

Ephesians 5:25–33 — A Husband’s Calling: Loving as Christ Loves
First Scots Sunday School: Marriage and Family
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Main Idea: Marriage is a **living portrayal of Christ’s love for His Church**, especially through how husbands love their wives.

1. The Command: “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church” (v. 25)

- a. “As” (*kathos*) = to the same degree / in full measure
- b. Love is the primary calling (not merely leading, providing, protecting)
- c. If a husband truly loves, he will do all the rest

2. The Question: What does Christ’s love look like?

- a. Christ loves the Church:

i. Sacrificially

1. Christ gave Himself up (v. 25)
2. Example: washing feet (John 13), dying on the cross (Philippians 2)
3. Love is:
 - a. Serving, not being served
 - b. Daily self-denial
4. Application:
 - a. Put away selfishness (and the dishes)
 - b. Pursue small, daily acts of sacrifice
 - c. Make your wife feel that you are for her

ii. Covenantally

1. Not contractual (“if you...”), but covenantal (“I am yours”)
2. Christ loves an undeserving bride
3. Contrast:
 - a. Adam blamed Eve
 - b. Christ takes the blame for His bride
4. Application:
 - a. Do not withdraw, accuse, or keep score
 - b. Remain, pursue, forgive, and bear burdens

iii. Spiritually

1. Christ sanctifies His bride by the Word (v. 26)
2. A husband’s highest calling:
 - a. Not primarily provision or protection
 - b. But spiritual leadership and care
3. Application:

- a. Pray with and for your wife
- b. Bring Scripture into the home
- c. Aim at her growth in holiness

iv. Unitedly

1. Marriage = one flesh (v. 31)
2. Your wife is not separate from you, but one with you
3. Application:
 - a. To harm her is to harm yourself
 - b. Pursue unity over “winning”
 - c. Ask: “Am I protecting our oneness?”

v. Purposefully

1. Marriage is a public display of the Gospel (vv. 31–32)
 - a. Your love:
 - i. Shows Christ to your wife
 - ii. Shapes your children (the very best thing you can do for your children)
 - iii. Witnesses to the world
2. Application:
 - a. Your marriage either adorns or obscures the Gospel
 - b. Love with intentionality and reverence

3. The Struggle

- a. This calling feels impossible for men who are, at best, weak, sinful, inconsistent
- b. The standard is Christ Himself

4. The Hope

- a. God does not lower the standard—but gives grace
- b. He knows our frame (Psalm 103:14)
- c. He is:
 - i. Patient
 - ii. Merciful
 - iii. Abounding in steadfast love

5. Our Response

- a. Pursue this calling earnestly
- b. Pray for help continually
- c. Repent quickly
- d. Fix your eyes on Christ’s sufficiency

6. Conclusion

- a. The call is higher than we can reach
- b. The grace of Christ is deeper than our failure
- c. God is forming us into the likeness of Christ