



“We have courtesans for the sake of pleasure; we have concubines for the sake of daily cohabitation; we have wives for the purpose of having children legitimately, and of having a faithful guardian for all our household affairs” (Demosthenes).

The husband’s aim is that a wife “might see as little as possible, hear as little as possible and ask as little as possible” (Xenophon).

*Ephesians 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her”*

## I. I Want to Know What Love Is

### A. Listen to Your HEART?

Proverbs 28:26 “He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but he who walks wisely will be delivered.” (NASB)

### B. Total Eclipse of the Heart

Jeremiah 17:7-10 “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? ‘I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.’”

## II. What’s Love Got to Do With It?

John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

### A. Biblical Love: “An act of the will, accompanied by emotion, that leads to action on behalf of its object” (Voddie Baucham)

### B. Follow Christ’s Example

#### 1. Sacrificial Love Takes the First STEP

1 John 4:19 “We love because he first loved us.”

##### a. Be Proactive, Not Just Reactive

Romans 5:8 “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

##### b. Risk REJECTION

John 1:11 “He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.”

#### 2. Sacrificial Love Puts Others FIRST

Philippians 2:3–4 “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

##### a. Walk in HUMILITY – “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit”

##### b. VALUE the Other– “but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”

##### c. Seek out their NEEDS – “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

#### 3. Sacrificial Love Endures HARDSHIP

1 Corinthians 13:7 “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

##### a. Bears All Things – to Cover, Shield and Protect

##### b. Believes All Things – Trusting in God’s Promises

##### c. Hopes All Things – Looking Ahead With Confidence

##### d. Endures All things – To Remain, to Persevere

#### 4. Sacrificial Love COSTS Something

Ephesians 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her”

#### 5. Sacrificial Love REFLECTS Christ

John 13:34- 35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”



August 17, 2025

### BACKGROUND:

Last Sunday Pastor Jason looked at the design and purpose of marriage. In today's sermon, "No Greater Love", we will examine the foundation of this relationship – Love. Specifically, God's love for us and the husband's responsibility to love his wife. An interesting thought - Paul spends nine verses addressing how a husband should love his wife as opposed to only three verses of how a wife should submit to her husband. This seems to depict the importance for a husband to love his wife.

### DIGGING DEEPER:

**1. In verse 25 the Apostle Paul states that a man should give himself up for his wife (love her) "as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."**

- What does it look like for a husband to give himself up for his wife?
- How can a wife encourage her loving husband to do that?
- What are some challenges that can prevent a husband from loving the way Christ loves? Or how a woman needs to be loved?

**2. The Greek language has at least four words for love. Philia is a friendly love. Storge is a family love. Eros is an erotic love. The word used to describe a husband's love for his wife is Agape.**

- How would you define Agape love?
- How is this type of love exemplified by Christ for His church?

**3. Christ's goal for His Bride (the church) is "that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish". (Ephesians 5:26-27)**

- How can husbands help their wives become more Christlike?
- How should a believing husband act as a spiritual leader for his wife and children to become all that Jesus wants them to be?
- How important is the role of spiritual leadership in a marriage?

**4. Jesus's love for His church is the example for the husband. Christ laid down his life for those He loves. He told his disciples "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)**

- Many men would give their life for their family and country. What else may a husband need to lay down for his wife and family?
- What are some practical examples of what a husband can sacrifice for the benefit of his wife?

### TAKING IT HOME:

**Husbands, agape love your wife, place her interest before your own, sacrifice for her benefit, give yourself up for her, and then love her some more.**

- How can you and your spouse ensure that your family finds joy and fulfillment in serving the Lord? If you're not married, how can you encourage others to find their fulfillment as well?
- How does your idea of "one flesh" connect with Paul's command that "husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself."? (Ephesians 5:28)
- Have you, or someone you know, ever struggled with loving yourself? What might God have to say about that?