

***Husbands II: Loving Your Wife as Yourself* (Ephesians 5:28-33)**

- I. **Introduction: The Greatest *Love Story* Ever**
 - A. Human *Love Stories*
 - B. The Bible: God's *Love Story*
 1. begins *before the foundation of the world* (Eph 1, Jer 31:3)
 2. with a *Father's love for His Son* (Jn 17:21-25)
 3. an *affectionate delightful love* (SS 7:10, Pr 8:29-30, P 139:17-18)
 4. A *protecting love* (Zech 2:8, 12:8-9)
 5. an *unreturned love* (Jer 13:11, 3:20)
 6. *Love that takes initiative to guarantee marriage* (Is 59:16, Mt 1:23)
 7. Marriage that lasts to *the end of the age* (Mt 28:20, Zech 14:9)
 8. Marriage that *exists now, in Christ* (Eph 3:15)
 - C. The significance of Ephesians 5:28-33 in light of this *love story*
 - D. Outline of sermon and reading the text
- II. **Ephesians 5:28-29: Imminently Practical**
 - A. Loving your wife: A love that is not easy – the pain of intimacy
 - B. Eph 5:28-29 – an immediately useful and understandable command
 1. It needs to be easily understood because of the importance of what is being portrayed in marriage
 2. God knows the import of this, but so does Satan ...
 - C. What does this look like in day to day life?
 1. living no longer as “I” but as “we.”
 2. 1 Cor 7:3-6
 3. A single person's life vs. a married person's life (1 Cor 7:32-35)
 - a. How that works out in participation in body life
 - D.
 - b. How it works out in setting priorities (God, family, church)
 - E. What is meant by *nourishing* and *cherishing*
- III. **Ephesians 5:30-31: An Invisible Reality**
 - A. Paul's excitement – though not married, he's ministered to by marriage
 1. We all (single, married, children) are ministered to by marriage
 - B. The *invisible reality* of being *one flesh*
 1. “*One*” *Echad* – same description as the “oneness” of the Trinity
 2. As a result, how God looks at divorce
 3. Also as a result, how we must value Christian marriage
 4. What it means practically to leave and cleave
- IV. **Ephesians 5:32: An Infinite Reflection**
 - A. Marriage is a display of our union with Christ
 1. Is your marriage a reflection of this infinite union?
 - B. Are you part of the bride of Christ?
 1. An invitation from the Bridegroom (Hos 2:16,19-20)
 - C. The joy the bride in marital intimacy with Christ
- V. **Conclusion: Ephesians 5:33**
 - A. Some simple, practical marriage counseling