

“Husbands, Love Your Wives”

A Practical Guide to Sacrificial Love
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The High Call of Loving Our Wives

²⁵ **Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church** and **gave himself up for her**, ²⁶ **that he might sanctify her**, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ... ³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that **it refers to Christ and the church**. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Ephesians 5:25-33)

1. Marriage Points to Christ and the Church (v. 32)
2. Love Your Wife Like Christ Loves the Church (v. 25)
3. Give Yourself Up For Your Wife (v. 25)
4. Help Your Wife Become Holy (v. 26)

Jesus on Leadership

²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:25-28)

Jesus as Our Example

³Do **nothing** from selfish ambition or conceit, but in **humility** count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a **servant**, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he **humbled** himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:3-11)

Your Marriage Shows the Gospel

1. Humility
2. Service
3. Sacrifice
4. Love

Practical Tips

Become a Student of Your Wife

1. Likes/dislikes
2. Hopes/dreams
3. Fears
4. Pressures
5. Love Languages

Communication

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ... ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear ... ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:25-32)

1. Be Honest (v. 25)
2. Solve Problems Quickly (v. 26-27)
3. Encourage, Don't Attack (v. 29)
4. Act, Don't React (v. 31-32)

Listening Well

1. Remove All Distractions
2. Good Eye Contact
3. Focus on Learning, Not Solving
4. Offer Appropriate Responses

Navigating Emotions

1. Don't Run Away
2. Don't Shut Them Down
3. Enter Into Emotions
4. View Emotions as Relational Opportunities

Hands-On Service

1. Go Above and Beyond
2. Make Her Feel Known, Loved, Cherished
3. Encourage Her in Her Struggles
4. Support Her Ability to Use Her Gifts

Your relationship with your wife is a witness to Christ's relationship with us,
so love her well—the world is watching