

Marriage Words—Keys to a Strong Marriage

Love

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Introduction: Perhaps no word has been more abused in its widespread usage than the word *love*. But what does the Bible say of it? And how does it strategically apply to one's marriage? In what ways does God expect a husband to exemplify Christ-like love to his wife?

The Attitude of a God-Honoring Husband

Husbands must love as Christ loved—a tall order indeed! How then did Christ love? He possessed an:

(1) Initiating Love (v. 25)

We love Him, because He first loved us! (John 4:19)

Love is an act of selfless sacrifice. It is acting in regard to the welfare of another without possessing any ulterior motives.

Remember that the essence of love is giving.

- “For God so loved the world that He gave...” (John 3:16)
- “Hereby perceive we the love of God because He laid down His life for us...” (1 John 3:16)
- “Who gave himself a ransom for all...” (1 Tim. 2:6)

- “And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us...” (Eph. 5:2)
- “Who gave Himself for us...” (Titus 2:14)
- “Who loved me, and gave Himself for me...” (Gal. 2:20)
- “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)
- “Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood...” (Rev. 1:5)

Christ loved us by providing for us what we needed before we ever knew we needed it! His decision to love us was right even when it was misunderstood.

Husbands must love their wives by providing for their needs and by initiating right decisions for the marriage.

During times of strife, husbands should initiate reconciliation.

During times of betrayal and rebellion, husbands should initiate forgiveness.

During times of apathy and mediocrity, husbands should initiate repentance.

During times of trials and frustration, husbands should initiate faith.

(2) Identifying Love (v. 26-27)

Jesus saved us that we might be His peculiar people, set apart and cleansed by His Word.

Ultimately, He saved us for Himself. He bought us, set us apart, and cleansed us for the purpose of eternal fellowship with Himself.

He identified with our sin at Calvary that He might identify with us for all of eternity. Similarly, husbands must identify with their wives.

Ponder the great lengths to which you went to win her to yourself. Rekindle that identifying love.

Remember the longing that you had for her to be identified by your name. Guard that identity.

Christ did not save the church for occasional moments of passion intermixed with longer periods of coexistence. He saved us for the purpose of an abiding fellowship.

A wife feels cheapened and exploited when her husband treats her with sporadic episodes of passion and ignore her otherwise.