

Title: What Husbands Must Do

Text: Ephesians 5:25-33

I don't know what comes to mind in the average woman's heart about the kind of husband that God describes. But I thought just to prepare our <sup>mind</sup> hearts a little bit, I might mention a few <sup>types</sup> types. Over the years I have heard a few things from wives about husbands. I have a nice little file. And I am sure my wife has a file on me. But, I have noticed that there are all different kinds of husbands. And when you say "Husbands love your wives" well, something comes into your mind. You may have a quality of love that someone else doesn't have, or, you may have something that you think is love. In fact some wives don't know what kind of husband they are really suppose to have, because they have never really <sup>experienced it</sup> ~~seen it~~.

So, I have noticed that there are all different types of husbands.

① There is the working type who says, "I LOVE YOU, <sup>BUT</sup> I MUST GET THE WORK DONE."

Maybe some of you ladies recognize that type of husband.

2. There is also the, " I LOVE YOU, BUT I HAVE NEEDS TO" type...Have any of you run into that type of husband?

3. There is, also, the "PLEASE FORGIVE ME" type...Maybe you have run into that one....recently...

4. And then what woman hasn't, with great joy, run into the MOCHO type... Like, WHAT A GREAT BODY I HAVE. And what a joy it is for wives to be married to those kind of men....(HA)...

5. And then of course there is the "STOP SPENDING MY MONEY" type...You know, "I LOVE YOU, BUT STOP SPENDING MY CASH".

6 And then there is the "LUCKY TO HAVE ME " type. ....Maybe you have that kind of a husband, ladies.

Or, maybe you have the one that says "I HAVE GOT TO GET INTO THE MOOD" type.....And you wait around all your life for that right mood.

And then there are the few who say, "WE NEED MORE ROMANCE" type. That is what is wrong with our marriage.

7 And then there is, and I love this one...I WILL DO IT, IF YOU REALLY HAVE TO" type...He's just down right lazy...

*She Knows, I Love Her" Type*

And then there is my favority type of husband..~~"I LOVE YOU, BUT I HAVE PROBLEMS"~~ type. You know, there are certain men who reflect that.

But, I guess the best one of all that really pictures what most wives have to put up with is: "I WILL LOVE YOU WHEN I AM GOOD AND READY" type....

Oh, well..I guess most of you ladies would like to have..I LOVE YOU... period type. And that is what we are going to talk about this morning. The mair responsibility of a husband <sup>according to the Bible</sup> is to love his wife.

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to Ephesians chapter 5. Ephesians chapter 5 beginning with Vs.25.....(READ Vs 25-33) *(Keep Bibles open)*

PRAYER

Our Father, we thank you for the privilage we have to fellowship together and open your word and find the real truth we need for our lives. I would ask, Father, that you would speak to all husbands today. I pray that you would give us a new understanding of our responsibility to love. That we might get awholed of what it really means to love our wives. That we might love our wife as Christ loved the church. We thank you, Lord, for the love of the great lover of our souls, the great bridgroom, our Lord Jesus Christ. And it is in His love that we stand before you, and trust you, and seek your will. Father, we pray this in the name of Jesus....Amen.

+++++

You know, in the context of Ephesians chapter 5, this command to love our wives, flows out of a command that is found in Vs 18. In Vs 18 we are told "to be filled with the Spirit." And then Paul gives us four examples of what it means to be filled with the Spirit. The last example is the illustration of marriage. In Vs 21 it says to be "subject to one another in the fear of Christ. And if you ~~read~~ this correctly it would go something like this:

"BE SUBJECT TO ONE ANOTHER IN THE FEAR OF CHRIST

Vs 22 ..The Wives to the Husband...

Vs 25..The husband to the wife

In chapter 6 verse 1.."Children to the parents"

A lot of wives see their husbands as "self-Centered". The world wripes around them. And they sort of do~~o~~ut to their wives, -just to keep them happy. And the wife rarely sees the sacrificial love of a man who believes that his wife is the object of that love, that devotion, that sacrifice. And he will do anything that he can to meet her needs. Sacrifice his time, his resources, his energy in order to meet the needs of his wife.

(2) Secondly, when you talk about the compassion of christ, we move to Vs 26, and we realize that total forgiveness is involved. Vs 26 says, "that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word."

By the way, sometimes when you read a commentary on Ephesians they say that Vs 25 is PAST....VS 26 is PRESENT....and Vs 27 is FUTURE...

I understand why certain people taech that. But, dear friends, Vs 26 is not PRESENT. It is in the past tense. <sup>This tense</sup> ~~is~~ is connected with <sup>Vs 25</sup> "Christ loving the church and giving himself for her when he died on the cross." He, also, sanctified her. <sup>meaning</sup> Setting her apart....HOW? By having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word."

Praise God, the Lord Jesus has totally forgiven us of everything that we have ever done....Amen?.....That is exciting.

Well, husbands! if we are to love our wives, then instead of bringing up the past, and faults of the past, and sins of the past, we must love them with the compassion of Christ which means ~~total~~ <sup>total</sup> forgiveness.

Knowing that they don't do things, always, the way that we think they should be done.....

This guy gets married and goes on his honymoon. When he comes home, his buddy ask him: "JOHN, HOW WAS THE HONYMOON."

Oh, man it was great. But I want to tell you that I am on to something. I said, "What do you meant"....He said, "Boy, this woman is really something." He said, "every time I took my clothes off, she would pick <sup>them</sup> it up. I mean, every time. I would lay my coat down on the chair and she would pick it up. And every time I got out of bed ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> would make it.....In fact, I got up to go to the bath room and when I came back the bed was made.".....(HA)

She picked up everything in sight. He said, "I can believe it. I don't even think I can live with her!"

So, First test to commitment.... Hay! total forgiveness. Look, God puts people together who are very different.

*Young People* You think *They* you have it rough. Have you ever talked to someone who has been married for 30 to 40 years and then one partner dies. And then they get married to someone else who has lost their partner after being married for 30 or 40 years? Have you ever talked to those people?....You think you have it rough. Can you imagine looking at each other and realizing: "I have got to change 30 to 40 years in this kid.....(ha)

Compassion.....total forgiveness.....

By the way, the words, I believe, of this passage are coming out of a Jewish wedding. And it is interesting that what was done in a Jewish wedding. In addition to paying a price or a dowry, the woman went through a ceremonial bath before the wedding. I wonder if Paul thought of that when he said: "that Christ had sanctify her and cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word."

Another thing that I think is interesting is when the ring is exchanged in the ancient Jewish ceremony, here is what was said by the bridegroom to the bride: BEHOLD, YOU ARE SANCITIFIED TO ME." You are set apart unto me. Could it not be that Paul also thought of that as he said, "that He(christ) sanctified her(the church), having cleansed her."

Thank God for *His* forgiveness. We have been set apart from sin, *by* our loving Lord. That is exciting to me because I know as a husband I need to love my wife that way. To be totally forgiveing. For everything. No matter what it is. *So - what does the comparison of christ Teach me about loving my wife?*

Personal sacrifice.....Total forgiveness.....One more thing....

(3 ) Vs27 we see that there must, also, be total acceptance. It says "that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkly( amen, ladies) no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she (and this is beautiful) she should be holy and blemessless."

*Barbara*

You know, I would love to go into the theology and doctrine of Vs 25.. 26..and 27. But, do you know what I often find? I forget to come back to my marriage and apply it. You see, the reason why Paul used this is to deminstrate to husbands what it means to love your wife. That He might present her having cleansed, santified, loved her, gave himself for her, present to himself a church Holy and blameless. Totally accepting us for himself. Bringing delight to his heart... *We can learn, man, what it means to love our wife by looking at the* Compassion of Christ! Boy, we sure need it.

*SOFTLY*

(2) But there is a second concept taught here that is involved in a husband loving his wife. And that is <sup>To have</sup> concern for his wife as for himself. *Read V28*

4 times in this passage it says: "himself" or "his own" meaning "of himself". It is a very important point of emphases. That you are to love your wife <sup>as you</sup> as you do yourself....DO YOU? *Now man (Read V528)*

Well, let's talk for a moment at what it does not do. This concern.

The Bible says, Vs 29, that "no one ever hated his own flesh."

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT? I believe it because it is in the Bible. But I have noticed some folks who are trying to help others with their problems don't believe it. Have you ever run into someone who says, "I HATE MYSELF."

The Bible says that one one ever hated his own flesh."

You know, some folks get severe depression and defeat and they might every try to self-destruct by eating. You know..eating. I am just going to eat and blow up, or something....(ha)....They ware grummy clothes and they look bad...."I hate myself.....I don't like myself".....

*man*

Some folks physically abuse themselves and others try to take their own lives. Thus, many people conclude: "Isn't it awful how they hate themselves."

WAIT A MINUTE!!!! The Bible doesn't say that anyone hates themself. You see, folks, if that is all you see, you have never read into that person's life. Because that kind of action is an intense form of "SELF-LOVE". NO... they don't hate themselves. As a matter of fact there is an intense pride in their lives. There is such a "selfness" in their life that all of this is simply a reflection of it. NO MAN EVER HATED HIS OWN FLESH...

Also, there are some folks, on the aother side of the coin, who go to extremes. You know, they look in the mirror and they say: "MAN, YOU WONDERFUL THING, YOU. OH, I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE HOW WONDERFUL YOU LOOK"....

And then there are those who walk out of the house going (kiss arm and say) "OH, I LOVE YOU...I LOVE YOU...."

Now, we are talking about that. But be clear on one thing: NO ONE EVER HATED HIS OWN FLESH!!!

And the point of this is very powerful. The husband is to love his wife as he loves himself....DO YOU SEE THE POINT?....Never under any circumstances does a man hate his own flesh.....NEVER UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES CAN A MAN HATE HIS OWN WIFE. That is a tremendous concept....LOVE YOUR WIFE AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF...

( ) Well, what does it mean to love your wife as you love yourslef?

God uses two words to discribe it. One is the word "nourishe" and the other is the word "cherishe". WHAT DO THOSE WORDS MEAN?

To "nourish" was used in ancient times referring to the fatten of an animal. Now, that doesn't mean that a husband is to make his wife fat... But, to feed..to provide..

For example in Gensis 45 it is used of Joseph. When he was in Egypt he became the overseer of the Phorah to provide food during the famine. The word "to provide" is the same word.

It is used in Ephesians 6:4 where it says "Father, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up." "BRING THEM UP" is the same word translated "nourish" in Vs 29 of chapter 5.

It is used in many different ways in the Bible. I believe "to provide" or "nourish" is a good meaning. To nourish is to provide for all the needs of your wife, just like you do for yourself. *Physical - emotional - spiritual*

OK WHAT DOES CHERISHE MEAN? Well, the root idea is to heat something until it melts. And it means "to warm". ~~It is used of a man...~~...

And I thought a lot about that as I thought about my love. How insufficient it often is. NOURISH AND CHERISHE...The opposite of that is: Starvation and freezing....

*and*

*and*

*For example*

*for 5 times*

8. And when I see some marriages, and I hear the problems, I sometimes look at the wives and <sup>Men</sup> do you know what I see? I see starvaing, freezing wives. And God says "Husbands love your wives and hourishe them and cherishe them, warm them.

Men, do you see the truth of that passage? A lot of times we don't see our wives responding to us and we say: "BOY! IF YOU KNEW THE WAY SHE WAS..."? Hay! wait a minute!!!

Do you realize that you can change that? The word "cherish" meaning "warm" means that you can melt your wife into submiting to you. ISN'T THAT GREAT? HOW? By loving her... *Like clunt Loves The clunt*

Some men put conditions on their love. They say, "Well, if she will submit, then I will love.".....OH, NO.....YOU LOVE, <sup>her</sup> AND SHE WILL SUBMIT....

*an* If this passage is an example of Christ's love for the church, let me ask you: WHO IS SUPPOSE TO INCEIATE LOVE? Obviousely the husband.

Aren't you glad that Jesus loved you when you don't knew anything about him? I think we need to face something as husbands. To love, to nourish, to cherish our wife, ~~to get them to respond to~~ demands that the love of Jesus be controlling our lives. { They get ready for a fight and there isn't any. Ther<sup>is</sup> just love!

Now, why? Why is this concern to be present? Look, please, at Vs 30... "BECAUSE WE ARE MEMBERS OF HIS BODY."

A father and a son are two....A brother and a sister are two...But a husband and wife are what?....ANYONE.....ONE... One in the body.

Now, *the* husband and *wife* illustrate Christ and the church. And everyone of us who has come to know Jesus are a part of Christ's body. When one member suffers, all suffers. When one member rejoice, all rejoice. Isn't that tremendous?

*Illustrated* Now, that is suppose to be <sup>in</sup> marriage. Let me tell you what I believe that means in a particula sense....

I am told that most women have cold feet! Now, I don't know if that is true or not. But, I do know that my wife has cold feet. And I have experienced the touch of <sup>her</sup> cold feet when I have been quite warm....

And I want you to know that it isn't the greatest blessing in all the world. Now, think about that for a moment. You get into bed and you are all warm and comfortable, and then your wife seeks up on you. She knows you don't like those cold feet. But, she sort off inches them over until she feels those warm legs of yours. I tell you, it about sends you through the roof.

But, you know, one day it dawn on me. Those cold feet are my cold feet. Did you get that? Her sores are my sores. Her colds are my colds. Her fever is my fever. The Bible says that we are members of His body. If one member suffers, all members suffer. If one rejoices, all rejoice.

A lot of wives feel very resentful, lonely, issolated from their husbands becaause they don't believe this ~~men~~ exist in the marriage. I have heard this many times in counseling. "HE DOSEN'T CARE WHAT I DO."

What does ~~this~~ mean to love your wife as you love yourself? What does it mean to love as you love your own bodies? Obvioasely there are some physical aspects to this. In other words, nurishing and cherisheing and careing for your wife is a very serious matter.

That is not referring to someone else. The Bible says that the woman is the glory of the man(I Cor 11:7). {And do you know what I believe that means? It means if you want to see what a man is like, look at his wife. I don't like that any more than you do men, but that is the truth.

The woman is a reflection of the qualities and the attitubutes of that husband. And if they have been married over a period of time, then you can tell by the wife what the husband is like.

TRUE..WHEN you are first married, that is hard. But after a number of years, the qualities of the husband, whatever they are: positive or negative. have been so put into that woman that she reflects the husband. She is the glory of the husband.

The Bible says that the woman is not independent of the man and the man is not independent of the woman. These two are one. And when two people who say they are married, live under the same roof, but do not sense their oneness, they are going to have trouble. Lots of it. WE ARE MEMBERSS OF ONE ANOTHER. That is my flesh, my wife...And yes, those are my cold feet.



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her

(3) Love  
of marriage.

But there is another very basic things which ~~I think~~ is the bases of marriage. And it is found in Vs 31. And that is <sup>your</sup> commitment.....

Not only the compassion of Christ is needed. And a concern for your wife as for yourself. But there needs to be a commitment that is free of conditions.

Vs 31 says: "For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh."

There are three parts to that verse. There are three parts to commitment. The bases of marriage is not sex. The bases of marriage is not even love. AND THERE IS ONE GREAT WORD THAT EXPLAINS COMMITMENT The Bases of marriage is commitment. And there are three things involved.

(1) Number one, your relationship to your father and mother. The Bible has one word to describe it. IT SAYS LEAVE.....LEAVE...

Now, if you are a parent, I know that this is hard. It is not easy for a parent to hear the teaching of the Bible: LEAVE YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.. It is not easy. It is not easy to train your children for the departure time Because we like to hang on to them because we love them so much...LEAVE... LEAVE YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER.

People say, "Well, that doesn't mean to get out of town." Well, it may. (HA..Ha)..... LEAVE.....

Well, does that mean that you don't call them or pay attention to them? Of course not... Does that mean that you don't respect them? Of course not...

What does it mean? Does it mean to leave geographical?...That may be necessary. Does it mean to leave emotional?...ABSOLUTELY....ABSOLUTELY....

A new married man once shared with me. He said, "Pastor, I have a problem. I have been married for just about a year and my wife still can't cook. I pray for her...I ask God to do something....But, she can't cook. And my mom is so fantastic. I have to go over there at least once a week in order to live...."

I said, "do you tell your wife that?"...."Oh, says, he said, "I am trying to motivate her." I say to her, Honey if you could only cook like Mommy".

I said to him, "If I were you I would stop saying that."....

Must

No wonder she is not responding. Commitment is to leave Father and Mother. And that is not easy.

Let me just fopen up a box of worms....One of the issues that I have seen more serious in this generation then ever before on leaving your Father and Mother, is ~~Financal~~...Financial....

Kids start out today and they think they have to have everything... New house...new furturity...new car.....It is all on time payments...Then they go to Mom and Dad....And maybe Mom and Dad not thinking through the thing bail out their kids....And this becomes a very serious problem. It exist in a lot of marriages.

Thank God for parants who are concerned. But sometimes I believe parants ought to look at their kids and say: "Don't you know that the Bible say to leave...Goodby....God bless you....."

I believe parants ought to train their children to leave home...When your kids are growing up and you say: "Son! when are you going to leave home. After all, you are already 13....."

I have got great plans for your Momia. How come you are staying around here so long....(Ha)

Seriously....regardless of what you think about this, I know that when ever you kids want to come home, if they are single and they are on their own and they want to come home, regardless of their age, always bring them back. Always welcome them back. Say:..."Honey, we are so glad to have you home, just don't stay to long".....(Ha)

Seriously.....LEAVE YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.....A lot of <sup>guys</sup> people have not made that decision , that is why their commitment to their wife is weak. And this can go on for many years. I have seen people married for 20 years and yet, they are still tied to thier parants.

(2 ) Secondly, The Bible says you are to cleave to your wife. And notice, it is said to the man. I don't read, once, in all the Bible where that was ever said to the woman. Now, I think that a woman ought to cleave to her husband. But, men....The Bible tells us to do so.

What does the word "cleave" mean? It means to glue yourself to your wife. To glue yourself to her through sickness or health or whatever. That is commitment. No matter what circumstance might occur in that marriage you are glued to her. No matter what.

And men, I believe we ought to renew that commitment. You say, "Well, I have been married for <sup>30</sup> ~~twenty~~ years. She knows that I am there."

I am not so sure about all of that. I think there ought to be a time, when you turn to that woman and say, "Honey, I want you to know that you are <sup>glued</sup> ~~stick~~ to me. And there isn't anything that you can do <sup>to get rid of me,</sup> I am totally committed to you. And you are the number one woman in my life."

And she will say... "WHAT IS WRONG".... You say it often enough and you willn't have that problem...

<sup>Men.</sup> <sup>we</sup> We need to renew <sup>our</sup> ~~are~~ commitment to our wives. And I believe, men, are responsible.

And I want to give an opinion at this <sup>point</sup> ~~point~~. It is only my opinion. It is not Bible. It is just my opinion... If you have seen differently, then God bless you. <sup>But</sup> It is my personal opinion that every marriage problem that I have ever seen in my entire ministry, could be resolved by a husband being committed to loving his wife. That is my opinion. I have heard both sides. I have <sup>heard</sup> ~~seen~~ all the argument. I know what people say. And I know that many woman are not the easiest things in the world to love.....

But, I believe that problems in marriages, today, centers in the husband Not the wife. I believe that if husband's ~~w~~ would return to loving their wives like Jesus loves us, we would resolve most of the problems in marriage. Oh, how we need christian men who will be lovers... Men who will be committed and cleave to their wife... Men, I believe <sup>you</sup> ~~we~~ could turn your wife on if you would love her like Jesus want us to. And men, you are never going to do that until you re-establish and re-new your commitment to that woman.

(3 ) There is a <sup>second</sup> ~~third~~ thing that is involved in that statement about commitment And that is the result. The two shall become one flesh. What does that mean? It means total commitment... EMOTIONALLY... PHYSICALL... SPIRITUALLY... You are one in all that you do... want to do... and desire... ONE...

Men, I believe this is a serious problem in marriages today. And I just challenge you, as a husband, to do what God says. To totally commit yourself to your wife. Look at her as Proverbs says: "to be joyful at all times with her love." That is what the Bible say. Totally satisfaction Total commitment. And don't tear your wife down. Don't pull her down. Don't talk about "the old ~~woman~~ <sup>lady</sup>" and what she does not do.

Love covers a multitude of sins. There is a friend that loves at all times, and a brother is born of fault. The closest friend that we ought to have ought to be our marriage partner. There ought to be protection and exaltation and respect and honor and love and trust and commitment. That is the name of the game.

(4) And one final thing about ~~the~~ love. <sup>the man's love for your wife</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> communication about the love of Jesus. <sup>Did you know that?</sup> ~~That is what it is.~~ According to God marriage is communicating to the world what the love of Jesus is all about.

Look at Vs 32.. "This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church."

Do you know what is wrong with a lot of our witnessing? People don't see the love of Jesus in husband's love for their wives.

If Jesus really does forgive us and totally accepts us, should we not see that in the life of his people?....

Marriage is God's earthly symbol of that heavenly relationship with Christ. And people ought to be able to look at a christian marriage and say, "NOW, I UNDERSTAND. NOW, I KNOW WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT. NOW, I CAN SEE THAT JESUS LOVES US AND FORGIVES US NO MATTER WHAT WE HAVE DONE. NOW, I CAN SEE THE LOVING CONCERN THAT HE HAS FOR ME. NOW, I CAN SEE THAT HE WILL MEET ALL OF MY NEEDS." <sup>And I see all of that because I see a man loving his wife</sup>

MARRIAGE IS GOD'S symbol of that truth.

Paul concludes in Vs 33.. "Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband." <sup>What must a husband do? Love his wife as Christ loved the church.</sup>

Shall we close in prayer