

## The Church, God's Plan for This Age: A Husband's Ministry to His Wife

Ephesians 5:25-33

January 10, 2021

### 1. Leadership (23)

- a. Husbands are the leaders in the marital relationship.
  - i. This role is grounded in the relationship of Christ to the church.
  - ii. The fact that the husband is named as "head" implies that he should be living out this role in the marriage relationship.
- b. Christ not only provides leadership and direction to the church, but He provides all the church needs (4:15-16).
  - i. Colossians 2:19 "And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth the increase of God."
- c. Christ provides power and protection for His body (Ephesians 1:22-23).
  - i. Husbands bear a responsibility to support and resource their wives so they can grow and flourish in the home and in the exercise of their gifts in the ministry of the church (4:15-16).
- d. Christ provides husbands with the perfect example of servant leadership.
  - i. Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."
  - ii. Husbands exercise servant-leadership in their marriages in the following ways:
    1. Lead rather than bossing or ruling your wife.
    2. Resist the temptation to any form of self-centered demanding.
    3. Learn to discern your wife's needs and strive to meet them.
    4. Recognize your wife's giftedness and identify ways to support her and give her opportunity to express her gifts.
    5. Be responsible for seeking your wife's input on casting vision and direction for the family based on God's Word.
    6. Take the initiative in conflict resolution.
    7. Concentrate on your role as a husband rather than insisting that your wife fulfill her role.

### 2. Love (25-27)

- a. Husbands are called to love their wives as Christ loves the church (25).
  - i. Three times husbands are exhorted to love their wives (25, 28, 33).
  - ii. Christ is our ultimate example (5:1-2).
- b. The marriage relationship was created to picture the relationship between Christ and the church (25-27).
  - i. Christ demonstrated His love for the church by giving Himself to redeem us (salvation) (25).
  - ii. Christ demonstrates His love for the church by sanctifying us through the cleansing and washing of the Word of God (sanctification) (26).
  - iii. Christ will demonstrate His love for the church by glorifying the church on day (glorification) (27).
- c. Applications:
  - i. Husbands must love their wives sacrificially.
  - ii. Husbands must love their wives through the ministry of God's Word.
  - iii. Husbands must love their wives with the realization that they will give account for their leadership before the Lord one day.

### 3. Care (28-33)

- a. Husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies (28).
  - i. Husbands are to love their wives as themselves (Leviticus 19:18; Galatians 5:14).
- b. Husbands are to nourish and cherish their wives (29).
  - i. These are words used to refer to the kind of care parents provide for their children.
  - ii. Husbands are to consider how Christ presently cares for His church and follow His lead in tenderly caring and providing for their wives.
- c. Husbands are to love their wives because the two have become an integral part of one another (30-32).
  - i. Just as the church shares a special union with Christ, a husband and wife share a special union (31).
  - ii. A husband and wife have been joined (glued) together as the church has been joined to Christ (32).

Practical Applications:

1. Show your love to your wife through **C**loseness (Genesis 2:24).
2. Show your love to your wife through **O**penness (Colossians 3:19).
3. Show your love to your wife through **U**nderstanding (1 Peter 3:7).
4. Show your love to your wife through **P**eacemaking (1 Peter 3:8-11).
5. Show your love to your wife through **L**oyalty (Proverbs 20:6; Hebrews 13:4).
6. Show your love to your wife through **E**steem (Proverbs 5:18; Song of Solomon 8:6).