

"Real Men Love their Wives"

Ephesians 5:25-33

FORMULA FOR A HAPPY - GOD-HONORING - MARRIAGE

LITTLE GIRL HEARD WONDERFUL STORY OF "Snow White"
 GIRL RUSHED TO TELL STORY TO HER MOTHER Prince Charming
 arrived on white horse and kissed sleeping Snow White back to life again •

- then you know what happened?

MOTHER "they lived happily ever after?"

GIRL "NO, they got married"

SUMMARY STATEMENT

v. 33 each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

OPERATIVE WORD FOR WIFE - "submit"

OPERATIVE WORD FOR HUSBAND (not jerk - be humble) "love"

SUBMISSION IS LOVE IN ACTION to submit to someone is to love them •

HUSBAND = HEAD / WIFE = NECK who turns him around

1. Sacrificial Love

JESUS IS MODEL FOR BOTH WIFE AND HUSBAND

PERFECT SUBMISSION - to will of Father

PERFECT LOVE - giving His life for His bride - the Church

WORD FOR LOVE USED - not "eros" / sexual // "philiros" brotherly

AGAPE "SACRIFICIAL" - selfless / Love completely undeserved

WALTER TROBISCH "Let me tell you what it really should mean if a • fellow says to a girl, 'I love you.' It means: you, you, you. You alone. You shall reign in my heart. You are the one I have longed for, without you I am incomplete. I will give everything for you, I will give up everything for you, myself as well as all I possess. I will love you alone, and I will work for you alone. And I will wait for you...I will never force you, not even by words. I want to guard you, protect you and keep you from all evil. I want to share with you my thoughts, my heart, my body - all that I possess. I want to listen to what you have to say. There is nothing I want to undertake without your blessing. I want to remain always at your side."

a. Dying CHRISTIAN HUSBANDS are CALLED to a DEATH SENTENCE

v. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Ephesians 5:2 live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

1 Corinthians 13:5 LOVE is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

JOHN CHRYSOSTROM - 4th Century Bishop of Constantinople

"You see the rule of (submission)? Well, hear also the rule of love. Do you wish your wife to obey you, as the Church obeys Christ? Then take care for her, as Christ did for the Church; and even if you must give your life for her, or be cut in a thousand pieces, or whatever you must undergo and suffer, shrink not from • it; and even if you suffer for all this, you have not yet done anything that Christ did; for you do this already being joined in marriage to her, but He suffered for a Bride who rejected and hated Him"

b. Living MORE THAN JUST A ONCE FOR ALL DRAMATIC EVENT

Luke 9:23 DISCIPLES ARE CALLED TO take up his cross daily

WIFE TO HUSBAND "honey I know you'd lay your life down for me you have said that many times- would you mind taking out the garbage?"

v. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Ephesians 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

Genesis 29:20 Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

2. Sanctifying Love

v. 32 This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.

WE LIVE in a THROW AWAY SOCIETY - incl. SPOUSES - LIMITED LOVE

NO LONGER IN LOVE - SHE NO LONGER LOOKS BEAUTIFUL TO ME

JAMES BOICE "I suggest that any husband would be a better husband if he could see his wife as on the way to becoming that dazzlingly beautiful creature - prepared for Jesus our Bridegroom - as she will be in heaven someday. And he should realize that under God he has a responsible part in her transformation."

TO SEE THIS MEANS TO HAVE GOD'S PERSPECTIVE ON OUR SPOUSE

1 Samuel 16:7 The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Genesis 12:11 As (ABRAM) was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. (70 year old special - BEAUTY OF GODLINESS) When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live.

PETER DESCRIBES THE BEAUTY OF SARAH

1 Pet 3:3,4 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment... Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

3 OFFICES OF JESUS - WHO MAKES US FIT/ BEAUTIFUL FOR GOD

a. Priest - Cleansing

v. 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water •
through the word,

CLEANSING AGENT = WORD OF GOD - take away the stain of sin

John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

James 1:25 THE ONE WHO LOOKS AT -"the perfect law that gives freedom"

James 1:27 "keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

GREEK HISTORIAN - Cyrus, Ruler of Persia - good man

WIFE of one of his generals - accused of treachery/ SENTENCED DIE

HER HUSBAND- on hearing the news - rushed from battle to his king

HUSBAND TO KING "Oh, my Lord Cyrus, take my life instead of hers. •
Let me die in her place."

CYRUS "Love like that must not be spoiled by death" PARDONED BOTH

HUSBAND TO WIFE "did you see the kind look in our king's eye?"

WIFE "I had no eyes for the king, I only saw the man who was willing to die in
my place"

JESUS IS THE PRIEST WHO LAID HIS LIFE DOWN TO SAVE HIS BRIDE

LIVES FOR EVER AS A PRIEST TO SPEAK TO GOD ON OUR BEHALF

FATHER WHO PRAYS FOR HIS CHILDREN // Job prayed daily for 10 kids

b. Prophet - Renewing v. 27 WRINKLE = old, loss of vitality

v. 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Titus 3:5 He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit

GOAL of PRESENTING WIFE to CHRIST - RADIANT & W/OUT BLEMISH

2 Corinthians 11:2,3 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

GOD'S WORD REMOVES BOTH SPOTS AND WRINKLES

CLEANSE FROM SIN AND RENEW IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

HUSBAND - do you share the Word of God w/ your wife

DO YOU ALLOW HER TIME to HAVE a QUIET TIME for Bible READING

DOES YOUR FAMILY ATTEND BIBLE STUDIES / SUNDAY SCHOOL?

PROPHET TEACHES AND APPLIES THE WORD OF GOD

Colossians 1:28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

2nd Law of Thermodynamics - any closed system left to itself will tend toward greater randomness, and eventually break down

LIKE A MACHINE THAT IS IGNORED WILL SOON STOP WORKING

Marriage NEEDS Daily INVESTMENT of TIME & ENERGY to WORK

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

c. King - Guiding LEADER - GUIDE - DEFENDER - PROTECTOR

Ephesians 5:24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Psa 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet & a light for my path

25% of Kids in USA are RAISED by SINGLE MOMS > Fault of Men!

TALKED TO TEN YEAR OLD BOY WHO WAS IN TEARS

"I want to believe in Jesus, I want to be a good Christian, I have so many doubts in my mind"

RESPONDED "what you need to do is go to a church and hear Word of •
God - faith comes by hearing the word of God"

BOY"I want to go to church, but my dad just wants to play tennis"

FACT QUOTED IN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

1. If you worshipped with both parents regularly while you were • growing up, chances are 80 % that you will worship regularly too
2. If you worshipped only w/ mother it is 30 % chance you do too
3. If you worshipped only w/ father - 70 % chance you do as adult

INTERPRETATION - Fathers have a great impact on their children's faith and values. If only mom nurtures the child's faith, boys conclude it is only a woman's thing and dump it as they get older. If Dad stays home on Sunday's the message is clear: Faith is not important to Dad, and if its not important to Dad, it is not important to the kids...Dad's most important ministry is to worship regularly"

3. Satisfying Love

"Marriage is like a guitar; it doesn't work without the strings. And when the music stops, the strings are still attached"

a. Wife GOAL TO MEET WIFES NEEDS - in every way

v. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies.

1 Corinthians 7:3-5 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. {4} The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. {5} Do not deprive each other

BE CAREFUL OF TOO MANY NIGHTS OF "headaches" & being "too tired"

"If a man has enough horse sense to treat his wife like a thoroughbred, she'll never turn into an old nag"

Prov 5:15-21 Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well...Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife? For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.

CAN TAKE WIFE FOR GRANTED AS YEARS ROLL ON -

SATURDAY EVENING POST "Seven Ages of a Married Cold"

traces husbands concern for his wife's cold

1st Y "Sugar dumpling, I'm so worried about my baby girl. You've got a bad sniffle and there's no telling about these things with all this strep going around. I'm putting you in the hospital this afternoon for a general check-up and a good rest. I know the food's lousy, but I'll bring in the food from our favorite • restaurant."

2nd Y "Listen darling, I don't like the sound of that cough and I've called Doc Miller to rush over here. Now you go to bed like a good girl, please? Just for Papa."

3rd Y "Maybe you'd better lie down, honey; nothing like a little rest when you feel punk. I'll bring you something to eat. Have we got any soup?"

4th Y "Look, dear, be sensible. After you feed the kids and get the dishes washed, you better hit the sack"

5th Y "Why don't you get yourself a couple of aspirin"

6th Y "If you'd just gargle or something, instead of sitting around barking like a seal"

7th Y "For Pete's sake, stop sneezing! What are you trying to do? Give me pneumonia?"

ED WHEAT "Love Life for Every Married Couple"

proposes that we should have the BEST marriage

B lessing - speak well of partner, thanks, appreciation, prayer

E difying - build up by praise and loving response

S haring - do things together, listening, learning, investigating

T ouching - leave that to your own sanctified imagination

b. Oneself **AMAZING SECRET** - loving wife is best thing you'll do!

v. 28b He who loves his wife loves himself.

{29} After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- {30} for we are members of his body.

PASTOR RAY STEDMAN - "I know it is popular to make jokes about bossy wives and henpecked husbands, but having observed the marriage scene for a considerable time and having personal involvement in it, I would say the problem is not so much due to the demand of the wives to assert leadership as it is the refusal of husbands to assume their responsibilities"

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

NEED PEACE WITH GOD (facts) AND PEACE OF GOD (feelings)

how God treats us (Grace) / how we treat others (Gracious)

c. World XTIAN LIFE - FOR MORE THAN JUST SELVES - FOR WORLD

GOD'S ORDINANCE OF MARRIAGE

v. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

Genesis 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Genesis 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

GIVEN TO PROVIDE "helpmeet" - HELP WHAT "Lord's of the Earth"

SERVE LORD GOD OF THE UNIVERSE - STEWARDS OF HIS CREATION

Ecclesiastes 4:12 A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

NEED GREAT MOMS & DADS FOR A GREAT CHURCH – In this WORLD