

Marriage Takes More than Love

Jack Mayhall

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 5:22ff.

B. Husbands and wives have certain responsibilities in the home.

II. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church.

III. Headship is leadership.

A. Christ took the leadership of the church meaning he took care of those he was responsible for and helped them take the direction God wanted them to take. (Psalm 78)

B. Leadership principles of the husband.

1. Know your wife in order to look out for her welfare. (Psalm 78:72)

2. Keep your wife informed.

a. Communication is vital to leadership.

b. Christ took responsibility for initiating and maintaining communication, and husbands are to do the same.

3. Set an example.

4. Make sound and timely decisions. God will guide us through his peace. (Psalm 22:8; 119:105; 32:8; Acts 16:6-7, Romans 14, 1 Corinthians 14:33)

5. Know your wife's gifts and encourage her in them.

6. Seek responsibility and take responsibility for your actions. (James 1:5; 3:17)

IV. Marriage is a glorious adventure with God that takes work and prayer.

A. Good marriage is really learning from each other.

B. We should pray for more love daily.

V. The wife's responsibility.

A. To submit means to deeply enjoy your husband.

B. An excellent wife is a crown to her husband.

C. Love is a feeling to be learned. We must act our way into a different way of feeling.

D. We need to accept our spouses and check up on ourselves. Be careful of questions, such as accusatory why questions.

- E. We need to show our spouses real appreciation. Say something nice every day.
- F. We need to adapt to our spouses. This is part of the process of conforming us to God's image.
- G. A lot of submission problems are communication problems.
- H. When there is a problem, the wife should pray. Three things can happen.
 - 1. He changes.
 - 2. God leads you to ask him about it.
 - 3. God encourages you to release it.
- I. We should not expect to have a beautiful relationship apart from God.

Application questions:

1. What does it look like for a husband to lead?

2. What does it mean to submit?

3. How can you better grow into your role as a husband or wife?
