

**Marriage & Family God's Way:
Love of the Husband
Eph 5:15-6:4 Part 9**

I. Introduction:

A. TURN TO Eph 5!...

**B. Proposition – Studying Marriage & Family God's Way –
Currently -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. CHARACTERISTICS of Love (v.25b-32)
3. CONCLUSION to both Husbands and Wives (v.33)

II. Characteristic #1: Love is Spirit-Filled (Eph 5:15-21)

III. Characteristic #2: Love is Self-Willed (Eph 5:25a)

IV. Characteristic #3: Love is SACRIFICIAL (Eph 5:25b-32)

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

A. = *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!

V. Characteristic #4: Love is SANCTIFYING: The PURPOSE of Christ's SACRIFICIAL LOVE

A. = PURPOSE of SACRIFICIAL LOVE – TO SANCTIFY

B. “sanctify”= to set apart for holiness for God’s purposes

C. Remember CHIASTIC Structure (previous sermons)

D. Sanctify and Cleanse the CHURCH

26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

1. Set us aside to God
2. Cleanse the Church of ALL SIN / DEFILEMENT

E. 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

1. PRIMARY PURPOSE of his SACRIFICE on CROSS
2. He will take the Church to the Wedding Feast
3. Present her to Himself in FULL GLORY – not a wrinkle or spot!

F. The Church then is HOLY AND BLAMELESS

but that she would be holy and blameless.

1. Christ’s work done -FULLY GLORIFIED, the Church is Christ-like and Ready for eternity!

G. That’s Christ’s side of the Picture of SANCTIFYING LOVE –

VI. Love is Sanctifying: Husband's Responsibility

A. 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) "ought also" = same way, same manner

(2) Same manner as what? A: As CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH

(a) Sacrificing Love/ Sanctifying Love

(3) Love that focuses on growing wife to FULL GLORY – without spot or blemish – holy and blameless!

b) "ought" = OBLIGATION.

c) to love their own wives

(1) Paul draws you back to the main point of v.25 to LOVE YOUR WIFE

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) 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

a) = Love your wife "AS BEING YOUR OWN BODY"

b) What is Paul saying?

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

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

[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.](#)

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

[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.

(a) Spiritually, YOU ARE ONE BODY

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

e) What immediate Conclusion can you draw from this?

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

a) SINCE, she IS your own body...

b) IF you LOVE HER, THEN You LOVE YOURSELF.

c) = a NATURAL LOVE= You are Loving yourself

d) Not just a LOVE OF DUTY

e) Paul, "let me explain this further..."

4. [29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it,](#)

a) ["for no one hated his own flesh"](#)

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

(2) "[hated](#)" = hate, despise, abhor

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

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

- b) EVER! –strengthens the argument!
- c) 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!
- d) BUT = in contrast, what IS the NATURAL LOVE you HAVE FOR YOUR OWN BODY?
- e) 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) Nourishes = bring to maturity / growing in development from childhood!
- (a) Used in Eph 6:4 - parents are called to
Eph 6:4 ... bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- (b) Think about that! How many of you husbands consider it your duty to “RAISE” your wife as you do children?
- (c) NOT in A CONDESCENDING WAY
- (d) BUT = consider it your DUTY TO BRING THEM UP TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY
- (3) Cherishes Literally = to warm as a bird covers it’s young under it’s wings
- (a) = comfort, care, warm
- (b) = TLC = Tender Loving CARE!
- (4) Together – Just like you nourish and cherish your own body, you are to gently, carefully, tenderly, raise up and care for your wife!
- (5) Picture” gentle, loving care RAISING a child
1 Th 2:7 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.
→ Exact same word

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

f) Purpose of this argument?

(1)To IMPEL you – TO URGE / DRIVE you FORWARD by STRONG MORAL PRESSURE To EXERCISE SELF-LOVE toward your WIFE!

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

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

(4)Remember – SHE IS YOUR BODY!

g) AND – lest you forget, let's go back to Christ and PICTURE this love for you in HIS terms!

B. 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) Paul quickly pulls back whole argument from above

b) 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.

(1)That Love! =CHRIST'S NATURAL love for the Church!

c) 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.
- 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 / sanctifying
(2) IS nourishing and caring – raising up tender love care
(3) BECAUSE His BODY is AN ORGANISM
(a) NEEDS this CARE
(b) It is A WHOLE that NEEDS tender care of EACH PART – each MEMBER
- e) AND – intrinsic here is that this IS ONE BODY – the BODY of CHRIST!
- f) Now that Paul has PICTURED this LOVE in terms of Christ again, he then PROVES his point...

C. 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.

1. Paul has quoted whole verse to just pull out the last phrase – "the two shall become one flesh"
2. Think about this...
 - a) Paul has been arguing that husbands are to love their wives AS THEIR OWN BODIES (one body, same body)
 - b) NOW – PAUL CONCLUDES SHOWING that husband and wife ARE TRULY ONE BODY –
 - c) FROM SCRIPTURE - all the way back to the BEGINNING when Marriage was announced!
 - d) You CAN love your wife AS YOUR BODY, BECAUSE YOU ARE INDEED ONE BODY

3. 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!

4. Now Paul Takes Gen 2:24 and tells us the it teaches that CHRIST is ONE BODY with the CHURCH!
5. Gen 2:24 is ABOUT MARRIAGE!
 - a) And – Scripture teaches that Christ is the bridegroom and the Church is the Bride!
 - b) SO We are HIS BODY! – ONE with HIM
6. Now Paul needs to motivate you with this!
 - a) You have the PRINCIPLE – Love YOUR WIFE AS your own body BECAUSE she is your BODY
 - b) You have the PICTURE – Christ and the Church is EXACTLY the SAME – ONE BODY – you can “SEE” it there
 - c) You have the PROOF – You ARE ONE FLESH and SO IS CHRIST and the CHURCH! Now...

D. The Propellant

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

1. KEY – what is the meaning of mystery?!
2. “mystery” = something PREVIOUSLY NOT REVEALED that has now BEEN REVEALED!
 - a) = the once hidden purpose of God which has now been revealed in Christ!
3. “is great” = Great magnitude, importance, profoundness
 - a) NOT = GREATLY DIFFICULT to UNDERSTAND!
4. What mystery is Paul talking about here?

5. “but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church”
6. Paul is saying TWO things
7. = Paul is SAYING that Gen 2:24 LITERALLY TEACHES that Christ and the Church are ONE BODY because it ALSO IS A MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP
 - a) Since the CHURCH is a mystery revealed in the NT, so also are the DETAILS of the BODY of CHRIST BEING ONE BODY with Him
8. = 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.
9. Christ’s union with the Church is a is a PERFECT PICTURE / METAPHOR / PATTERN / COMPARISON for MARRIAGE!

VII. The Conclusion to Both

Eph 5:33 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.

A. Nevertheless = In spite of what I just told you about Christ and the Church and Gen 2:24...Let’s go back to husbands and wives and the purpose of this teaching!

B. Let me SUMMARIZE EVERYTHING from v.22-32!

C. each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself,

1. each individual among you = NO HUSBAND ESCAPES THIS TEACHING!
2. is to love his own wife even as himself, =
 - a) is to love his own wife = REPEAT v.25 COMMAND
(1)Exact same command started this section

b) even as himself, = REPEAT the ONENESS of V.28!

(1) Paul summarizes all the LOFTY TEACHING of Christ's SACRIFICING and SANCTIFYING example

(2) BY going back to PRACTICAL MEANING to HUSBANDS -even as himself, =

(3) = Your WIFE is YOUR BODY

(4) LOVE HER AS YOURSELF = YOUR BODY

3. When you look back at all that was taught in V.25-32 for husbands, the Holy Spirit summarized it all perfectly in this phrase "each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself,!!!

a) In that one phrase I can pull back any part of the teaching of those 8 verses!

D. and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

1. AND – Just so that you wives don't take Your HUSBAND's LOVE FOR GRANTED...

the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

2. Greek – EXTREME BREVITY: "the wife – that she must respect the husband."

3. "respects" = root for "fear"

a) = REVERENTIAL RESPECT for the POSITION / ROLE of the Husband

b) Fear is RESERVED ONLY FOR GOD.- NEVER to FEAR men (1Pet 1:14)

4. Very important summary to the Wife

a) First – You must submit as commanded in V.22-24

b) BUT Second – in light of the TEACHING to husbands

(1) You must reverential respect the ROLE THAT GOD HAS PUT THEM

(2) SUBMIT and SUPPORT that ROLE

(3) RESPECT the GRAVITY of what they are RESPONSIBLE TO DO WITH You / FOR YOU!

VIII. Peter's Formula for Husbands

1 Peter 3:7 You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

A. Peter's Formula for Husbands: Perform for answered Prayers

1. IF you perform as a husband God's way
2. THEN your prayers for your wife will not be hindered

B. Give the Context! 1 Peter 2:11-12,13-3:7!

C. IF you perform as a husband God's way – 2 Parts

1. Live in an understanding way

a) You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman;

(1) Peter goes right after the WAY HUSBANDS TREAT THEIR WIVES!

(2) In this culture, HOW COULD they treat wives?

(a) ANY WAY they WANTED = To DEATH

(b) OWNED THEM AS THINGS

(3) How did most TREAT their wives? HORRIBLY

(4) SO – Peter says – TREAT YOUR WIFE GOD'S WAY!

(a) Show her a life that will stand in ABSOLUTE, STARK, CONTRAST to the world around you!

(b) Show WORLD HOW A CHRISTIAN TREATS his wife!

(c) PETER – CONSISTENTLY GOING AFTER OUR CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR in front of an unsaved world.

b) You husbands in the same way,(1) "Same way"

(a) Context: SUBMIT TO ALL HUMAN INSTITUTIONS (2:13)

(b) Same as to gov't / Employers

(c) Same as wives with unsaved husbands,

(d) = ALL CHRISTIANS

(i) in AN UNSAVED WORLD,

(ii) whose LIVES are to WITNESS to the UNSAVED

(2) PRIMARY CONTEXT = WORST CASE PETER! = HUSBAND WITH AN UNSAVED WIFE

(3) BUT – can ALSO APPLY HERE to SAVED WIVES (consistent with rest of Scripture)

(4) Peter PULLS ALL the CONTEXT from 2:11 FORWARD with "LIKEWISE"

(a) with ANOTHER COMMAND to be subordinate to "SUBMIT" in 2:13

(i) However – though subordinate - NOT the SAME –

(a) *All SUBMIT to human institutions (2:13)*

(b) *All SUBMIT to Employers/Masters (2:18)*

(c) *Wives Submit to Husbands (3:1)*

(ii) Husbands NOT told to SUBMIT to wives!

(a) *SUBMIT to Human Institution of Marriage (2:13)*

(b) *BUT instead of submitting to wife they...*

c) "live with your wives"

(1) present, continual "dwelling"

(2) = YOUR MARRIED LIFE

(3) Husbands, LIVE OUT YOUR MARRIAGE...

d) “in an understanding way”

(1) Literally “according to knowledge”

(2) = spiritual knowledge!

(3) KNOWN ONLY TO THE SAVED!

(4) Husbands – TREAT YOUR WIFE as A CHRISTIAN HUSBAND should

(5) ACCORDING TO THE SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE you HAVE from GOD’S TEACHING TO YOU!

(6) = understanding (NAS word), correct insight, truth properly comprehended and applied through a diligent study and pursuit of truth in the Word of God.

(7) “UNDERSTANDING WAY” = KNOWLEDGE INTERNALIZED and APPLIED

(a) 2 Peter 1:5-6 Talking about our Lord Jesus Christ

5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness,

(i) KNOWLEDGE of the TRUTH from THE WORD of GOD

(8) SO – You husbands, live with your wives as a Christian husband has been taught to live with His wife – GOD’S WAY ACCORDING to KNOWLEDGE APPLIED FROM THE WORD OF GOD.

e) *You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman;*(1) Literally – “as a weaker vessel – the wife”

(a) COMPARATIVE TERM! “weaker”

- (i) IMPLICATION – MEN ARE WEAK!
 - (ii) Woman are MERELY WEAKER!
 - (iii) If ALL of us are WEAK – Who is STRONG? GOD ALONE!
- (b) Key to understanding – word “VESSEL”
- (i) USED in Scripture as a physical object
 - (ii) Relating to persons = physical body.
 - (iii) Here – setup appositionally to “the wife”
- (c) Relating to the husband’s role –
- (i) REMEMBER SHE NEEDS A PHYSICAL HEAD PROTECTOR AND PROVIDER.
 - (ii) AND subtle reminder that HUSBAND IS WEAK TOO. – TYING BACK to “ACCORDING to KNOWLEDGE”

2. 2nd PART of performing as a husband God’s way:

- a) and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life,
- b) show her honor
 - (1) “show” = distribute to her , assign her (some translations: “give her”)
 - (2) “Honor” = high respect = esteem her
 - (3) WHY honor her?
- c) as a fellow heir of the grace of life.
 - (1) as a fellow heir
 - (a) Peter says you and her have something in common! = “fellow heirs”
 - (b) You have both inherited FROM GOD
 - (2) the grace of life.
 - (a) Literally: “the grace that consists of life”
 - (b) What is “grace”?
 - (i) UNMERITED FAVOR
 - (ii) For what?

- (iii) GRACE pertains to our guilt before God as sinners
- (iv) MERCY pertains to our pitiful condition before God as sinners.
- (c) Notice – DOESN'T say ETERNAL LIFE
- (d) LIFE itself IS GRACE from GOD
 - (i) We deserve death
 - (ii) He could've ended it all after Adam and Eve sinner
 - (iii) WAGES of SIN is DEATH
 - (iv) He choose to judge through SPIRITUAL DEATH alone
 - (v) Let Earthly LIFE continue SO THAT His plan of REDEMPTION could be carried out.
- d) Peter – YOU HAVE BOTH been GIVEN a GRACE CONSISTING of LIFE
- e) What is ONE of the GREATEST BLESSINGS in this LIFE? MARRIAGE!
- f) Show her GREAT RESPECT and HONOR as BOTH of YOU have been GIVEN a GRACE of LIFE and MARRIED LIFE from GOD.
- g) Give her the BEST LIFE has to OFFER

D. THEN your prayers for your wife's salvation will not be hindered

v.7 end: 7 You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

1. "so that" = PURPOSE = THEN in our CONDITIONAL STATEMENT
 - a) IF you perform as a husband God's way

b) THEN your prayers for your wife will not be hindered

2. “your prayers will not be hindered”

a) WHAT is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT prayer he would have?

(1) IF unsaved wife: FOR THE SALVATION of His WIFE!

(2) IF saved wife: FOR HER SANCTIFICATION!

3. IMPLICATION – IF you don’t PERFORM as a HUSBAND GOD’S WAY, You will be HINDERING YOUR OWN PRAYERS!

a) This SHOULD be OBVIOUS!

b) WILL YOUR PRAYER be SINCERE if you AREN’T willing to do EVERYTHING POSSIBLE from your PART???

c) When SOMEONE says THEY WANT SOMETHING and DOESN’T SHOW EFFORT towards it – DO THEY REALLY WANT it?

4. “hindered” = “to cut into or break up (as in breaking up a road)”

a) Psalm 66:16-20

16 Come *and* hear, all who fear God, And I will tell of what He has done for my soul. 17 I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. 18 If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear; 19 But certainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer. 20 Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer Nor His lovingkindness from me.

b) James 5:16

...The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

IX. Conclusion**A. 1 Peter = SUBMISSION to God in A WORLD of**

1. PAIN / SUFFERING
2. PERSECUTION / PROBLEMS

B. He COVERS ALL AREAS of LIFE and the NEED to SUBMIT to God's WAY of LIVING

1. to Gov't
2. to Employers
3. to Unsaved Husbands
4. AND – for Christian Husbands – to God's WAY of MARRIAGE – whether your wife is SAVED or UNSAVED

C. IN A FALLEN WORLD, the CLOSEST we CAN GET to ETERNITY is in the MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP

1. = the oneness of Christ and the Church
2. = the SACRIFICIAL / SANCTIFYING love Christ gives the Church

D. Peter:

1. Husbands, YOU WANT ETERNITY – everyone does
2. IF you OBEY and SUBMIT to GOD'S WAY of LOVING you WIFE
3. YOUR PRAYERS for the CLOSEST THING TO ETERNITY on this SIDE WILL BE ANSWERED
4. Husbands – IT IS ULTIMATELY UP TO YOU
5. God WILL ONLY BLESS your MARRIAGE IF you LOVE your WIFE HIS WAY!
6. And what is that way? Eph 5:25-33!