



## Marriage God's Way! (Part 2)

### Ephesians 5:25-33

#### > "Husbands Love Your Wife!"

- Passage Observation: The husband's shortcoming is a lack of love for his wife because he loves himself.

- C.I. Scofield explains the example of Christ's love for the church in verses 25-27, he writes, "Christ's labor of love on behalf of the Church is threefold: past, present, and future: (1) for love He gave Himself to redeem the Church (v25); (2) in love He is sanctifying the Church (v26); and (3) for the reward of His sacrifice and labor of love He will present the Church to Himself in flawless perfection, "one pearl of great price" (v27; Mt. 13:46).

There are two kinds of men in Scripture, the *CARNAL MAN* or the *CHRISTIAN MAN*, let us discover:

#### (1) SIGNS OF A CARNAL MAN

- SIGNS OF CARNALITY - To be *CARNAL* speaks of sensual, worldly, non-spiritual; relating to or given to the crude desires and appetites of the FLESH or body. The apostle Paul contrasts "spiritual people" those who are under the control of the Holy Spirit compared to those who are "carnal" under the control of the flesh:

*1 Corinthians 3:1-3 - And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?*

*Also, Romans 8:5-8 - For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

- SIGNS OF WORLDLINESS – 1 John 2:15-17 - *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. J. Oswald Sanders writes, "Worldly ambition can have a variety of ingredients, but it usually follows three main lines: *popularity, fame, the desire**

to build a reputation; *power*, the desire to wield authority over one's fellows; *wealth*, the desire to amass a fortune, with the power that brings. The fatal flaw with such ambitions is that they all focus on self.”

- **SIGNS OF SELFISHNESS and LAZINESS** – 1 Timothy 5:8 - *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

- **SIGNS OF AN ABUSIVE MAN** - We have broken down the top 10 signs of an abusive man. If your partner exhibits one or more of these signs, it may be time to reevaluate your relationship and seek help or get out.

**1. Jealousy & Possessiveness** – Becomes jealous over your family, friends, co-workers. Tries to isolate you. Views his woman and children as his property instead of as unique individuals. Accuses you of cheating or flirting with other men without cause. Always asks where you've been and with whom in an accusatory manner.

**2. Control** – He is overly demanding of your time and must be the center of your attention. He controls finances, the car, and the activities you partake in. Becomes angry if woman begins showing signs of independence or strength.

**3. Superiority** – He is always right, has to win or be in charge. He always justifies his actions so he can be “right” by blaming you or others. A verbally abusive man will talk down to you or call you names in order to make himself feel better. The goal of an abusive man is to make you feel weak so they can feel powerful. Abusers are frequently insecure, and this power makes them feel better about themselves.

**4. Manipulates** – Tells you you're crazy or stupid so the blame is turned on you. Tries to make you think that it's your fault he is abusive. Says he can't help being abusive, so you feel sorry for him and you keep trying to “help” him. Tells others you are unstable.

**5. Mood Swings** – His mood switches from aggressive and abusive to apologetic and loving after the abuse has occurred.

**6. Actions don't match words** – He breaks promises, says he loves you and then abuses you.

**7. Punishes you** – An emotionally abusive man may withhold sex, emotional intimacy, or plays the “silent game” as punishment when he doesn't get his way. He verbally abuses you by frequently criticizing you.

**8. Unwilling to seek help** – An abusive man doesn't think there is anything wrong with him so why should he seek help? Does not acknowledge his faults

or blames it on his childhood or outside circumstances.

9. Disrespects women – Shows no respect towards his mother, sisters, or any women in his life. Thinks women are stupid and worthless.

10. Has a history of abusing women and/or animals or was abused himself – Batterers repeat their patterns and seek out women who are submissive and can be controlled. Abusive behavior can be a generational dysfunction and abused men have a great chance of becoming abusers. Men who abuse animals are much more likely to abuse women also.

- Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23 - *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*

> **LET'S BE CHRISTIAN MEN! (Seven keys)**

- Key #1 – **Be a MAN WHO LOVES GOD!** - Mark 12:29-31 - *Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

- Key #2– **Be a MAN OF THE WORD!** – Joshua 1:8-9 - *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."* (The word *disciple* was the most common name for the followers of Jesus Christ and is used 264 times in the Gospels and the Book of Acts.)

- Key #3 – **Be a SERVANT LEADER!** – Matthew 23:11-12 - *But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*

- Key #4 – **Be a HOME BUILDER!** – Matthew 7:24-27 - *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended,*

*the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."*

**A Christian husband will build his foundation for his home like the early church in Acts 2:42 - *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (study the Word of God) and fellowship (church attendance and involvement), in the breaking of bread (examination and proclamation), and in prayers (intercession, provision, salvation). Insight on Solomon's wisdom.***

**- Key #5 – Be LOVING! – Nurture and cherish your wife, love her with the love of Jesus! - John 15:9-13 - *"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."***

**- Paul defines Christian love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 - *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.***

**- Key #6 – Be a PEACEMAKER! – Philippians 4:8-9 - *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.***

**- Key #7 – Be UNDERSTANDING! – 1 Peter 3:7 - *Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. (What makes your wife happy? What makes your wife unhappy? Ask her.)***

**- Husbands are not to be dictators or spectators in the marriage relationship. Gentlemen, we are called to be servant leaders and to love sacrificially emulating the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

**Let's GO FOR GOD!**