

Husband's Priority—Ephesians 5:23-33

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 5.
- B. The American family is in trouble.
- C. People are trying to find alternatives to marriage.
- D. The world is going to get worse and worse. (II Timothy 3:13)
- E. Men will be self-absorbed, and children will no longer be obedient to their parents. (II Timothy 3:2)
- F. There will be a lack of normal family love in the end.
- G. It is difficult to have a family in these days because...
 - 1. There is a curse on marriage. (Genesis 3:16)
 - 2. There is corruption upon human society.
 - 3. Men will get worse and worse.
- H. There is a way to have a meaningful marriage in our society, however.

II. Prerequisites to a meaningful marriage.

- A. Both partners must be Christians. Apart from Jesus Christ, they are losing the battle. (Ephesians 1:3)
- B. Both must be in the Spirit and filled with God's power. (Ephesians 5:18)

III. There is mutual submission in the marriage. (I Corinthians 7)

IV. The husband is to love his wife.

V. The manner the husband is to love his wife.

- A. He is to love his wife as Christ loves the church.
- B. Christ loves the church with a sacrificial love. He loved the church enough to die.

1. The object does not define Christ's love. Love is an issue of command not attraction. Attraction follows obedience.
2. Biblical love is not an emotion--it is an act of selfless sacrifice. (John 13, Acts 20:28)
3. The whole heart of the matter is dying to oneself.

C. Christ's love is purifying. (John 13, I John 1:9, John 15:3)

1. The Word purifies.
2. A man ought to apply anything in his relationship that makes his wife clean.

D. The husband is to love his wife as he loves his own body nourishing it. (Deuteronomy 22)

1. Christ cares for us because we are one with Him. (I Corinthians 6:17)
2. To fail to care for one's wife is to commit spiritual suicide.

E. The husband should love with an unbreakable love. God hates divorce. (Genesis 2:24, Malachi 2:16, Matthew 19:3)

VI. The reason it is important to love like Christ--it is a picture of the church.

Application questions:

1. How does Christ's love for the church picture the kind of love that a husband ought to have for his wife?

2. What is the most challenging thing about maintaining this kind of love?

3. What is a good way to keep a husband accountable for fostering his love towards his wife? Explain.
