one more time to go after this!
4. Guess what? = same thing as it has all along!
5. “[mystery](#)” = something PREVIOUSLY NOT REVEALED that has now BEEN REVEALED!
 - a) = the once hidden purpose of God which has now been revealed in Christ!
6. “[is great](#)” = Great magnitude, importance and profoundness
 - a) NOT = GREATLY DIFFICULT to UNDERSTAND!
7. What mystery is Paul talking about here? Paul answers!
8. “[but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church](#)”
 - a) John MacArthur:

As Paul has pointed out in vv. 23–29, marriage is a picture of the church and its relationship to Christ. **This mystery**—this magnificent picture that men could never discover and that was unknown to the saints of the Old Covenant but is now revealed—is great. God’s new people, **the church**, are brought into His kingdom and His family through faith in **Christ**. He is the Bridegroom and they are His bride (Rev. 21:9). A husband’s greatest motive for loving, purifying, protecting, and caring for his wife is Christ’s love, purifying, protecting, and caring for His own bride, the church. Christian marriage is to be loving, holy, pure, self–sacrificing, and mutually submissive because those virtues characterize the relationship of **Christ and the church**. The sacred relationship between Christian husbands and wives is inextricably related to the sacred relationship between Christ and His church.

9. IOW – Paul is SAYING that the NT teaching of the UNITY / ONENESS of Christ and the Church – The MYSTERY NOW REVEALED, is KEY to a Husband’s MOTIVATION to LOVE HIS WIFE.
10. Christ’s union with the Church is a TYPOLOGY for marriage / is a PERFECT PICTURE / METAPHOR / PATTERN / COMPARISON for MARRIAGE!
11. Want to know something REALLY interesting that this verse teaches???
 - a) It teaches that Gen 2:24 – “The two shall become one flesh” ALSO INCLUDES CHRIST and THE CHURCH
 - b) Gen 2:24 ALSO REFERS to CHRIST /THE CHURCH
 - c) NOT JUST to man and woman in Marriage!
 - d) I say ALSO because I just told you that Paul used v.31 to prove his point about husband’s being ONE BODY with their WIVES
12. Now Paul Takes Gen 2:24 and tells us the it teaches that CHRIST is ONE BODY with the CHURCH!
13. But wait, you say! Gen 2:24 is ABOUT MARRIAGE!
 - a) A: you’re right!
 - b) And – Scripture teaches that Christ is the bridegroom and the Church is the Bride!
 - c) We are “in Christ” and He is IN US!
 - d) We have “union with Christ”
 - e) We are HIS BODY!
14. And – isn’t the UNION / ONENESS of the husband and wife a SUBSET of the ONENESS / UNION that each also has with Christ!

15. Paul is being used by the Holy Spirit to give this incredible insight
- a) To Christ and the Church
 - b) To Marriage and how it typifies the Church
 - c) To How Husband's must THINK about the ONENESS of their wives IN ORDER to PROPERLY TREAT them in a godly fashion!

VIII. Conclusion

- A. This should be enough to STAGGER you, OVERWHELM you,**
- B. AND – to OPEN your UNDERSTANDING to a level DEEPER than you've EVER THOUGHT about MARRIAGE and the CHURCH**
- C. We need ONE MORE WEEK AND ONE MORE VERSE to PULL THIS ALL TOGETHER and TALK APPLICATION!**
- D. So, we'll do that next week**
- E. You have to stay with me because ALL OF THIS TEACHING will BECOME PREACHING**
- F. We will “get in the kitchen” and SIT DOWN TOGETHER and APPLY THIS TO OUR MARRIAGE**
- G. When we do so, YOU'LL HAVE ALL this UNDERSTOOD, so we can go right to LIVING IT!**