

“A Word to Husbands, Part 2”
Ephesians 5:25-33
(Preached at Trinity, November 1, 2015)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. In **Verses 22-33** Paul speaks specifically on the affect the Gospel has upon the marital relationship. God has designed men and women with different roles and functions. These differences along with the effect of sin often bring conflict in marriage. But the Gospel has brought God's redeeming grace upon marriage. Christians seek to reflect Christ in everything. Paul maintains this Christological emphasis in this passage. Jesus shines brightly verse after verse.
 1. The wife's submission to her husband as her head is to be done in the same way the church submits to Christ as her Head
 2. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loves the church
 3. Paul is comparing marriage to the relationship of Christ and His church.
2. **Verses 21-24** have a focus on the duty of wives to their husbands. Beginning with **Verse 25** Paul shifts his attention to the duties of husbands towards their wives.
3. Last week our focus was upon the duty for men to love their wives. This is a high charge. Sacrificial love is difficult for sinful men. Too often men pervert God's design for them as husbands. There are two extremes that must be avoided.
 - A. On one end a man can lord over his wife in a prideful and sinful manner.
 1. There is a great difference between male dominance and male headship.
 - a. Sin often causes man to abuse his authority. This can be seen on many levels – employers, law enforcement, politicians, pastors
 - b. This is particularly ugly when husbands and fathers abuse their authority.
 2. A godly man exercise selfless headship as he strives to serve his wife in leadership that will glorify God and edify her
 - B. On the other end of the spectrum men pervert God's design for them as husbands by succumbing to the woman's desire for authority and relinquishing his responsibility to exercise a proper headship
 1. Sometimes it's because the husband fears his wife
 - a. We should avoid strife if possible, but this doesn't relieve men of the duty to lead, even when the wife is not cooperative.
 - b. Biblical principles must be followed, even when the principles are not well received –
Acts 5:29 - "We must obey God rather than men."
 - c. There is a behavior expected of men – a heart of courage. We need to be men in our homes.
1 Corinthians 16:13 NAU - "Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."

- d. Christ leads His Bride, the church, with love, patience, and tenderness, but also with great strength
- 2. Often men fail to lead because of passive laziness
 - a. Many men find it easier and more convenient to let their wives lead
 - b. It is more convenient to let the wife discipline the children.
 - c. Popular today is the “Man Cave” where the man can get away from his family. What if Christ chose to absent Himself from His Church?
 - d. It is terrible in a Christian home when the wife becomes the spiritual leader
- 4. With Christ’s love for the church as our model the Godly husband must realize he can never love his wife enough. This morning I want to turn our focus to the practical ways this works out in a marriage.
How does the Godly husband imitate Christ in loving his wife?

I. By giving himself to his wife in sacrificial love

- A. Jesus gave Himself for His Church
Ephesians 5:25 NAU - "love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her"
 - 1. When on the earth Jesus demonstrated a life of service
John 13:3-5 NAU - "*Jesus*, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, ⁴ got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. ⁵ Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded."
 - 2. His greatest act of love was in dying for the church
John 15:13 NAU - "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."
 - 3. This great love of Christ for us draws us to Him. It drives us to submit to His gracious care.
1 John 4:19 NAU - "We love, because He first loved us."
2 Corinthians 5:14 NAU - "For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;"
- B. The charge to husbands is to imitate this sacrificial love
 - 1. We are naturally selfish and desire to be served.
In our sinful condition we love ourselves supremely. When the lost man says I love you, he is actually saying I love me and you satisfy me.
 - 2. The Godly husband loves his wife as he looks to the example of Christ’s love for him. He denies himself and seeks to sacrificially serve his wife.
 - a. This plays out in an infinite number of ways
 - b. Instead of indulging our many hobbies and interests, we should seek to satisfy the needs and desires of our wife
 - c. He helps with the dishes and even the laundry.
He engages himself with the children taking his share of diaper changes and taking charge at bath time. He helps with the dishes.

- d. Men sometimes complain that their wives will not submit to their leadership. I wonder if they ever examine the degree to which they love their wives. What wife would not subordinate herself to a man who selflessly loves her?

II. In his display of love he is careful to take the spiritual lead in the home

A. Christ also serves as our model

Ephesians 5:26 NAU - "that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,"

1. He cleansed us through justification as the cross is applied
2. He also continues to make us holy through the sanctification – the "washing of water with the Word."

B. The Godly husband keeps Christ and His Word central in the home

1. He prays for his wife. He intercedes on her behalf. He sees himself as priest in the home
2. A husband must continually seek to lead his wife closer to God. He has the responsibility of teaching his wife – his duty. This means he has a duty to study in order to equip himself to rightly handle the Word of God.
3. Paul implies that the Christian husband will be able to rightly handle the word of God.

1 Corinthians 14:34-35 NAU - "The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says. ³⁵ If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church."

4. This implies that his wife readily receives his instruction as the Bride of Christ readily receives the instruction of her Lord. But the Christian husband must patiently teach even when it is not well received.

III. In love the Godly husband applies himself to knowing his wife – to learning about her.

1 Peter 3:7 NAU - "You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered." γυνῶσις

A. Christ knows His bride intimately

1. He knows us better than we know ourselves
2. He Takes pity on our weaknesses.

Psalms 103:13-14 NAU - "Just as a father has compassion on *his* children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. ¹⁴ For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are *but* dust."

B. A wise husband recognizes the unique characteristics of women

1. They are more emotional, vulnerable – the weaker vessel. They are affected by hormonal changes. This means you need to be sensitive, gentle and protective

2. Men and women are greatly different. The Godly husband understands this. Men tend to be mission oriented with a one track mind – women are practical, intuitive, multitaskers. They are more inclined to want to “talk about” or discuss problems. Men want to leap forward with dominion and “fix” them. This is good—it is what we are wired to do. But we must also be willing to listen and perhaps heed their wise counsel before we leap.
3. Women are more relationship oriented than men. They want to share their feelings. This is a place the Godly woman has to guard her heart. The danger is to desire to share everything. Social media has made it easy to be idle gossipers without ever leaving the house. Paul warned about such: **1 Timothy 5:13 NAU** - "At the same time they also learn *to be idle*, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper *to mention*."
4. The godly husband needs to understand these differences.
A movie written by a man for men is all about mission, conquering, dominion. A movie written for women—the chick-flick is more about relationships.

Your wife appreciates outward signs of affection.

A bouquet of flowers on her birthday is special for her.

Telling her you appreciate her cooking or the way she cares for the home is important to her.

- C. A Godly husband needs to know more than just the difference between men and women. He must strive to understand his wife particularly.
 1. What are you doing to increase your knowledge of your wife?
What are her interests? What delights her? What makes her sad? What are her fears? What are her hopes for the future?
 2. Your wife is concerned about security. She is encouraged by strength.
 - She doesn't need to see you break down every time you feel overwhelmed.
 - She doesn't need to see you whine or collapse every time you get a runny nose. She's your wife, not your mother.
 - She needs to know that no matter what her man is there to defend her.
 3. Your wife is uniquely connected to your children. Although you are the head of your home and are responsible for their discipline, she actually knows them better than you do. You need to listen to her.
 4. Although the husband and wife discuss and share opinions on issues regarding the home the husband is accountable for the final decision. He must not give the leadership over to the wife as Adam did to Eve

IV. In love he sacrificially gives himself as provider and protector for his wife – physical, emotional, spiritual

- A. There is no place for laziness in a Godly husband – he's a hard worker.
 1. Too often pastors inadvertently make the man's job an enemy to the home.
 - a. Of course, there is always a danger of making work our idol. A man can neglect his family through his vocation.
 - b. But we have to understand that it is a man's duty to work.
He must give himself sacrificially in order to provide for his family

2. This does not prohibit a man from helping in the home
Nor does it prohibit a woman from working outside the home – but the primary calling, roles and duties do not change
 3. This means we need to teach our young men how to become good providers. We need to talk about it, emphasize it, make plans.
And men, you need to give careful attention to your role as provider. Your home should be well provided for. We have to be careful here. Our mission is not the mission, it's the home. We are laboring for the home. There is always the danger for men to place the emphasis on the career.
- B. He stands boldly as the protector of his wife
1. He protects her from other people
 2. He protects her from himself. He guards his tongue from words of criticism.
 3. He protects her from false teaching
 4. He guards against heaping upon her more than she can bear

Conclusion:

1. These are some of the ways a man demonstrates love to his wife through sacrificial service.
2. Marriage isn't about seeking self-fulfillment. It is about laboring to make marriage a platform for declaring God's glory upon the earth.
Wives are to submit to their husbands and husbands are to love their wives sacrificially as they work together for the glory of God.