

## **Christlike Love Ephesians 5:25-28**

### **Introduction**

NJFK—

*Headship—caring, beneficial leadership*

Worldly leadership lords it over others. Lust for control. Using others to lift up one's self.

Not Christian leadership. *The best index of genuine Christian leadership is in the home. There we have more opportunities than anywhere else to live out Christlike love—or to fail to do so.* What you really are is harder to cover up, and what you do there in the common everyday moments of life tells the true story.

**25** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, **26** that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27** so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. **28** In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

1. Sacrificial Love (25)
2. Purposeful Love (26-27)

### 3. Satisfying Love (28)

#### **1. Sacrificial Love (25)**

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

The way a Christian husband shows love to his wife reveals or obscures gospel truth.

Christ, the Messiah, King of everything, gave Himself up to be crucified out of love for the church.

Genuine love for a person makes us glad to sacrifice ourselves for that person.

A Christian husband who treats his wife merely as his housemaid or mistress, who uses her to take care of work he does not like doing himself, who sees her function primarily as satisfying his own appetite, does not understand Christlike love.

To love her as Christ loved the church means you are willing to sacrifice anything and everything to meet her needs. 1 Peter 3 commands husbands to make a home with their wives in an understanding way.

Do you know what your wife needs? Do you know what burdens she carries? Do you understand how she thinks? Do you care to know these things?

And when you know, what do you do about it?

There are men who are winsome and gentle in public but demanding and harsh at home. That is not love. And that is not manly either.

There are men who cut themselves off from closeness to their wives. They are busy doing their own projects, pursuing their own career advancement. They have no time for their wife's concerns.

Others lounge around at home, wasting hours entertaining themselves while their wife carries the full of load of maintaining the home and the children and all that involves. They take no time to talk with their wife or the kids. They do not pray with them. They may be willing to pay money to cover the expenses of room and board and schooling, but they won't give time or themselves to lead with gentle hand in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

*A husband that manifests Christlike love is neither harsh nor passive. He is self-sacrificing. He takes action—"leaving heaven to die on a cross" kind of action—in order to give his wife whatever she needs to flourish.*

## **2. Purposeful Love (26-27)**

**26** that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27** so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Here Paul lays out what flourishing looks like. Christ gave up himself in love to see these things happen in the lives of those He loves.

Sanctify her

Cleanse her

Present her to himself in splendor—no spot or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish

*Christ prizes His people the church. He delights in their reaching the splendor for which He rescued them.* His relationship to them makes them better than they ever could have been on their own. Indeed, His work rescues them from being enslaved and abused by sin and Satan. He causes them to thrive, to grow, to become more beautiful, more capable, and more happy than they ever could have been otherwise. That's what a husband should be doing for his wife.

*Does your wife know you prize her?*

*Does she see you sacrifice for her growth, her well-being, her happiness, her potential?*

*If Jesus treated you the way you treat your wife, where would you be?*

Does she love being your wife as much as a healthy Christian loves belonging to Jesus?

### **3. Satisfying Love (28)**

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Echoes of Eden when Adam first saw Eve:  
Genesis 1:23-24

<sup>23</sup> Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

*Because marriage unites you, if you give yourself in love to cause your wife to flourish, she is not the only one who benefits. You do. The more your wife grows and flourishes, the better life partner you have. You are one with her. You are not flourishing if she is not flourishing. You're in it together, so treat her that way.*

Peter says that failing to live with your wife in an understanding way, showing her honor as the weaker vessel, hinders your prayers. She is an heir together with you of the grace of life. A child of the king. A princess. Treat her as a member of the divine royal family that

she is. Else making petitions to the King of the universe is a sham.

You are to use your strength to protect her and honor her not to beat her down. Only a fool treats those he leads that way. He harms himself when he does so.

*A principle throughout the word of God. Living in accord with God's commands benefits those around you and benefits you. Sin harms others and sin harms you. Nowhere is that more true than in the closest of all relationships. Marriage thrives on Christlike love.*

## **Conclusion**

1. Sacrificial Love (25)
2. Purposeful Love (26-27)
3. Satisfying Love (28)