

Eph 5:25-33 The Spirit Filled Husband

Good morning and thank you for joining us. Would you please turn in your Bibles to Ephessians 5? Last week we saw the role that wives are to fulfill in God's picture of marriage.

This morning, our text declares for us the role of husbands.

I asked Kim a few days ago...

Years ago a British man came to America on a business trip. He attended church one Sunday, and heard a sermon on this section of scripture, and he took it to heart. He returned to England just determined to communicate his appreciation and love for his wife. While he was here, he noticed how Americans complimented one another with the phrase, "You look like a million bucks." He decided to use that on his wife. The problem is in England they don't use dollars, but pounds. He said, "Honey, you look like a million pounds!"

Hey, words matter. And the ultimate word on how a marriage should work is God's word.

We'll be studying verses 25-33, so let's read them all together and then we'll pray.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without

blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body,[fn] of His flesh and of His bones. 31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”[fn] 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

The title of this mornings message is The Spirit Filled Husband
Let's pray

Well it's springtime, which means its wedding season. **SHOW PIC** Yet tragically statistics tell us that over 50% of the marriages in this country that are happening this weekend will end in divorce, and most divorces are happening within eight years of marriage. **CLOSE PIC**

SHOW PIC As you study the prison population in our nation, the #1 contributing factor in every defined category of crime is that there was no father in the home. **CLOSE PIC**

And it's getting worse. When you think of all that ails our nation today, nearly all of it has one common denominator. Husbands refuse to fulfill their part in God's picture of what a marriage should look like.

Men need to take charge, be the head of their home and rise up and take on leadership. Of course how the husband does this is critical-because it can't be in a domineering, dictator sort of way.

I heard a story of a household where the husband twisted the verse about wives submitting and would just hold it over his wife's head.

Well one day his youngest son saw a picture of his mom when she was young, before she married the domineering husband. And the young boy looked at the dad and said, 'Dad, is that mom before she came to work for us?'

When a husband is led by the HS, a wife will flourish under her husband's headship.

If you were a member of the church at Ephesus, and were hearing this letter from Paul for the very first time, you would be shocked, because these instructions were revolutionary.

Christianity brought to the ancient world the whole idea of reciprocal responsibilities. Christian relationships are two-sided. Wives submit, but husbands need to love their wives... Kids should obey their parents, but parents shouldn't provoke their kids... Employees should work hard for their boss, but the boss should treat their employees fairly...

In those days the Greek culture expected wives to be submissive to their husbands, but no one ever expected a husband to love his wife - at least not in a sacrificial way.

In ancient Greece a wife was little more than a man's property. In fact the wife wasn't even allowed to participate in public life. She was kept secluded.

The greek philosopher Xenophon wrote, "It was the aim that every wife might see as little as possible, hear as little as possible, and ask as little as possible."

Even in Jewish culture a woman's plight wasn't much better. Every morning Jewish men prayed, "God, thank you that I wasn't born a gentile, a slave, or a woman."

But Christianity came to the rescue of women. Not only should a wife submit to her husband, but the husband should love His wife. And not only love, but as "Christ loved the Church."

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, Now we all know that there is no such thing as a perfect marriage. I have to admit, in the last 18 years, Kim's come a long way.

Husbands are to be like Christ to their wives, and bestow the same love to his bride that Jesus showed to each one of us.

Here's the husband's role in marriage - love your wife!

And notice what's the way to love her-as Christ loves the church. If the husband's gonna love his wife the way Christ loves the church, that means men we're to die for her.

See men it's not complicated, it's just impossible.

This isn't talking about physical death. No it's death to self.

Remember what did Jesus do for us? He entered into our world and he died there. **Philippians 2 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross**

And that's what our wives want from us. Enter into her world and to do that we have to die to ourselves.

You know, sometimes I come home, I'm tired, and I'm in my little world and I don't wanna be in anybody else's world. But she wants to tell me all about her world.

And I go, OK, Lord, I need to die to my desires and enter into her world. And she's telling me about her world. And sometimes I'm like 'I can't believe you live in this world.'

You think for us as husbands entering into our wives world is hard, what do you think it was like for God to put on human flesh for us?

This is what love does. Whatever things we have to do to deny ourselves and enter our wife's world is incomparable to the steps Jesus took to enter into our world.

So if your wife's world involves shopping trips, even if its just to Aldi's, go shopping. If it involves telling 20 minute stories that could've been a 10 second summary, let her talk it out.

And men want to really show her love? Ask her questions about things she cares about. And take interest in them. Maybe you don't care about the certain new hair product she wants that she's all excited about. But she is, so should we be.

That word love in verse 25 is important. We throw the word love around alot-I love boxing, and basketball. I love watching storm clouds. I love my wife and kids, and I love Jesus. But I don't love them all the same do I?

In the Greek language there were different words for love. First was Eros, which is erotic, or sexual love. That's the only love Hollywood knows. That's what Hollywood passes off on us all the time as the only kind love.

Yet, Eros is a necessary part of Christian marriage. It's fulfilling. It's to be enjoyed. **1 Cor 7 3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give**

yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Eros in a marriage is necessary, it's a medicine, it brings healing and closeness. It's to be enjoyed within the confines of Christian marriage.

Another kind of love in the Greek is Phileo. It means friends, We're buddies. We're fond of one another.

Now there's a different word for love that's used here and it's the word agape.

That's our word here. V 25 Husbands agape your wives with a divine love.

Agape love is something the world out there can't do. It's something Hollywood has no idea about. Agape love for the husband isn't a feeling. Men if you're married this is a commandment. It's intentional, purposeful love.

It's love that sacrifices itself. And here's the thing men. For agape love, our wives don't need a definition, they need a demonstration of it. And if we're going to do that, we need to go back to verse 18 where it says be ye being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Because you can't drum up this kind of love on your own. You might be able to for a few hours, maybe a couple of days, but then your flesh will rise up and scream and shout and kick and

fight, 'what about me!!!!' We have to be spirit filled husbands to love our wives like this.

And now here's the beauty of it all-if a man Agapes his wife as Christ agape's the church, guess what happens. Your wife is not gonna have any trouble submitting to you, because she knows you love her as Christ loves the church.

A godly husband will constantly be dying for his wife... dying to the habits that cause friction - dying to desires that breed distrust - dying to selfishness, and stubbornness - and dying to the kind of pride and self-righteousness that keeps a man from saying he's sorry.

I mentioned before often times when a husband comes home from work, he's tired, exhausted. He wants to be left alone. But a spirit filled husband dies to his wants. He steps up to lead his family, even when he may not feel like it.

And notice verse 25 tells us Jesus "gave Himself." Men, this is what your wife desires most - she wants YOU. When your wife said 'I do', she didn't sign-up to coexist with a stranger. A wife doesn't want you to just do stuff for her, but spend time with her.

More than money, she wants her honey.

Tragically husbands all over, even godly husbands buy into the lie that they must earn loads of money so that way they can buy all the things and experiences they can for their families.

It's a clever lie from Satan, because these husbands spend so much of their time and energy on earning a living, and bringing home the bacon, they neglect their wife and their family.

Men I promise you, your wife needs and wants you, more than she wants nice things.

26-27, “that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.” Husbands, we need to know the word of God. And we need to know the word of God so that when your wife is troubled, or she's hurting, or she's confused about something, you can say, honey, look, let's turn here to Psalm 119. Let's see what it says there. Or let's look at Proverbs.

You can point her to the word to give guidance on whatever may be affecting your bride. When her feelings are hurt, honey, go here, this is how the Lord will give you strength.

Men you can't be a great husband if you're not a great man of the word of God. Every man that's filled with the Holy Spirit is a man of the word of God, because the Holy Spirit wrote the word of God.

And for us to be self-sacrificing like Christ means that part of that agape love is sanctifying as verse 26 says. It's elevating her, and putting her in a position no one else has.

And in her struggles, in her journey, as husbands being able to come alongside our brides and say honey, let's look at this verse together or no, this is what the word says let's do this instead.

Satan has lulled many Christian men to the point where their families know more about reality TV than the Bible. Or they know more sports stats than they do about the word of God. The husband will go on and on about sports, but rarely ever speaks about what God's word says.

Husbands think about this past week. How much was God a part of the conversations of your home vs sports, or activities, or finances?

We must never forget Satan HATES your marriage. Because God created marriage, because of the picture marriage paints, Satan works overtime to deconstruct our marriages bit by bit. DON'T LET HIM!!!

There's too much at stake to allow ourselves to be lulled into a spiritual slumber as the leaders of our households.

Back in verse 21-it says submitting yourselves 1 to another. Now you think about that, the head doesn't submit itself to the body. The body submits to the head.

The only time the head submits itself to the body is when there's a need. If your body hurts its knee, your head submits itself to the body. Your head says, how can I take care of this? This needs

rehab, this needs rest, this needs surgery. How can I take care of this? That's when the head submits to the body.

Husbands, we must do that when there's a need, when there's something broken, when something needs to be patched up, when something needs to be dealt with. Husbands, we should be submitted to our wives in those things. Caring for her, coming under her, supporting her, because that's what love does.

And it ain't natural to us. It's supernatural. You have to keep going back to verse 18 being filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

This love is a love with great sensitivity because it says here in verse 27 that He wants to present the church to himself, without spot, without wrinkle, should be holy without blemish

Husbands, are you actively helping your wife grow in Christ - or are you holding her back? A spirit filled husband loves his wife by speaking God's Word into her life - reminding her of how Jesus sees her - viewing her with the acceptance, and love, and forgiveness that Jesus has shown us

28-30, "So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones."

In Genesis chapter 2, God causes a deep sleep to fall upon Adam. He takes something from Adam's side. Adam is created

from nothing. Eve was made from Adam. In marriage there's a reunion physically, spiritually, emotionally, you're made one again.

And it says we're to love our wives because she is your own body. You can't separate that when God makes you one.

The only allowance the Bible gives for divorce is when that one fleshness is broken, when that covenant is broken and adultery enters it.

The Church as "the Body of Christ" speaks of many truths - but certainly it illustrates the empathy of Jesus. Jesus knows what it's like to be hungry, and feel pain, and be lonely, and have sorrow, and suffer need. He knows what it's like to care for a physical body.

We're all very in tune with the needs of our body. When my stomach growls, or I go without sleep, or get a toothache - these kinds of needs don't get overlooked.

And this is the way a husband should relate to his wife. In a single word, his love shows attentiveness. My wife might have needs that I can't meet. But I hope she never has a need I don't know about!

A husband is to nourish and cherish his wife as he would his own body...

It's common place today for husbands to lay on the couch, and pick up the TV remote and say "Honey, anything you want to say to me before football season begins?" That's not exactly being sensitive to your wife, the way Christ is sensitive to the Body...

Remember, Jesus hears our prayers 24/7. He lives to make intercession for us. The least we can do is take some time from each day to be available to our wives, and hear her heart.

31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."[fn] **this is quoting** Genesis 2:24 The joining together, or "Cleaving" resembles weaving two threads into one new piece of cloth. The word implies the ideas of passion and permanence.

32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. The union of husband and wife, although sometimes imperfect, provides the best picture to describe the union of Christ with his church.

The words in Genesis take on a more profound meaning as we contemplate Christ and his church. "This is a great mystery" means in our modern lingo that "There is a profound truth hidden here."

As Paul contemplated the mutual love and loyalty, loving headship of the husband and loving submission of the wife, riches bestowed, intimacy and oneness, and self-sacrifice that should describe every marriage, he saw in these a picture of Christ and the church.

One of God's purposes in marriage was to provide models of Jesus' relationship with the church. He leads, loves, and serves the church. The church reverently submits to and is subject to Him. When husbands and wives fulfill these responsibilities to one another their marriages model the relationship between Christ and His bride.

33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

It's not complicated. It's just impossible.

How important is marriage to God? Remember that the place of Jesus' first miracle was at a marriage ceremony, for Jesus' entire mission was to proclaim and preach a message of love.

Husbands, it's never too late to play the role God has designed for you-start today. You can set a new tone in your family. The first step is to man up, and take back the leadership, by giving your all to your wife, the way Jesus gave His all for you.

Listen, husbands, the church is never a hassle to Jesus. The Church is never an afterthought to Jesus. It tells us in chapter one that He chose us in him before the foundation of the world. He thought about us before anything else.

Our wives are not to be an afterthought. They're not supposed to feel like they're hassling us or troubling us.

I have a friend who was on his way to Yugoslavia years ago and he was riding in somebody's car and there was an old car in front of them. And that car started to smoke and broke down.

He said it was shocking, everybody on the road pulled over, all these old guys jump out of their cars, pull out all these tools, get under the hood.. They said go get a cup of coffee. All these guys are working, trying to get the car to run. They put the engine back together, jump in the car and everybody left.

He said the reason why this occurred is because you get one car for the rest of your life, so you learn how to do those things.

Men if you had one car for the rest of your life, how diligent would you be to make sure it was clean? You'd pay attention to your tires to not wear 'em out, to change the oil, to wash and vacuum it.

SHOW PIC You wouldn't treat your 1 car like its a rental car. You wouldn't floor it in stop and go traffic and push it to its limit. No you'd be delicate with it. **CLOSE PIC** You would start it up in the winter and let it warm up before your roar out of your driveway.

Here's the deal. You got one wife for the rest of your life. Slow down for speed bumps, please. When you're running into trouble, you're going over something difficult, don't just smash over it.

Don't start her up when she's ice cold and expect to floor the gas pedal. Take time and warm her up.

Men, wanna know how important your role is in the eyes of God?

1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

And the word provide there is Pron-eh heo. It means to look in advance, to see the horizon.

Husbands your responsibility isn't just to provide money and shelter although those are necessary. But it's also seeing the horizon ahead of time. The husband in the home is to be the spiritual head. You're supposed to be the high priest of the home, the prophet in the home. You're supposed to see ahead spiritually; You're supposed to set the spiritual course of that home.

And you can't do that unless you're loving your wife the way Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it to sanctify it.

And what a privilege that he allows us to make this journey together with our wives. What a gift! What a responsibility.

And the way you conduct yourself is going to determine what the next generation embraces and believes

Husbands, the way you lay down your lives for your wives will be communicated to your children and your grandchildren. More is caught than taught.

