

## Sunday 02/16/25 – Panama Methodist Church

**Sermon Title: “What’s Love Got To Do With It: The Four Loves”**

**Series: Part 3 – “Eros” Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 5:22-27**

**(Slides 1-15 will be listed in order throughout this sermon 😊!)**

This morning, we are continuing our sermon series called, “What’s Love Got To Do With It: The Four Loves.” In this month of February, sometimes called the “Month of Love” we are discussing different types of Biblical love. So far, we have discussed the Biblical love of “Affection,” or “Storge” in the Greek. This is love we have for our families, and the love a mother or father has for their children. Before reviewing last week’s message, this morning we are going to discuss Part 3 of 4 of our “What’s Love Got To With It: The 4 Loves” sermon series. Here is our opening slide:


**Slide 1 – (“What’s Love Got To Do With It: The 4 Loves” Series: Part 3 of 4)**



**“What’s Love Got To Do With It: The Four Loves” Series: Part 3 of 4**

Before jumping into the third type of Biblical love of the four kinds, let us review briefly the second type of Biblical love called “Friendship” or “Philia” love. Here is some of the review of what we discussed last Sunday:

**Slide 2 – (“Review from Part 2: “Friendship” or “Philia” Love - # 1”)**




**Review from Part 2:  
“Friendship” or “Philia” Love**

- “What is “Philia” love?

“Philia” refers to affectionate love, specifically the type of love found in deep friendships, characterized by trust, mutual respect, shared values, and companionship, often described as “brotherly love” or platonic love.”

Here is a little more review from last Sunday:

**Slide 3 – (“Review from Part 2: “Friendship” or “Philia” Love - # 2”)**




**Review from Part 2:  
“Friendship” or “Philia” Love**

- “What is “Philia” love?
- **Mutual respect:**  
“Philia” involves valuing the other person for who they are and treating them with respect.
- **Trust and loyalty:**  
A strong foundation of trust is essential for “Philia”, where you can rely on your friend in difficult situations.

The third type of Biblical love that we will be discussing this morning is called “Eros.” “Eros” is a more romantic love and can a very passionate kind of Biblical love. While “Eros” can be many things, it is best expressed in the Bible through the marriage of a husband and wife. With this said, I have a couple of preliminary thoughts coming from a family of divorce and remarriage, and how some people have and had struggled in the past. Even so, the Bible has a special kind of love designated called “Eros” for Christian Marriage. I have told churches that I have pastored before that we can think of the standards of the Bible as an Olympic high Jump Bar. The church should always teach and try to live the scripture at the highest level, but we are not to condemn anyone. The standard of the Bible is high, like and Olympic High Jump Bar. We teach the authority of the Bible, but all people are made in God’s image, we are all of sacred worth, and we are all deserving of love and respect.

With all that said, I want us to discuss what the Bible says to us this morning about “Eros” love through Christian marriage. Here is a basic Biblical definition of the third type of Biblical love, “Eros”:

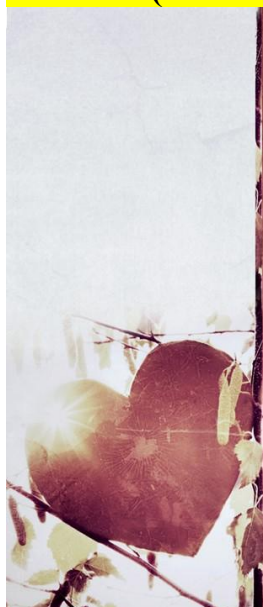
**Slide 4 – (“Part 3: “Eros”)**



**Part 3: “Eros”**  
- “Eros” love, also known as the love shared by a husband and a wife, which is characterized by attraction, and deep emotional connection.

Among the various scriptures that discuss the “Eros” love a husband and wife, we can go all the way back to the Book of Genesis. If you want to open to the first Book of the Bible, Genesis 2:24, whether in your Bible or Bible Apps, this is what it says:

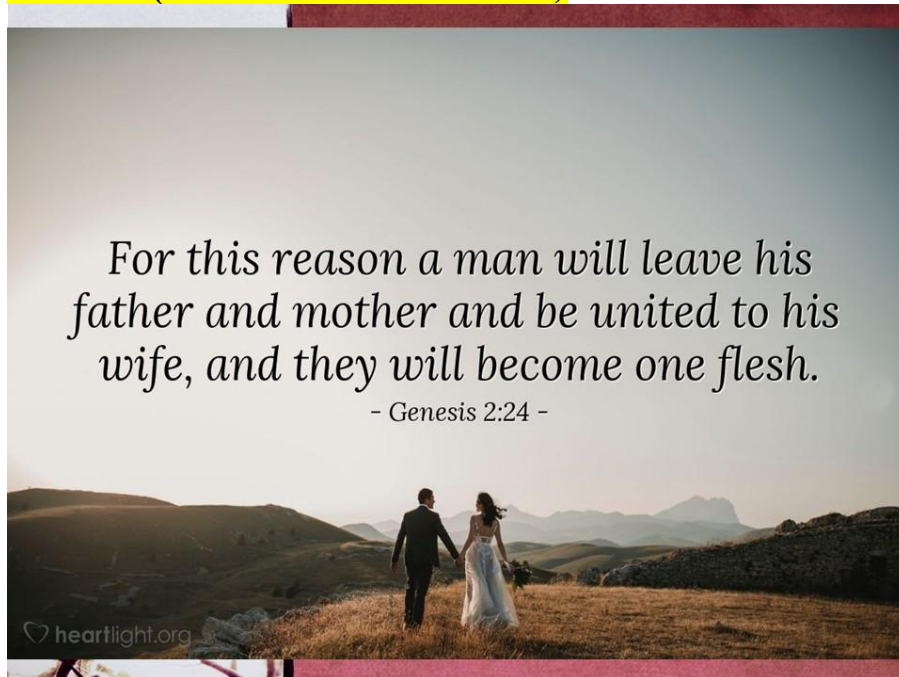
**Slide 5 – (“Genesis 2:24)**



**Genesis 2:24**  
<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

So once again, I come from a family of divorce and remarriage, and my primary hope this morning is communicate what the Bible says about “Eros” love between a husband and a wife. Our scripture from Genesis 2:24 was written centuries before Jesus walked this earth. In fact, some sources I researched claim the Book of Genesis was written between 1,200 hundred years – 1,400 years plus ago before Jesus was born. Jesus then repeats these words in the gospel of Matthew 19, that we will look at in just a minute. Here is a picture depiction of Genesis 2:24:

**Slide 6 – (“Genesis 2:24 – Picture”)**

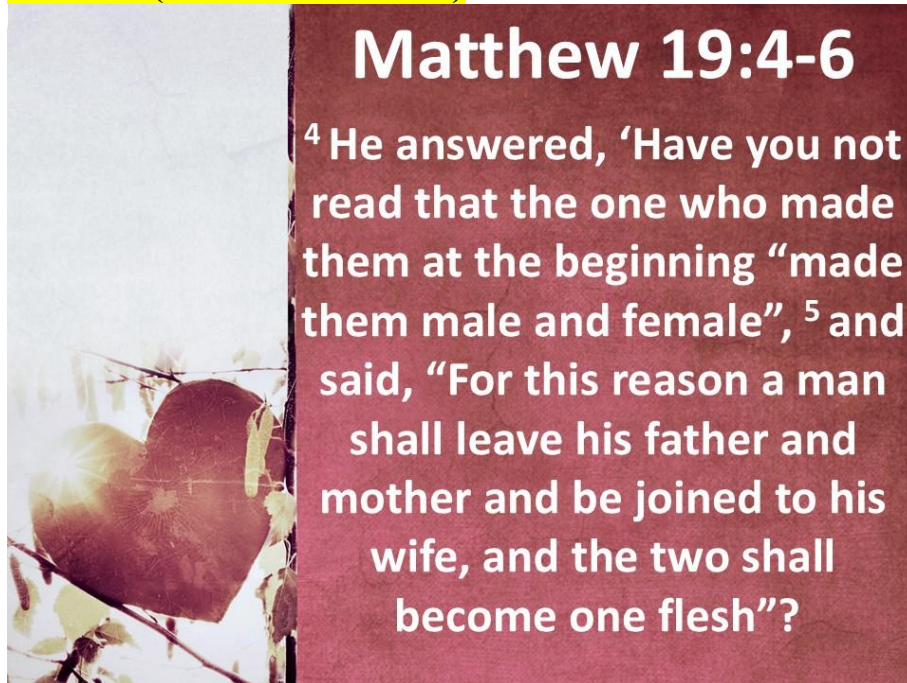


Remember these words were written about 3,200-3,400 plus years ago.

From that point centuries ago, Jesus then repeats Genesis 2:24 When he was on this earth on around 30-33AD. If would ask us then to turn in our Bibles or Bible Apps to Matthew 19:4-6, we will see what Jesus Christ our Lord says about

“Eros” love between a husband and a wife. This is what Jesus says in Matthew 19:4-6:

**Slide 7 – (“Matthew 19:4-5”)**



Jesus Christ our Lord, is literally repeating what was written in the Book of Genesis 2:24 1,200-1,400 years before Christ was on this earth. The first five books of the Old Testament or the Hebrew Bible or the “Torah” are often called the “Five Books of Moses.” Jesus in this scripture is telling us that this teaching in Judaism will remain in Christianity. Jesus fulfills the Law of the Torah, or the “Five Books of Moses,” but he point to same “Eros” love that we see in the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament. There are stories in the Bible and in life today where the “Eros” love between a husband and a wife in Christian marriage fall apart or are changed. Even so, “Eros” love is Biblical and is important, even

though we might go through things in life that can be hard and heart-breaking sometimes.

This gospel of Matthew 19:4-6 reading then ends with Matthew 19:6 with Jesus saying this:

**Slide 8 – (“Matthew 19:6”)**

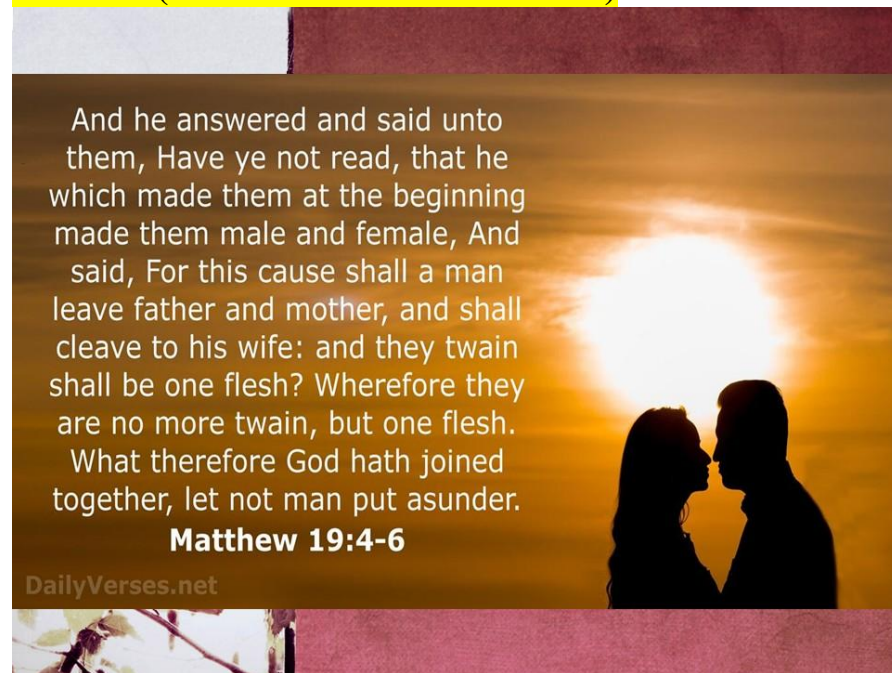


This really gets to more of heard of “Eros” love, in that Jesus tells us that when a man and women are united in Christian marriage, they become one flesh. Jesus even says, “Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” Some people feel called by God to stay single, some people that are widowed do not want to get remarried. Families like mine, like I said, also have divorce and remarriage. Part of our role as Christians then is to teach God’s word in love.

“Eros” love as expressed between the Christian marriage of a man and woman is a

beautiful type of the four loves of God, and even if our experiences in our families have involved divorce or other heartbreaks, we should always teach God's best standard. It is that Olympic High Jump Bar. If we remove the standards, even if they seem lofty for some, then we quickly as church will have no standards. We all fall short, and again, it is our job to teach the truth of God's word, but to do it in love. Here is a good picture of Matthew 19:4-6:

**Slide 9 – (“Matthew 19:4-6” - Picture)**

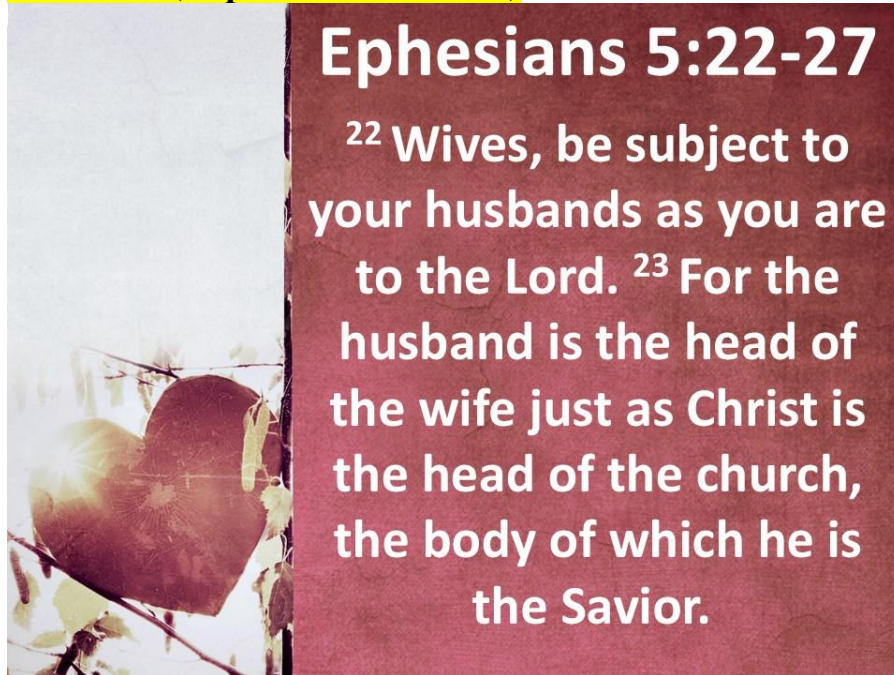


So once again, this is the Biblical love of “Eros.”

Another scripture among the many on “Eros” love, I want to lastly discuss is Ephesians 5:22-27. This is a very challenging scripture for some. We believe in the truth of the Bible and the authority of the Bible, but sometimes we wrestle with

some scriptures. So, lastly, if you can turn in your Bibles or your Bible Apps to the Book of Ephesians, we are going to look at Ephesians 5:22-27. This is what it says:

**Slide 10 – (“Ephesians 5:22-23”)**



So, Ephesians 5:22-23, says that wives should be subject to their husbands, and the “husband is the head of the wife, just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior”. I have read this to in the presence of some women before, and it did not always go so well!

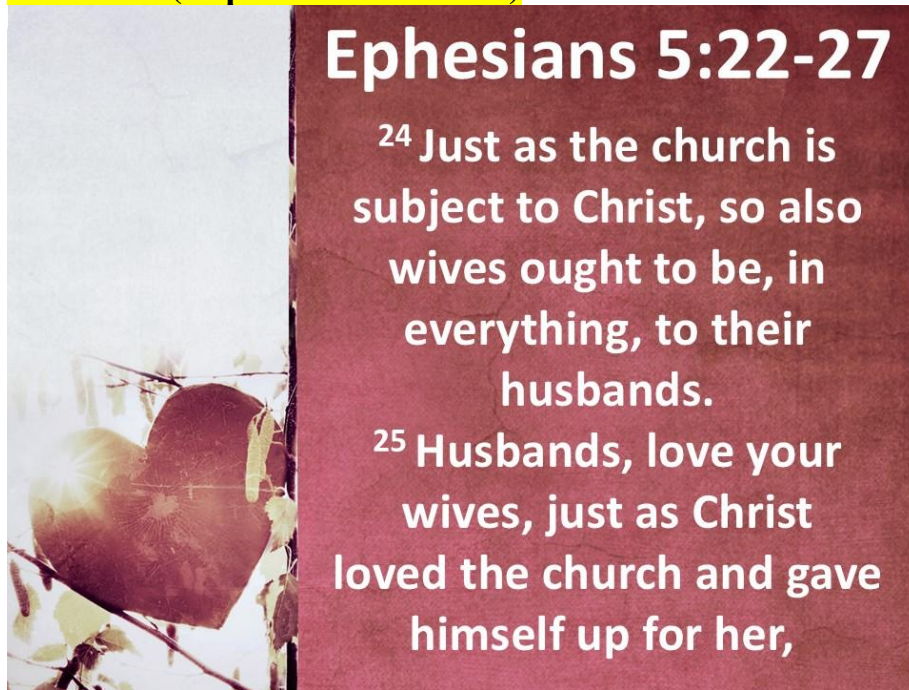
I remember in seminary hearing a story about how Ephesians 5:22-23 has been misused over the centuries. In this story, a man walked into church early on Sunday morning with his wife. If I remember correctly, it was only the pastor that was in the sanctuary when husband and wife walked in. The very grumpy older husband, whose wife did not look happy, walked into the sanctuary and the

husband said, “Pastor I need talk to you!” The pastor, a little startled then responded, “Sure how I can help?” The disgruntled husband then said, Ephesians 5:22-24, says that wives should be subject to their husbands, and the “husband is the head of the wife, just Christ is the head of the church, the body which he is the Savior,” and that wives need to be beneath their husbands. The husband then said, “So Pastor, I want you tell me wife here in God’s house that I am the boss of her, that whatever I say goes, and that she has to do whatever I say.” The pastor then said to the husband, “do you know what Ephesians 5:25-27 says?” The husband said, “No!” The pastor then opened his Bible and said, “let me read it to both of you.” So, the pastor then first read Ephesians 5:25, as it says, once again:

**<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, (Eph. 5:25, NRSV).**

The pastor then look at the disgruntled husband and asked him, “do you love your wife with the love that Christ has for the church?” “Do you love your wife with the love that Jesus showed us on the cross?” The husband responded angrily, “I did not come here to be asked that question!”

Slide 11 – (“Ephesians 5:24-25”)




The pastor then said, let me read Ephesians 5:26-27 to you. The pastor then reiterated that this is why “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,”

**26 in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, 27 so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish (Eph. 5:26-27, NRSV).**

The pastor then asked the husband “Do you seek to love and care for you wife in the way that Christ loves us and the church? Do you love your wife sacrificially, and do everything you can to build her up in love?” With this, the husband blew up at the pastor, and him and his wife stormed out, and never returned to the church again. When “Eros” love is lived out in a Biblical way, then a husband and a wife love each other, respect each other, and care for each other deeply.

Here is a picture of Ephesians 5:22-27:

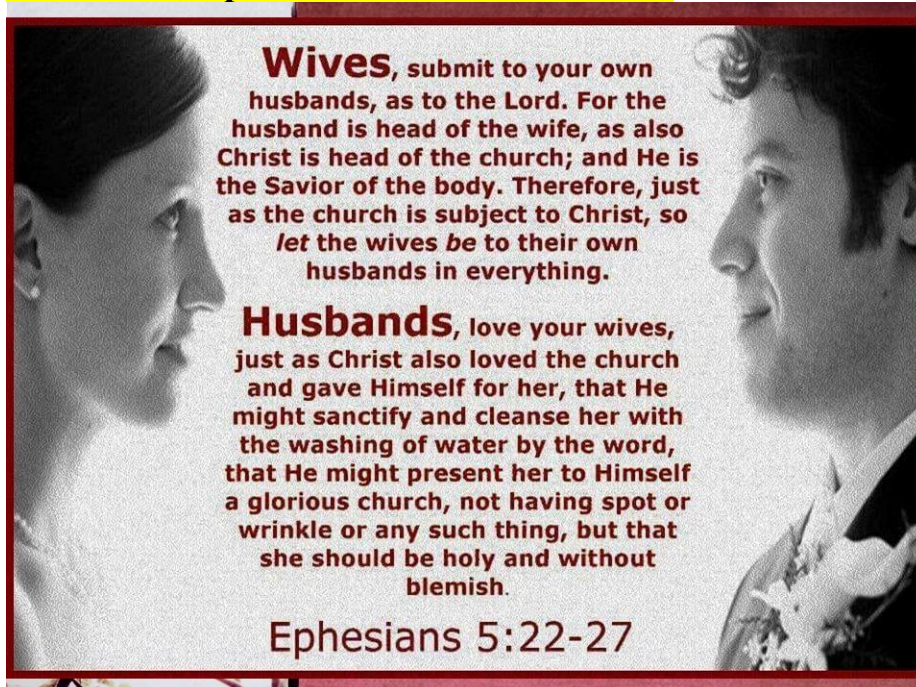
Slide 12 – (“Ephesians 5:26-27”)



**Ephesians 5:22-27**

<sup>26</sup> in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish.

Slide 13 – (“Ephesians 5:22-27” – Picture)



**Wives**, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*

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

Ephesians 5:22-27

So, do we sometimes wrestle with some scriptures? Sure, many of us do, but as a Biblical Church, we do not remove the Olympic High Jump bar. We still teach

Biblical Marriage, which is “Eros” love, because it has been the Biblical standard for thousands of years? Do marriages sometimes end badly? Sometimes they do, and some people would rather stay single or not get married. Either way, the high standard for Christian Church, and for the Jewish faith for thousands of years, is “Eros” love through the marriage of a husband and a wife. Will everyone experience Biblical “Eros” love in their lives? No, not necessarily, but it is the Biblical standard of “Eros.” The Biblical standard of “Eros” is the Olympic High Jump Bar, and it I has been our standard for thousands of years.

With all of this said, here some Biblical applications to our lives around “Eros” love:

**Slide 14 – (Application to our Lives: # 1)**



Her is one more application to our lives slide:

**Slide 15 – (“Application To Our Lives:” # 2)**



As I call the praise team forward, do we wrestle with Biblical “*Eros*” love? Do we see it as God’s design? Do we struggle with Ephesians 5:22-27? As Christians we are called to love each other deeply. Biblical “*Eros*” loves is gift of love that God gave humanity thousands of years ago and is the third kind of Biblical love. Next week we will discuss the four and final kind of Biblical love called “Charity,” or “*Agape*” love. May we all love and care of each other and all people deeply this day and always. Amen.