

FAMILY: God's Way

TENDER WARRIOR: A Husband's Love

Ephesians 5:25-33

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

A man asked his wife what she'd like for her birthday.

*"I'd love to be six again," she replied. On the morning of her birthday, he got her up bright and early and off they went to a local theme park. What a day! He put her on every ride in the park: the Death Slide, the Screaming Loop, the Wall of Fear--everything there was! Wow! Five hours later she staggered out of the theme park, her head reeling and her stomach upside down. Right to McDonald's they went, where her husband ordered her a Big Mac along with extra fries and a refreshing chocolate shake. Then it was off to a movie - the latest Star Wars epic, and hot dogs, popcorn, Pepsi Cola, and MandMs. What a fabulous adventure! Finally she wobbled home with her husband and collapsed into bed. He leaned over and lovingly asked, "**Well, dear, what was it like being six again?**" One eye opened. The wife said, "**You idiot, I meant my dress size!**" The moral of this story is: Even if a woman speaks and a man is actually listening, he'll still get it wrong.*

"In truth, every person on earth is really incompatible with every other person on earth"

- *"In any marriage more than a week old, there are grounds for divorce. The trick is to find and to continue to find grounds for marriage" –Robert Anderson*
- *"Keep your eyes wide open before marriage and half-shut afterwards." – Benjamin Franklin*
- *"Getting married is easy. But staying married and being happily married for a lifetime is one of the fine arts of life." – Roberta Flack*

I. He should love her **TENDERLY.** (v.25)

- II. He should love her **COMMITTEDLY.** (v.25)
- III. He should love her **SPIRITUALLY.** (v.26-27)
- IV. He should love her **SELF-ISHLY.** (v.28-31)
- V. He should love her **EXEMPLARY.** (v.32-33)

I. He should love her **TENDERLY.** (v.25)

"Husbands.."

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." (John 15:1, KJV)

- **Original Meaning in Webster's Dictionary:** "1. One who works the soil; a tiller of the ground. 2. A prudent or frugal manager"
- Husband is called to be the one who **cultivates** the marriage relationship and wisely **manages** the home. He is called to be the Initiator and Sustainer of the marriage relationship
 - **A married couple, both 60 years old, were celebrating their 35th anniversary.** During their party, a fairy appeared to congratulate them and grant them each one wish. The wife wanted to travel around the world. The fairy waved her wand and poof - the wife had tickets in her hand for a world cruise. Next, the fairy asked the husband what he wanted. He said; **"I wish I had a wife 30 years younger than me."** So the the fairy picked up her wand and poof - the husband was 90.
- **NOTE:** Any relationship left untended will deteriorate over time!!
- **Chinese proverb:** "It's harder to lead a family, than it is to rule a nation."

II. He should love her **COMMITTEDLY.** (v.25)

"..love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.."

- **ἀγαπάτε - "agapate"** - "love" (second person, plural, present, active, imperative)
- **"Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives" - The Message**
 - It is a love that loves **without changing.**
 - It is a self-giving love that **gives without demanding** or expecting re-payment.
 - It is love so great that it can be **given to the unlovable** or unappealing.
 - It is love that gives **even when it is rejected.**
- A Husband who's a leader but not a lover, is **a tyrannical man.** A Husband who's a lover not a leader, is **a sentimental man.** A Husband who's a leader and a tender lover, is **a biblical man!**
 - **"It is not naked power, it is not the power of a dictator or a little tyrant, it**

is not the idea of a man who arrogates to himself certain rights, and tramples upon his wife's feelings and so on, and sits in the home as a dictator . . . No husband is entitled to say that he is the head of the wife unless he loves his wife . . . So the reign of the husband is to be a reign and a rule of love; it is a leadership of love." - Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones

Extraordinary **SACRIFICIAL** love motivated Jesus to step out of Heaven, come to earth, die on the cross!

- Do you **sacrifice** for your wife? Are you willing to **give something up** for her?
- Would you take **a bullet** for your wife: ultimate sacrifice??
- If so, it necessarily means you should be willing to make **lesser sacrifices!!**
- *"We can read this passage and think that Paul is saying, "Husbands, be kind to your wives." Or "husbands, be nice to your wives." There is no doubt that for many marriages this would be a huge improvement. But that isn't what Paul wrote about. What he really meant is, "**Husbands, continually decide to practice self-denial for the sake of your wives.**" - David Guzik*

III. He should love her **SPIRITUALLY.** (v.26-27)

"..that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 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."

Obviously, a husband cannot spiritually cleanse his wife the same way Jesus cleanses the church. Yet a husband can take an active, caring interest in his wife's spiritual health. As the priest of the home, he helps her keep "clean" before the Lord.

- *"The Lord Jesus loves his church unselfishly; that is to say, he never loved her for what she has, not so much for what she was, but what He makes her as the object of His great love. He loves her not for what comes to Him from her, or with her, but for what He is able to bestow upon her. His is the strongest love that ever was." - Spurgeon*
- **The husband can do many simple but powerful things that can love and benefit his wife spiritually:**
- *Read her a **Devotional** in the morning or evening.*
- ***Pray** with her on a daily basis.*
- *Have "**Family Worship**" times on his free days.*
- *Encourage her to attend **Women's Ministries** and Retreats.*

IV. He should love her **SELF-ISHLY.** (v.28-31)

"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. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

A Psychological study was conducted in a major city, placing a mirror outside a building on the sidewalk, as people passed by. Here's what they learned in the study:

- **People like to look at themselves**
- **Men stopped to do it more than women**
- **We are very "body conscious"**

Biblically, the wife is the extension of the husband - They have become ONE; they are ONE unit:

- "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." (Gen 2:23)
- As you love your physical body, you **Feed** it, **Clothe** it, **Care** for it, and **Nourish** it...
- The single word "**as**" is important. The meaning is, "**So ought men to love their wives because they are their own bodies.**" A man must love his wife as he would his body, as a part of himself. As Eve was a part of Adam, taken out of his side, so the wife is to the man because she is a part of him. The reality of this union must dominate the husband's thinking and actions in marriage.
 - "The Apostle puts it in this form in order that a husband may see that he cannot detach himself from his wife. You cannot detach yourself from your body, so you cannot detach yourself from your wife. She is a part of you, says Paul, so remember that always." - **Lloyd-Jones**
 - "The husband must realize that his wife is a part of himself. He will not feel this instinctively; he has to be taught it; and the Bible in all its parts teaches it. In other words, the husband must understand that he and his wife are not two: they are one." - **Lloyd-Jones**

V. He should love her EXEMPLARY. (v.32-33)

"This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 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."

- A good **MARRIAGE** is a good **WITNESS**; a bad marriage is a **BAD WITNESS!**
- A husband and his wife are meant to be a 3-D picture of Christ and the church to those around them. They function as a **LOUDSPEAKER** and an **AMPLIFIER** to the people around them of the relationship of love and care that Jesus has for His Bride, the Church.

The Family is under attack, and particularly the biblical role of

the Husband:

- *There is a clear **satanic attack** to undermine the husband's role*
- *To neutralize **an army** kill the commander*
- *To demoralize **a nation**, kill its king/president.*
- *To ruin **a church**, devastate its pastor.*
- *To ruin **a family**, take out the leader!*

God is honored by the Husband who chooses to be a tender **warrior**, a servant **leader**, a family **cultivator!**