

Ephesians 5:25-29 ²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;* ²⁶ *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,* ²⁷ *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.* ²⁸ *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.* ²⁹ *For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:*

I. Introduction

A. Power of the gospel of Jesus Christ

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

1. Gospel is power to save souls
2. Gospel is transforming power to change lives

B. God created marriage as human relationship

Genesis 2:22-24 ²² And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. ²³ And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. ²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

1. God wants gospel to be picture in Christian marriage
2. Marriage picture of Christ-like love

II. Sacrificial Love

A. By selfless love

1. Marriage picture of Christ's love for His church
2. Biblical love focuses on needs of another
3. Christian to have kind brotherly love for each other

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

4. Many good qualities of love

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 ⁴ Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

B. By servicing love

1. Follow pattern of Christ's behavior

2. Jesus volunteered to give His life willingly for people

John 10:17-18 ¹⁷ Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸ No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

3. Husband to make decision to love your wife

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

4. Secular social view: What can I get out of my marriage for myself?

5. God' view: What can I put into my marriage?

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

III. Sanctifying Love

A. Produces godly testimony

1. Sanctify

a. Means to set apart, live holy life, or to make something holy

b. To make Christian life holy begins in the inner heart

2. Salvation

a. Justification: in God's view, Christian's sins have been removed

b. Regeneration: God creates new spirit within Christian inner person ("new man")

c. Sanctification: God making Christian life holy every day (little by little)

i. By God's Word

John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

- ii. Word of God continues to change Christian behavior

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

B. Produces cleansed life

- 1. Christian husband's job to lead family spiritually
- 2. Christian husband to lead by example
- 3. Do not bring society's words or home to family

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

C. Four ways that society opposes your family

- 1. Destruction of masculinity & femininity
- 2. Attack on marriage
- 3. Elevation of transgender activities
- 4. Advancement of abortion

D. Four reasons to sanctify your family

Romans 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

- 1. Family devotions with your children
- 2. Church attendance
- 3. Internet guidelines
- 4. Boundaries

IV. Secure Love

A. Communicate with family with love

- 1. Elevate dependability & eliminate doubt
- 2. Communicate with wife

B. Through expressive love

- 1. Take care of wife like husband's own self
- 2. Show sensitivity
- 3. Build security for children by showing love for wife

1 Corinthians 7:33 But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.

C. Through emphatic love

1. Cherish: to build with tender care

1 Thessalonians 2:7 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

2. Man's family is higher priority above work or career
3. Warning about qualities of Biblical love
 - a. Can fade over time if not careful
 - b. Spiritual commitment can be lost in priority

V. Conclusion

- A. Sacrificial love
- B. Sanctifying love
- C. Secure love
- D. Forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

1. Forgiveness is not earned
2. Forgiveness is freely given choice
3. God asks Christian to also give forgiveness