

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for March 3, 2019

The Spirit-Filled Husband
Ephesians 5:25-33

I. The Christlike love of the husband (5:25-27)

Husbands, love your wives,

- This is the command - “love”
- Colossians 3:19 “Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.”
- Love - Action that seeks the highest good for someone else
- “This exhortation to husbands to love their wives is unique. It is not found in the OT, rabbinic literature, or in the household codes of the Greco-Roman era. Although the hierarchical model of the home is maintained, it is ameliorated by this revolutionary exhortation that husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church.”¹

as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

- Husbands must love like Christ
- Specifically the love of Christ for the church
- This was a sacrificial and saving love
 - Ephesians 5:1-2 “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”
 - 1 John 3:16 “By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.”
 - There is no limit to what one is willing to give in displaying Christlike love
- Christ’s love was a giving love
 - Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
 - There is no expectation of return or reciprocation in displaying Christlike love
- Christ’s love did not regard the audience of his love as worthy to receive His love
 - Romans 5:8 “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
 - There is no assessment of others to determine if they are worthy of our love

¹ Harold W. Hoehner, Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 748.

- How can you implement Christ's standard of love in your marriage?
 - Is there anything I can or should give up (sacrifice) for the sake of devoting more of myself to my wife?
 - Time, entertainment, hobbies, habits
 - How can I give of myself to my wife today?
 - Time, energy, conversation, efforts
 - How can I protect myself from evaluating my wife's godliness before I deem her worthy of my love?
 - What do I do if my wife is silent, moody, or in sin?
 - Don't start thinking that her behavior gives you a freebie or a pass on the command for you to love her
 - "If Christ could love sacrificially those who hated him, should not husbands love their wives who do not have such animosity?"²

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 we find two reasons why Christ loved and gave Himself for the church
- First, Christ's love was given to sanctify the church
 - Sanctify - Set apart as holy or devoted unto God
 - How were the dirty, foul, sinful members of the church made holy or set apart?
 - We were cleansed by the "washing of water with the word"
 - "Cleansing deals with the negative aspect, that of being cleansed from defilement of sin, whereas sanctification is the positive aspect, that of being set apart to God. They are two sides of the same coin."³
 - Titus 3:5 "he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,"
 - 1 Corinthians 6:11 "And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."
 - Notice also, that the "Word" is the means of washing and cleansing us
 - That is the power of the good news in Jesus Christ
 - We have forgiveness and cleansing because of the "word" about Jesus Christ and His blood poured out on the cross for us

² Harold W. Hoehner, *Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 762.

³ Harold W. Hoehner, *Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 752.

- Second, Christ's love was given to present the church in glory
 - Notice who is presenting the church - Jesus Christ
 - Notice who is receiving the church - Jesus Christ
 - He's presenting the church to Himself!
 - This is quite counter-cultural
 - "In the present context Christ presents the universal church to himself. In a human wedding in the first century, the bride prepares herself for the bridegroom and he presents her to his father. Here Christ, the bridegroom, prepares the bride by sanctification and also presents her to himself."⁴
 - Notice the description of the church
 - "In splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish"
 - From sinfully wicked and depraved in Ephesians 2:1-3 to glorious, without spot or wrinkle
 - From an object of God's wrath to an object of Christ's love and affection
 - The eternal plan of God will be successful
 - Ephesians 1:4 "even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him."

II. The caring love of the husband (5:28-30)

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body.

- We see a few aspects of caring love in these verses
- First, we see the admonition to care

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

- The husband is now called to love his wife as his own body
- This kind of care is about answering a couple of questions:
 - To what degree does the husband feel connected to his wife?
 - To what extent should the husband feel responsible for his wife?
- The call to love one's wife "as their own body" as well as the statement that he who loves his wife, loves himself shows the degree and extent of love that ought to be given
- The caring love of the husband is invested, engaged, and connected to his wife
- Husband cannot check out and let his wife deal with her own issues

⁴ Harold W. Hoehner, Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 758.

- Husband has to engage and care
- Ironically, this has often been an accusation of wives against husbands for ages, “I don’t feel like you care”
- Second, we see the assumption of care
 - 29 *For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it,*
 - Paul supports his previous admonition by stating some general truths
 - Generally speaking, people don’t hate their bodies
 - Generally speaking, people nourish and cherish their bodies
 - Nourish - “The translation ‘to feed’ limits it too much to the physical realm, whereas the word ‘nurture’ possesses a broader scope encompassing the physical, psychological, and spiritual nature of a person. The words ‘to nurture’ or ‘to care’ are the best translation for this context.”⁵
 - Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”
 - Cherish - “Here, its import is ‘to care’ or ‘to take tender care of’ in the same way that a man cares for his own body, even with all its imperfections.”⁶
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:7 “But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.”
 - Now it might not seem like men nourish and cherish their own bodies
 - Sleeping habits, eating habits, hygiene, cleanliness
 - However, it is certain that all men have *something* that they nourish or cherish in their own life
 - Hair, shoes, car, phone, etc.
 - Paul’s assumption that all people take care of themselves is generally true
 - Thus, the care that a man shows for anything in his own life ought to evidence the type of caring love that he possesses toward his wife
- Third, we see the example of caring love
 - just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body.*
 - Again, Paul returns to the example of Christ caring for the church
 - Is Christ content with a one time act of love?
 - Is Christ merely known for a one time verbal commitment of love?
 - Christ’s love is a caring love
 - Why?

⁵ Harold W. Hoehner, *Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 767.

⁶ Harold W. Hoehner, *Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 767.

- Because we are members of his body!
- Has he stopped caring for His church?
- No way!
- “As it is natural for man not to hate his own flesh but to nurture and take care of it, so it is also the natural thing for Christ to nurture and take care of his body, the church. He redeemed it (1:7–12; 2:1–10), sealed it (1:13–14), empowered it (1:19–23), brought it into one body (2:16), filled it with God’s fullness (3:19), gifted it (4:7–16), and loved and sanctified it (5:25–26). Even with all its imperfections Christ nurtures and takes tender care of his body, the church. Christ did not give birth to the church and leave it stranded. He nurses her with the warmth of his love and power so that she will be able to cope in the world. Christ, as head of the church, is not only a ruler or authority over the church but also the source of sustenance by which it is nurtured.”⁷

III. The communication of marriage (5:31-32)

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

- Summary: A husband should care for his own wife as he cares for his own body because his wife IS his own body! The husband and wife are one!
- Paul proves this by quoting from Genesis 2:24
 - Genesis 2:24 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”
- The unity of husband and wife as one was established in the beginning
- The husband and wife would leave their parents in their formation of a new family together
- The husband and wife would hold fast to one another and become one flesh
 - “The verb κολλάω means ‘to glue, cement,’ as the welding of two metals together ‘in contrast to nailing, to join together tightly.’ The compound verb προσκολλάω in the passive has the same meaning, illustrated by the body and soul ‘being welded together,’ people ‘clinging’ to each other, or the sword ‘being stuck’ to the hand with blood.”⁸
- Thus, husbands do not have an option to care for their wives
- They must care for their wives because they are one
- To not care for one’s wife is to not care for one’s own body!

⁷ Harold W. Hoehner, *Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 768.

⁸ Harold W. Hoehner, *Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 773.

- If this doesn't get every husband's attention, then perhaps verse 32 will

32 *This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*

- Paul reveals a profound mystery regarding the marriage union of husband and wife
 - Profound - *Mega*
- Paul reveals that the marriage union was created by God to point to a greater reality
- We must understand the timing of this mystery
- In eternity past God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit planned to get a bride for God the Son
- That bride would be you and I, or the church
- God had already planned a wedding before He began speaking and creating in Genesis 1
- Thus, when Genesis 2 arrives and God created Eve for Adam, it was not as if God missed the illustration of marriage
- God didn't wait until after the cross to decide that marriage kind of looked like the union of Christ and His church
- God didn't wait until the Apostle Paul discovered it or revealed it in this verse
- God intentionally brought marriage into the world to communicate a plan He had already made
- Through marriage, God has communicated about His Son, Jesus Christ, and His bride, the church
- Thus, marriage is a gift from God because He is good, but it is also a screaming display of God's wisdom and love in the gospel
- Christ purchased His bride in His death on the cross, He is purifying us now to be holy, and He will present us to Himself when we join Him in glory

IV. The conclusion of marital roles (5:33)

However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- If we could boil down the two roles in marriage for the husband and wife, verse 33 would be the place to turn
- To the husband - Love your wife as yourself
- To the wife - Respect your husband