

L11 | Divine Institutions | Institution of Marriage Pt. 8 | Eph. 5:22-33

I. Intro/Review:

- The Works and Responsibilities in the Husband's Role
 - Authority and **Love**
 1. Foundation of Love
 - 1.1 - God requires it
 - 1.2 - Vows require it
 - 1.3 - Her nearness requires it
 - 1.4 - Comfort and happiness depend upon it
 2. Pattern of Love
 - 2.1 - As Christ loved the church
 1. Sacrificially
 2. Heartily
 3. Freely
 4. Holily
 5. Enduringly
 6. Fruitfully
 - 2.2 - As he loveth himself

II. Preview:

- The Works and Responsibilities in the Husband's Role
 - Authority and Love
 1. Love
 1. Foundation of Love
 2. Pattern of Love
 - 2.2 - As he loveth himself
 3. Fruit of Love
 2. Authority

III. Sermon:

- The Works and Responsibilities in the Husband's Role
 2. **The pattern of love** - 1) sacrificially, and 2) as he loveth himself (:25, :28)
 1. **As Christ loved the church - :25**
 2. **"He that loveth his wife loveth himself."** (Eph. 5:28-30)
 - What we know well is how we love ourself - if we don't understand how to love like Christ, draw upon this.
 - 2.1 - Tender
 - You hurt or uncomfortable you attend to your physical infirmities, pamper your body, and relieve yourself from discomfort.

- You patiently bear your own infirmities and weaknesses
- You prioritize and labor to acquire
- You endure in failures
- You fail over and over again yet reconcile with yourself and move on

2.2 - Cheerfully

- Provide for yourself gladly - may even have a tune when you take care of yourself
- Endanger self to serve your own interests.

3. The fruitfulness of love

- Love unlocks all responsibilities and makes them light
- The manifestation of love toward wife

3.1 - Delight in thy wife - Pro. 5:18-19

- Delight in her company than any others
- Ravished with her love
- Chastity doesn't come from simply having a wife, but loving a wife

3.2 - Speak affectionately - Col. 3:19

- Be mindful of your tongue - Jas. 3:6-8
 - The closer we are to someone the deeper our words can penetrate
- Tender and gentle speech
 - How crushing are harsh and cruel words from the lips she loves to kiss?
- Not to demean - admonish with gentleness - advise with sympathy, correct with sweetness
- Brawlings and contentions wholly embitter the state of life, diminish comfort, and takes away peace
- Speech is the soil in which she feels your love spring - motivating her to return her love to him

3.3 - Open heartedly

- Don't treat her as a stranger - she is not the strange woman - the wife of thy covenant
- Love doesn't keep secrets - but pour his heart into hers - bosom friends who share thoughts, hopes, fears, desires, and dreams

- He welcomes her into his mind and be glad to know hers
- He seeks her insight and wisdom in making decisions.

3.4 - Live tenderly with her weaknesses - 1 Pet. 3:7

- The godly husband doesn't demand what she cannot give
- Considers her labor to support you, keep the home, raise the children, and more to see to her rest, support, and assistance
 - Not behave as if her work is not work at all
- Your presence is welcoming
 - Touch soothing
 - Words pleasant
 - Help comforting - comfort under crosses - tenderness you look for from Christ you give to her

3.5 - Love to protect her from danger and harm

- 1 Sam. 30:4
- Protect reputation, guard purity and sincerity - like Boaz did to Ruth

3.6 - Love to provide faithfully

- 1 Tim. 5:8 - a man that provides not for his widowed mother is worse than an unbeliever how greater the husband not providing for wife
 - If not reject God's instruction and deny the love of a husband, faith of Christian, nature of man.
- She leaves the provision of father - she chooses to be and do all for his sake he is to provide

3.7 - Love to promote spiritual welfare

- First priority
 - Husband and wife are fellow-heirs of salvation
 - Aim to honor God in marriage
 - Will walk a co-heirs in the future
 - Piety, charity, wisdom, and goodness will be the most constant lecture you can provide
- His discourses direct hers
 - His prayers teach her to pray
 - His justice, temperance, and charity becomes the law, rule, and motive of her

being just, sober, and charitable.

2. Authority - Eph. 5:22-24

- The exercise of headship is a matter of stewardship - given by God and one will be held accountable for it.
- Many husbands have used this stewardship for evil not for good.
- This stewardship has been long abused - husbands turning authority into tyranny, ruling with harsh cruel words, with threats, or even physical abuse.
- Many husbands bring attention to the office but neglect the stewardship.
 - Wives go unloved, unprotected, and without a head.
- Four Aspects of Headship
 1. What is it?
 2. How it is maintained?
 3. What is its purpose?
 4. How is it exercised?

1. What is it?

- Ephesians 5 does not state that the husband needs to acquire it.
- Headship is inseparable from his status as a husband - as soon as he is joined in marriage he assumes this role.
- Headship originates not with marriage, but with God. (Rom. 13:1-2, 7)
- The husband's authority is God's own authority committed to him.
 - The wife is to submit "as unto the Lord". (Eph. 5)
 - For the wife to dismiss this authority is to dismiss God's authority.
- The husband may relinquish, neglect, abuse, defile or cultivate, use his authority, but he is powerless to release himself from it
- He should choose to be faithful with it because he will be held accountable by God for his use of it.

1. Stewardship

- The husband is not free to determine its outworking - how it will work, what it will encompass, and the manner of its exercise.
- It has been given to him of God and he is called to act for God - also making it clear to his wife that he too is under authority.

2. Responsibility

- Give an account

3. Trust

- Entrusted with one made in the image of God or one of His daughters

- The husband is an instrument (Rom. 6) of His hands toward his wife for her sanctification.

2. How it is maintained?

- He is to faithfully and honorably exercise it that he not lose that headship - not before God, but before his wife.
- If the husband doesn't conduct himself godly as Christ he may lose his wife's respect, esteem, and willingness to submit herself to him.
 - She may do so but not through his endearing, but in her obedience to God
- Living toward her in "understanding" - 1 Pet. 3:7 "according to knowledge"
 - Pro. 17:27

1. Lean not on own understanding, abase himself (Prov. 3)
2. Understand what the will of the Lord is (Eph. 5) - submit to Christ's headship
 - He too is under authority (1 Tim. 2)
 - Wife is equal in bearing the image of God and being an heir of salvation and the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7)
3. Prove the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God toward her (Rom. 12)
 - Do not neglect responsibilities over its privileges
 - Direct and lead her to Christ
4. Be a man of God entirely
 - He should be worthy of his wife's esteem and submission

1. Avoid bitterness - Col. 3:19

- "Bitterness is marked by sharp, sour, and hurtful behavior as well as railing, reviling, rebuking, and furious speech. Bitter words cut and wound the heart; bitter words carry anger and hatred along with them; bitterness taints the touch with resentment and leaves behind a trail of contempt; and bitterness separates and makes enemies of friends."

2. Avoid wastefulness -

- The husbands provision is for his wife and family - they depend upon it
 - Drunkenness, gambling, games, bad company
 - Such things taint his ability to correct his wife's evil actions when his own judgment is blinded and conscience seared - when he himself need correction.

3. Avoid mirth - excess merriment

- Always want to play with little care for work and responsibilities
- Not talking about recreation and refreshment

- Soberness

3. What is its purpose?

- For his wife's good - the wife not lesser or inferior
 1. Order of creation (first)
 2. The means of creation (of)
 3. The occasion of creation (for)
 4. Her independent behavior from God and man (1 Tim. 2:14)
- Love compels him to do his wife good, authority enables him to
- His headship empowers his love (Eph. 1&2)

4. How is it exercised?

- He isn't to command anything he wants
- He doesn't have free reign
- He is to be concerned with her spiritual wellbeing and ought not stand idle
 - Therefore, husbands in their rule should be weak to every corruption and strong in every virtue (Tit. 2)
- Direct and instructing his wife
 1. Not as chief and absolute commander - but as one who with her stands under God's power (Gal. 6)
 - Mildness and meekness and gentleness (2 Cor. 10)
 2. Exercise authority with wisdom - godly husbands should be acquainted with wife's temperament and constitution (1 Pet. 3:7) - and treat her according to wisdom accordingly.
 3. Be not hurtful - micromanager, especially in trivial and inconsequential things. She is given as a help and called to be keeper at home and such micromanaging can be demeaning and harmful.
 4. His instructions ought not be unreasonable or ridiculous - don't manifest your care when it comes to the governance of her body, but not her heart.
 - Should not call his love into question

IV. Conclusion:

- Impossible to do all these things
- Must first be saved, must first be bound and joined to God
- Secondly, must be led of the Spirit to know your sufficiency is in Christ
- The more you behold Him - the more you will be changed - the more your changed, the more your wife will be changed!