

I) V25-33 INTRO: Husbands, *love your wives*, just as Christ also loved the

II) Today we will look at the topic of *Christian husbands*

III) God designed marriage to have husbands in the leadership role
The role finds its origin *in creation* and is intended to insure order in a home

1 Co 11:3 I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, *the head of woman is man*, and the head of Christ is God.

IV) Though intended by God to lead, some men have a difficult time doing so

There are various reasons why this can be

V) Some wives *refuse* to be led believing themselves to be more capable

VI) Some wives have led for so long that yielding her power is too difficult

This creates tension, especially when the husband tries to take the lead

VII) Sometimes in frustration he might even try to *force* his leadership on the wife

This only causes more stress in the marriage

VIII) Some husbands don't know *how* to lead: They just weren't trained to lead

Some had no father's or had improper leadership role models
With the tragic break up of so many homes, the lack of fathers is obvious

IX) QUOTE: Fatherlessness is the root issue beneath so many ills that plague society today. Statistically speaking, a child who grows up *without a father* in the home is more likely to experience homelessness, commit crime, serve time in prison, abuse drugs, drop out of school, be obese, and suffer from poverty. The United States has the highest share of single

parenting *in the world*.

X) All we need to do is take a look at how our nation is doing to see this is true

XI) There are husbands who are *afraid* to take the lead for fear of failure
Other's don't want the struggles, responsibility or work that leading requires
Leading the wife and the home is not the easiest thing to do

I) Finally there are those who just do not want to make decisions
They think things are going fine, so why rock the boat?

II) Still, God has vested in men the responsibility of leadership in the home

This is something that God holds *the husband* accountable for
1 Ti 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

III) Leading the home is a position that is maintained through love
Which is why Paul begins with the command to love the wife

IV) V25 Husbands, *love your wives*
This command is repeated three times in this chapter (V25, 28, 33)

V) Why would Paul *command* the husband to love the wife?
He had just commanded wives *to submit* to their own husbands

VI) Without love for her, he could use his position to oppress and hurt her

If she *is submitting* to him as to the Lord, he could take advantage of her

So Paul commands husbands to *love their wives*

VII) Notice how Paul commands *husbands* to love their wife

He doesn't command *wives* to love their husband

VIII) Being a husband isn't necessarily something that *all men* are prepared to be

Not many boys grow up dreaming of their wedding day and having a family

IX) On the other hand many little girls grow up playing *house* with their friends

My two year old granddaughter a little baby doll that she carries around

She's already learning to be a mommy

X) When girls grow older they imagine their wedding day, the reception, etc.

They have a dress picked out and dream of their wedding day
It once was said the greatest day of her life is her wedding day

I) After their wedding, they pack up their wedding dress and store it

II) Little boys never think of such things: they never play wedding!

Their wedding day is the furthest thing from their minds
When they marry, they rent a suit somebody used a few days

before

III) Not all men are prepared for their wedding day

There are *some men* who are *more prepared* for marriage than others

A woman once said: I think men who have a *pierced ear* are better prepared for marriage. They've experienced *pain* and have *bought jewelry*

IV) V25 It is interesting how Paul commanded the husband to love their wife

He doesn't command the woman to love her husband

V) In Titus, Paul wrote a command to the older women in the church

Titus 2:4 (the older women) admonish young women *to love their husbands*

Admonish: to correct, train, encourage; urge; teach

VI) The older women had the special role of training the younger women
Younger women were being saved, and could be resistant to her husband

Older women were to teach the younger women concerning marriage

VII) They aren't *commanded* to love but are taught *how to* love their husbands

In loving their husbands God's word may not be blasphemed (Titus 2:5)

VIII) V25 Paul says husbands, *love your wives just as Christ also loved us*

IX) This command is also given in other letters that Paul wrote

1 Co 7:3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her...

Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

X) The Greek language primarily used three words for *love*

Eros: Speaking of sexual or erotic love

Phileo: Referring to friendship, brotherly or companionate love

Agapao: Illustrating God's sacrificial expression of love

I) Paul chooses to use the word Agape in this command

II) How can husbands *love their wives*

Sacrifice, Sanctify, Care, Stabilize, and Love in a deeply spiritual way

III) FIRST: A husband loves his wife *sacrificially*, like Jesus loved *His bride*

He laid down His life, even though He knew the majority would reject Him

1 Jn 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

IV) In marriage *sacrificial love* is a necessary ingredient

SOME MEN: Have difficulty with this concept, considering it a weakness

V) The *essence* of love is self-denial: Love trusts, and holds nothing back

Jn 15:13 Greater love has no man than this that *a man lay down his life* for his friends

We need to see the value of consistently laying down our lives for our wives

VI) It isn't necessarily the huge issues that undermine our marriage

It is the small things left *unsaid* or left *undone* that erode its foundations

Song of Solomon 2:15 (It is) The little foxes that spoil the vines

VII) Our wives see our love for them in the sacrifices we give for them

We go to work, help care for the home, encourage them and protect them

VIII) V26-28 That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by

IX) SECOND: The love of the husband is to be sanctifying

X) God's love towards us *cleanses us* and make us beautiful *for Him*

The Bride is sanctified, cleansed, without spot/wrinkle, holy without blemish

XI) Before a bride was married, she went through purifying and cleansing

She would bathe, and costly perfumes and ointments were applied to her

This was done to purify and prepare her for her husband

- I) We see something of this in the book of Esther
 Before Esther was brought to the king, she underwent purification
 Esther 2:12 Before a young woman's turn came to go in to King Xerxes, she had to complete twelve months of beauty treatments prescribed for the women, six months with oil of myrrh and six with perfumes and cosmetics.
- II) Comment: The initial six-month treatment with oil of myrrh was meant to purify her. Oil of myrrh was commonly used for antiseptic purposes and as a deodorant. Therefore, the first six months of her preparation were for cleansing, healing and purification. Once they were certain she was free of disease they spent the next 6 months maximizing her beauty. So, the idea being conveyed in Esther is that purification precedes beautification.
- III) The bride is the one who set apart, and she was cleansed and purified
 This is a picture of the church: purified and cleansed by the word
 It is not outward beauty, but an inward beauty produced *by the word*
- IV) The word cleanses us because it provides *forgiveness of sins*
 Jn 15:3 Now you are clean *through the word* that I have spoken to you.
 Here, word (logos) speaks of the entire teaching of Jesus
- V) It is by the washing of the word that we are cleansed and become His bride
- VI) There is another application that should be considered here
 She is sanctified and cleansed with the washing of water by *the word*
- VII) Here, the Greek word translated word is *rhemati*
 The word rhema is used to refer to the spoken word: it means utterance

It is often thought of as what we would call a word for the moment

VIII) By application, this could give insight in to the husband's spiritual influence

This encourages husbands to be the spiritual leader, in a priestly manner

IX) She should see us as the one giving *spiritual food* to her soul
Husbands study God's word, are taught His word, and minister His word

I) When the husband walks in the Spirit, his wife sees him as her spiritual leader
In a very practical way, he becomes prophetic in his marriage

II) When the wife is washed by the word she is a testimony of *his ministry*
1 Co 11:7 The woman is the glory of the man

III) It is our God given responsibilities to minister God's Word to our wives
We become the one she asks bible questions of
1 Co 14:35 If they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home

IV) Learn to spend time with her in the Bible, in fellowship, in prayer, in service
Doing devotions and living by God's Word saves us from *many arguments*

V) V29 For no one ever hated his own flesh but *nourishes* and *cherishes* it just as

VI) THIRD: Our love is caring, it nourishes and cherishes our wives
NOURISH: To nurture; to bring to maturity
CHERISH: Literally, to keep warm; to keep warm with tender love

VII) ***Cherishing*** implies concern, tenderness, and a recognition of her frailty

We love them in a gentle, tender, and considerate manner

VIII) As we become more seasoned in life, we can appreciate and love more deeply

The more we experience together, the greater our bond of love grows

IX) We have gone through so many of life's ups and downs together

Dated, married, rented, bought and made homes; had children, raised them, released them; had grandchildren, buried parents, and have shared a lifetime of memories, both sad and joyful

This all can work together and bind our hearts and keep us together

X) Tell her you love her, romance her, respect her, and defend her from family!

Tell her she's beautiful; go on dates, confide in her, romance her

Our wives desire gentle, loving, considerate treatment and respond to it

I) When we cherish them, they feel and know that we deeply love them

II) Wives do not exist to make our dinners, clean homes, and take care of kids

They're our best friends and should be loved and respected

III) V30-32 FOR: We are members of His body of His flesh and of His bones

IV) FOURTH: Our love reveals stability and commitment to her and marriage

Marriage is the premier human relationship and is intended to last

It is *till death do we part* is the common way of saying it lasts till we die

V) Its stability and endurance is a picture of Jesus' relationship with His church

Jesus did not commit Himself half-heartedly to His bride
This is something often missing in marriage: complete and total commitment

VI) He is committed to us *totally*

Song of Songs 8:7 Many waters *cannot quench* love nor can the floods drown it

Heb 13:5 I will never leave you nor forsake you

VII) V32 This a great mystery but I speak concerning Christ and the church

It was not good that the man should be alone, so Eve was given to Adam

This marriage was to be forever, as Jesus and His bride are

VIII) FIFTH: Because of this, we love in a deeply spiritual way

The two have become one, representing Jesus' relationship to us

Jesus will never forsake us, and we should remember our oneness in Him

IX) V33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife

Husband, care for the wife with the same intensity that you care for yourself

Wife, respect and please your husband, giving him proper respect and care