

Ephesians 5:25-33
Pastor John Clark

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

1. Although the roles in a marriage are different, the intrinsic value and worth of each person are completely the _____ before the Lord. They are loved, valued, and accepted just the way they are IN Christ.
2. Nowhere in Scripture do the biblical authors emphasize the “rights” of husbands and the “rights” of wives, BUT rather the “roles” or “_____” of husbands and wives.
3. Many marriages fail because the husband does NOT know HOW to _____ biblically or he refuses to be a biblical leader.
4. Now, a quick note to wives – Keep your _____ to yourselves over the course of the next hour.
5. Before we get to the instruction for HUSBANDS in verse 25, we must first understand the assumed _____ for HUSBANDS as described in verse 18.
6. *Ephesians 5:18*: “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”
 - a. There are 3 commands that _____ this entire section from verses 18-33:
 - (1) Be **FILLED** with the Spirit, (2) Wives, **SUBMIT** to your own husbands, and (3) Husbands, **LOVE** your wives.
 - 1) In fact, the first command “Be **FILLED** with the Spirit” sets the stage for _____ that follows describing inter-personal relationships all the way down to 6:9.
 - 2) “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation” – Paul sets up the command to be filled with the Spirit with a very common and _____ example to describe what he means.
 - b. In contrast, but yet _____...“But be filled with the Spirit” – In other words, don’t do that, but definitely do this!

- 1) “Be filled” is also a *present* tense *passive* voice command – Right now, begin _____ yourself to be filled by the Spirit of God in a consistent and ongoing manner. Allow the Spirit of God to act upon you in filling you with something...
- 2) This is allowing the Spirit of God to be the agent of filling, filling you with the _____ of Jesus Christ (Galatians 2:20, Colossians 1:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18).
 - a) This is the _____ to all of the relational injunctions described in the verses below.
 - b) Just like wine controls and influences _____ in your life (your speech, your actions, your thinking, etc.), now allow the Spirit of God to do the same.

EPHESIANS 5:25-33

1. (V25): “Love your wives” – This is a *present* tense command indicating _____ action is required, and it is in the *active* voice meaning that the husband must _____ to engage in this action. It represents a continual and _____ action.
 - a. However, because Paul uses the word *agapao*, translated “love” in this passage, the husband should have ONE and ONLY ONE reaction to this command: sheer _____ and _____ due to his own recognition of his inadequacy to do it!
 - b. Many husbands are _____ and immature to believe they can just DO this, just like they have DONE school, work, career, fixing cars, playing sports.
 - c. Agape love is ONLY and ALWAYS a fruit of the _____, and it can only be exercised IF AND ONLY IF the husband is being _____ by the Spirit with the life of Jesus Christ.
 - d. Just a quick note – Many men think they can become a better husband by focusing on how to become a _____ husband. The Bible is clear – be filled with the Spirit, and you will be able to manifest Spirit-wrought love on your wife!

Now, Paul provides a practical example or comparison for husbands as to HOW it should look by using the phrase “Just as Christ...” meaning that Jesus Christ is the _____.

2. ***1st Comparison:*** Christ “loved” the Church and we know that He did so based on _____, meaning the Church did not deserve it, nor will she ever deserve it.
 - a. Christ’s love is _____ and cannot be broken (Romans 8:35-39).
It is not based on the behavior of the church, otherwise grace is no more grace and agape love is no more agape love!
 - b. Christ _____ for believers and continually prays for them (John 17:20-26 and Romans 8:34).
 - c. Christ _____ Himself and His plan to the Church (Ephesians 3:3-5 and Colossians 1:26-27).
 - d. Christ provides _____ and helps bear the load in life (Matthew 11:28-30).
3. ***2nd Comparison:*** Christ “gave Himself” _____ the Church
 - a. Christ’s love went to the extent that He laid down His own life. He kept NOTHING back for her. – Romans 5:8 explains that this act _____ God’s love for the Church.
 - b. Christ took the sins of the whole world (including the Church’s sins) and bore them Himself and took the penalty Himself...the Church is not and will never have to _____ for her sins!!
 - c. Husbands need to give of themselves _____ despite how they feel, despite how their wives are treating them, despite how things are going at work, and despite any other circumstances in their life.
 - d. Their duty, as husbands, is to LOVE their wives “just as” Christ loved the Church: an _____ standard made possible ONLY with _____ resources!
4. (***V26-V27***): You will notice two purpose clauses in these verses (“THAT” or *hina*) – So, what two _____ did Christ love the Church and give Himself for her?

- a. (V26): **1ST Purpose**: “To sanctify *by* cleansing her” - To make holy, to set apart from a _____ use to a sacred/special use.
- 1) The moment a person puts their faith in Jesus Christ, they are positionally sanctified and are _____ by the Spirit of God into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13).
 - 2) It is in this _____ that God has poured out all spiritual blessings and privileges that exist.
 - 3) In the same way, husbands give of themselves sacrificially to set their wives in a place of special _____, rather than viewing her as “common.”
 - 4) The mindset of the husband is that his wife is “set apart” in a special place and position in his _____, his _____, and his efforts.
 - 5) HOW did Christ sanctify or “set apart” the Church? – By OR through cleaning her with the washing of the water by the _____ word.
 - a) So, in this case, the sanctifying work spoken of here is _____ through the spoken word (*rhema*) – The word *logos* is **NOT** used here! The written word (*logos*) gives us a reminder of what He spoke (*rhema*).
 - b) This setting apart or sanctifying was put into place through the Word of Jesus Christ...it was something He _____ through His spoken Word.
 - c) Additionally, the cleansing from filth spoken of here is related to _____ and the new birth (Titus 3:5), so that believers were free to become something new.
 - d) In the same way, the words that husbands use assist in _____ to their wives their special place of value and importance.

- b. (V27): 2ND Purpose: “To present her to Himself a glorious Church” - To “present” means to stand near or before someone. In this case the Lord is _____ the Church to stand near or before Him.
- 1) This is amazing! Jesus Christ is presenting His church to...Himself! In other words, His care and love for the Church is _____ and constant.
 - 2) Jesus will ensure the Church’s successful _____ in her glorification!
 - 3) A “glorious” Church - Defined as not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, being holy and blameless. We know that this presentation is based _____ upon His work **FOR** her!
 - 4) Adam did the exact opposite - he threw Eve under the bus and blamed her for everything. Husbands, when walking _____ to the flesh, will do the same thing.
 - a) Husbands are to stand _____ their wives: shielding them, building them up, and bearing some of the _____ incurred from their faults.
5. (V28): “So, husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies;” – “So” here refers to what _____, and, in this case, this is HOW Christ loves the Church!
- a. They “ought” to, meaning they are _____ to love their wives in the way described.
 - b. They are to take a _____ stance on this; they are to take a divine viewpoint: Wives are part of the husband – they are _____ flesh!
 - c. If husbands have needs, they do everything in their power to meet those needs..._____.
- 1) Whether the needs are physical, emotional, verbal, non-verbal, time-oriented, spiritual, financial, etc. the husband typically meets his own needs without much _____.

- 2) In order to do this the husband must: (1) Know that this is essential for him fulfilling his role, (2) He needs to take a proactive interest in his wife, and (3) He needs to _____ the Spirit of God to be consistent at it.
6. “He who loves his wife loves himself”
- a. Notice, the _____ benefit that a husband gets when he loves His wife as Christ loves the Church – He truly loves himself and even the care for him and his life will flourish!
 - b. This is a present tense, ongoing emphasis...by loving your wife biblically, you will _____ from it in your own daily life.
 - c. Paul is going to go on to say that if you really believe the biblical doctrine that at marriage, you and your wife become one _____, then you will understand that if you love wife biblically, you will _____ take care of yourself because you are ONE FLESH!
7. (V29): Paul uses very exclusive language here - NO ONE “hates” their own flesh, meaning to take an active _____ in words and/or conduct towards someone! NO ONE does this!
- a. In fact, Paul says there are two ways that we approach _____ for ourselves and these are undisputed facts:
 - 1) **1st Fact:** Husbands **NOURISH** themselves: “Nourishes” is a compound word in the Greek giving an _____ to the word meaning to nourish, to rear (in terms of children), or to feed COMPLETELY.
 - 2) **2nd Fact:** Husbands CHERISH themselves – “Cherishes” means to make warm, or to heat.
 - b. There is a 3rd indisputable fact that Paul states, and it comes by way of example and _____. However, there is a subtle, yet important, **SWITCH** in Paul’s analogy!

- 1) Husbands nourish and cherish themselves JUST AS Christ does the _____. – Notice the analogy veers off the expected course and it **DOES** **NOT** say “just as Christ does Himself!”
 - 2) The reason for this is that Jesus Christ understands the _____ between Himself and His body of believers.
8. (V30-V32): “For” gives us further explanation on WHY Jesus nourishes and cherishes the Church. Jesus _____ that the Church is ONE with Him, _____ a husband should recognize that his wife is ONE with him.
- a. To experience the full divine enjoyment of marriage, the husband must take the _____ of the Lord Jesus.
 - 1) Jesus recognizes that this loving approach is the best way to achieve _____, stable, and long-lasting growth and properly _____ response from the church.
 - 2) In the same way, the love of a husband can be a tool to spur on the spiritual _____ of his wife as she learns to _____ to the husband’s loving leadership through trusting submission.
 - a) AGAIN, the reason for this? – Husband and wife are ONE flesh. The health and growth of your spouse can ONLY _____ you.
 - b) You want a DREAM wife? Be a DREAM husband, filled by the Spirit of God, allowing the Lord to _____ this THROUGH you!
9. (V32): The “mystery” spoken of here is that Christ’s union with the church is the exact _____ type of union between husband and wife (i.e., ONE flesh). It is this union that guarantees _____ blessing you possess and every promise that God will keep.
- a. Your _____ with Christ as a believer is the most unique and special bond of connection that has ever existed in the world and it was **NOT** known or revealed _____ the Church-age.

10. (V33): “Nevertheless” is a word often used after a writer returns to a previous topic after _____...So, Paul now brings us back to the main points from verses 22-32. Those two main points in summary are:
- a. *Husbands*: Love your own wife as yourself – Again, notice the reflexive pronouns. The _____ of a husband loving his wife is both to her and to him (i.e., ONE flesh).
 - b. *Wives*: Respect your husband. – Paul does **NOT** use the word “submit” here, but rather uses the Greek word *phobeo* whose _____ meaning is to put in fear, to terrify, OR to frighten.
 - 1) However, the word is also used to communicate reverence, honor, or _____ which is HOW it is used here to speak of the wife’s summary response to her husband.