

2/9/20

**God's Role For Men, Pt. 1**  
**Eph. 5:25-30, #6**

Having dealt with God's role for the woman, we want to continue our series on marriage and the family by now dealing with God's role for the man in marriage, which we will see is not an easy task apart from Christ. Eph. 5:25-30

1. No man is sufficient by his ability and strength.
  2. Marriage is impossible apart from the Lord, both the man and woman being sinners at best.
  3. But the Lord Who commands this high call will also enable the man to fulfill it, like the woman!
- \* Remember the husband is head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, therefore the greater responsibility falls on the man!

Take note Paul directs only three verses to the woman, vs. 22-24, but seven to the man, vs. 25-31.

\* The reason, he is the head of the wife and to those who much is given much more is required! Lk. 12:48

Yet though he is the head of the woman, his authority is never spoken of as being used for himself, but for the benefit of the wife.

\* Jesus said to His disciples, "For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves." Lk. 22:27

Again the marriage relation is put side by side with Christ's relationship to the church, thereby given the highest honor and dignity.

The basic responsibilities of a husband and wife can be reduced to one simple command for each, God knowing we couldn't handle more than one.

1. The woman is to submit to her husband and by doing so, she is loving her husband.
  2. The man is to love his wife and by doing so, he is submitting to her.
- \* Men and women are different, men insult each other and mean it, while women complement one another and don't!

Paul says that the man's role is to love his wife by describing it in a three-fold manner:

- I. The man's love is to be sacrificing. vs. 25
  - II. The man's love is to be sanctifying. vs. 26-27
  - III. The man's love is to be satisfying. vs. 28-30
- I. **The man's love is to be sacrificing. vs. 25**
    - \* The husband in his sacrificial love, does so as king and head of his home!
  - A. The husband's love is marked by divine love. vs. 25a-b
    - \* "Husband, love your wives".
    - 1. The command to the husband is to love.

- a. Not just any woman.
  - b. Not every woman.
  - c. Only his wife,
2. The word for love is “agape”, which is one of four words found in the Greek.
- a. There is the word “phileo” the mental plane and soulful love that is based on feeling, emotions and comparable love.
  - b. The word “eros”, is distinct for sexual love between a man and a woman in marriage.
  - c. There is the word “storge”, for family affectionate love for each other.
  - d. The word in our text is “agape” that is used throughout the New Testament for God’s divine love for man.
    - 1) Greek commentator says, “It is a love consequently, not merely of duty but of nature “divine. Jn. 3:16; 1Jn. 3:16”
    - 2) It is a love whose source is Christ through the believer.
    - 3) To love my wife is to be the most natural, if I walk in the Spirit.
      - \* “Walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.” Eph. 5:2
3. This sacrificial love is to be ongoing. vs. 25b
- a. This is evident from the Greek grammar, the imperative, present active.

- b. The text reads, continue to love or go on loving, driving the man to Christ!
  - c. The command is not optional, it is a command to be carried out based on the enabling of Christ.
  - d. The command is not based on feelings, or emotions, but obedience!
- B.** The husband’s sacrificial love is marked by an unbelievable potential. vs. 25c
- \* “Just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her”.
    - 1. The comparison is Christ loving the church as He gave Himself for her.
      - a. The word just “kathos”, means even as, in proportion or degree.
        - 1) It cost Him His life.
        - 2) It was the evidence of His love.
          - \* Jesus said, “I lay down My life no one takes it from Me.” Jn. 10:17
      - b. The word church “eklessia”, literally, the called out ones.
        - 1) From sin to holiness.
        - 2) From darkness to light.
      - c. The word loved “agapao” is the indicative aorist active, Jesus continues to love the church.
    - 2. Jesus Christ being king laid down his life for His bride, so the man being king and head of the home is to be laying down his life for his bride daily.

- a. I think to die for your wife in some occasion of defense would be easy.
  - b. The more difficult is to die daily!
    - \* Jesus said, “**Greater love** has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” Jn. 15:13
3. Paul the apostle speaks of this agape love and it’s incredible potential. 1Cor. 13:4-8
- \* “Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.”
  - a. The only other name you can substitute for love is Jesus! I have never failed when I have yielded to God’s agape love!
  - b. The context is the gifts of the Spirit, the Corinthians were exalting themselves by and through the gifts, being carnal.
  - c. They were pointing to their gifts as credentials of their spirituality, which is not Biblical.
  - d. The gifts are given by God’s grace and you can possess them and be carnal and if they are not exercised in and by the motive of God’s agape love, we are nothing and we will receive no reward.

4. The fruit of the Spirit is agape. Gal. 5:22
- a. The noun is in the singular “fruit”.
  - b. The fruit of the Spirit is identified as “agape love”.
  - c. The rest of the list provides the ways agape love is manifested through a person, “Joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness”.
  - d. The agape love of God is to be the mark of a believer, what he and she is to be know by. Jn. 13:35
    - \* “By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love fore one another”.

### Illustration

A man left for work one Friday afternoon. But, being payday, instead of going home, he stayed out the entire weekend partying with the boys and spent his entire paycheck. He finally appeared at home on Sunday night, he was confronted by a very angry wife and was barraged for nearly two hours with a tirade befitting his actions. Finally, his wife stopped the nagging and simply said to him, “How would you like it if you didn’t see me for two or three days?” He replied, “That would be fine with me.” Monday went by and he didn’t see his wife. Tuesday and Wednesday came and went with the same results. Come Thursday, the swelling went down just enough where he could see her a little out of the corner of his left eye.

\* This is not what you would call sacrificial love!

### Application

1. Some of you men may be saying, you don't know my wife!

- a. Listen to the type of woman Christ died for to be His bride.
  - 1) She has committed the worst of sins, moral and ethical, inward and outward and Christ has forgiven her and continues to do so.
  - 2) She may not look as she once did, but neither do you, there is to be a loving passion and longing for each other, due to our oneness in Christ giving each eyes for one another!
- b. Adam experienced a type of death to obtain his bride. Gen. 3:21
  - 1) Jesus was pierced on His side and water and blood came forth, as He died in her stead, to obtain her for Himself.
  - 2) Am I, as a man to think I am the exception, that I don't have to die daily to love my wife and enjoy her?
- c. Not only that, but when you met your wife she wasn't the person you are complaining about today or you wouldn't of married her or him, the process of time in marriage has resulted in the product of who she is at the present.
  - 1) She is what she is partly because of you.
  - 2) You are what you are partly because of her.

2. The man experiences a constant loving death for his bride, as he provides for her needs, out of agape love, not her greed.

- a. The principle was laid down after the fall, Adam was to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. Gen. 3:19
- b. The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy regarding church order and teaching, declaring that if a man does not provide for his own house he is worst than an unbeliever 1Tim. 5:8
  - 1) I know men who work two jobs, so that their wife can stay home to care for the children it is a loving sacrifice!
  - 2) Paul told the Corinthian wives and husbands not to feel guilty about caring for each other, the man works to provide the basic needs and is one of the ways he pleases his wife. 1Cor. 7:33
- c. At times a man will come to me and tell me God called them into the ministry and that they abandoned their jobs putting their families through tremendous suffering and difficulties, that God never intended!
  - 1) God is not the author of confusion, if God calls you then He will open the doors and provide for you, but it will not be through begging or writing letters of support, this is man's ways not God's!
  - 2) Paul says, "A man is to rule his house well, for if he does not know how to rule his own

house well, how will he take care of the church of God.” 1Tim. 3:4a, 5

3. The man’s sacrificial love forgives when there is genuine repentance.
  - a. The measure of forgiveness is beyond our own ability or capacity. “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor or loud quarreling, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” Eph. 4:31
    - 1) In proportion to all Christ forgave you and continues to do so.
    - 2) When we do not do that, we grieve the Holy Spirit that Paul told them not to in the previous verse!
  - b. Paul says, “Husbands love your wives and do not be bitter towards them”. Col. 3:19
    - 1) Forgiveness is a loosening and a braking off of the weight that is wearing you down and tearing you up, to be able to live abundantly, being a type of Christ.
    - 2) Having no resentments, bitterness or begrudgements by past offences of your wife or husband, lest you stand in the position of the evil servant, who refused to forgive, having been forgiven! Matt. 18:23-35
    - 3) The ideal situation is genuine godly repentance, which confesses, clarifies and answers the necessary questions to be able

to resolve the past or present and move on into the future

\* If you are not complete honesty and truthful you will undermine trust!

4. This sacrificial love required of the man keeps him close to Christ, dependent on Him to protect his bride.
  - a. Husbands, your sacrificial love for your wife is demonstrated also by protecting her from others men, who would want to disrespect her or have authority over her.
  - b. This includes your own children, I should say particularly your own children.
  - c. This is no different with step-children, obedience to the principle is the same, you are one, never allow any child to divide you.
 

\* Jesus said, “Apart from Me you can do nothing.” Jn. 15:5

***The man’s love is to be sacrificing!***

## **II. The man’s love is to be sanctifying. vs. 26-27**

- \* The reason for this quality of love is that the husband is the high priest of the home, even as Christ the High Priest of the church!
- A. The product to be sought as the goal by the husband is the sanctification and cleansing of the bride. vs. 26

\* “That He might sanctify and cleanse her”.

    1. The picture is of Christ sanctifying and cleansing His bride to Himself.

- a. The word sanctify “hagiazo” means to set apart for special purpose.
  - 1) The word has the idea and often used with the idea of reverence and set apart from the profane, as the tabernacle, it’s furnishings, etc.
  - 2) The giving of Himself sanctified the bride to Him, so the wife is set apart for the husband by the husband alone, no other.
- b. The word cleanse “katharizo”, means to purge or purify.
  - 1) The idea is the cleansing of the sins of the past, as well as those that will arise to impede and hinder the relation between Christ and His church. 1Jn. 1:9; 2:1  
 \* The word “katharsis” is used by psychologist as one of the ways they help people relieve and purge self from built up anger and resentment, as they yell or beat on an object, expressing their anger.
  - 2) The cleansing is for an ongoing loving and meaningful relation between Christ and His church, so the wife is cleansed by Christ for the marriage with her husband.
- 3. The practice of the husband is to be the same, to set his bride apart and cleanse her for himself and God.

- a. Recognizing God intended one man for one woman.
  - b. Recognizing God intended his vows to be till death.
  - c. Recognizing as he gives himself for her, he is setting her apart from all other men, who would disrespect and abuse her if they could.
- B.** The process which will accomplish the product of the bride is by the Word of God. vs. 26  
 \* “With the washing of water by the word”.
- 1. Paul says “with the washing”.
    - a. The word washing “loutron”, means a bath, to wash completely.
      - 1) There is another word in the Greek which is used for washing only a part opposed to the whole “nipto” .
      - 2) John used it when Jesus washed the disciples feet. Jn. 13:8  
 \* We have been completely cleansing of our sins, but we need our feet clean as we walk in this world, to stay in fellowship with God!
    - b. The word is found two times in this form in the New Testament.
      - 1) In our text the word is used to indicate the efficiency and sufficiency of the act of setting the church apart for Himself.

- 2) In Titus the washing also is indicative of the efficiency and sufficiency of salvation by the regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit. Tit. 3:5
2. The particular instrument to be used in the process to accomplish the product is the word of God.
    - a. “The word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Heb. 4:12
    - b. Jesus told His disciples, “You are cleansed by the words I have spoken unto you.” Jn. 15:3
    - c. The Psalmist asks, “Wherewithall will a young man cleanse his ways...in my heart have I hid Your word that I might not sin against You.” Ps. 119:7-11
- C. The purpose behind the process and the product of the bride is to present to Himself a glorious church. vs. 27
- \* “that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”
1. The word glorious describes the appearance of the bride, the church.

- a. The church of Jesus is glorious “endoxo”, means splendid and gorgeous, not after the medical model.
  - b. Due to the giving of Himself, she has come to be all she is and can be, this is what the husband is to do for his bride, being the facilitator.
  - c. The idea is one of great esteem and high value of her.
2. The church of Jesus has no spot “spilos”, meaning no moral spot that is incurred.
    - a. In other words, no sin.
    - b. The reason being is that she has been sanctified, cleansed and washed by the blood and the Word of God.  
\* So the wife to her husband!
  3. The church of Jesus has no wrinkle “rutis”, meaning no sin remains, as a result of our own sin nature.  
\* So the wife to her husband!
  4. The church of Jesus has none of this or any such thing that would deny her oneness or separation from Him.  
\* So the wife to her husband!
  5. The church of Jesus is holy and without blemish.
    - a. The word holy “hagios” separate from evil and sin.
    - b. The phrase without blemish “amomos”, means without rebuke and faultless.

Chrysostom Writes in relation to this passage in Ephesians, “Hast thou seen the measure of obedience? Hear also the measure of love. Wouldest thou that thy wife shouldest obey thee as the church doth Christ? Have care thyself for her as Christ for the Church. And if it be needful that thou shouldest give thy life for her, or be cut to pieces a thousand times, or endure anything whatsoever, refuse it not  
\* Shakespear said, “Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds. Or bends with the remover to remove. O, no! It is an ever fixed-mark, that looks on tempest, and is never shaken.”

### **Application**

1. The man’s sanctifying love for his wife is evident by his spiritual priesthood in the home towards his bride.
  - a. Do you as a husband take your wife through the Word and the family?
    - 1) Taking the children through the Scriptures according to their age, using the best Bible to teach them.
    - 2) Taking your wife through the entire Bible, learning together.
    - 3) This will change through the years!
  - b. Too many men fail drastically here?
    - 1) They are not the spiritual leaders.
    - 2) They do not apply themselves to the study of the word, nor constantly go to church.
    - 3) They open their home to destruction by their sin nature, the world and Satan.

- c. Do you use the Word to build her up or to merely rule over her?
  - 1) If we are not growing together, we will be growing apart.
  - 2) If we leave the word of God, we will ultimately leave one another.
- d. Do you pray for her and with her?
  - 1) Do you lay hands on your wife for God’s wisdom and direction?
  - 2) Do you pray for strength and patience for her to deal with the children in your absence, while at work or a business trip?
2. The man’s sanctifying love as high priest of the home presents himself a glorious bride, set apart for himself alone by and through the word.
  - a. She desires to be with no one else.
    - \* Her cry is like the Shunamite, “I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine!”
  - b. She understands God’s will for her in marriage and motherhood.
  - c. She learns to resist Satan and do good warfare with spiritual weapons.
  - d. She knows what is pleasing to her Master Jesus and grateful for all He has done in both of her and her husband.
  - e. She has forsaken all others for the one that God has given her.
3. If God’s word is not the foundation in your marriage relationship, time will make it evident.
  - a. Feelings change.
  - b. Looks fade.

- c. Bodies change shape.
- d. But the word of God will keep you pure, passionate and productive!

***The man's love is to be sanctifying!***

**III. The man's love is to be satisfying. vs. 28-30**

\* This is the fruit as the Lord satisfies the needs of His church as prophet, so the husband is to foresee and be sensitive to his wife's needs.

**A.** Foreseeing that what husbands do to their wives they actually do to themselves. vs. 28

\* "So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself."

**1.** The command is after the order of Christ's example for the church, but Paul brings it down to a personal level for the husbands, their own bodies. vs. 28a

**a.** The illustration is one of reality and direct application, not something hypothetical, men love their bodies.

**1))** It is a sinful practice of our sin nature, to be applied to the wife, being a type of Christ, enabled by the Holy Spirit!  
Eph. 5:18

**2))** Self love is transformed to love for his wives!

**b.** The husband's obedience is an obligation by the word "ought", indicative present

active, motivated by the love of Christ not duty.

**c.** The husband who loves his wife, as his own body, will bring ongoing satisfaction to his wife.

**2.** The man who loves his wife actually loves himself in an appropriate way, opposed to his sinful practice. vs. 28b

**a.** The husband is being obedient to Christ.

**b.** The husband is satisfying his wife.

**c.** The husband is benefiting himself and his household, she can and will be his help-meet to complement him.

**B.** Foreseeing the wisdom of satisfying her physical, emotional and spiritual needs. vs. 29-30

\* "For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church".

**1.** Every man has the good sense to not hate his own flesh it would not be good in the long-term. vs. 29

**a.** There is no man who hates his own body, but in fact he nourishes and cherishes it.  
vs. 29a

**1)** The word nourish "ektrepho", appears two times in the New Testament.

**a)** The other is in the next chapter by the phrase "bring them up" meaning

- to rear up and nourish to maturity.  
Eph. 6:4
- b) Men take your family to church.
- 2) The word cherishes “thalpo”, means to warm or to brood, also appearing 2 times New Testament.  
\* The other is in Thessalonians as Paul describes his gentle caring motherly love towards the Thessalonians. 1Thess. 2:7
- 3) The idea being one of gentle loving and sensitive care for his wife!
- b. The husband nourishes and cherishes, as the Lord does the church. vs. 29b
- 1) He is manifesting evidence of Christ in him, the hope of glory.
- 2) He is dying to self and living for his bride.
- 3) He is walking, being filled with the Spirit continuously, fearing God.
2. Every Christian husband and wife is the church of Christ. vs. 30  
\* “For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.”
- a. We are members of His body. vs. 30a
- 1) The term body is a metaphor used for the members of the church.
- 2) The term body expresses the idea that Christ is the One who is head and in control.

- b. We are members of His flesh and bones. vs. 30b
- 1) The imagery only continues the same line of thought as the previous one.
- 2) The fact that we are all intricately tied together to Christ in an intimate relation, such as husbands and wives.

### Illustration

A couple was having some trouble, so they went to a marriage counselor. After a few visits, and a lot of questions and listening, the counselor said that he had discovered the main problem. He stood up, went over to the woman, and gave her a long hug. He looked at the man and said, “This is what your wife needs, at least once a day!” The man frowned, thought for a moment, then said, “OK, what time do you want me to bring her back tomorrow?” Illust. file

\* Wives need the satisfying love of their husbands, without any sexual overtones!

### Application

1. The principle of sowing and reaping is regretted or enjoyed in the home more than any other place.
- a. The husband who sows to the wind will reap the whirlwind. Hos. 8:7
- b. The husband who sows to the flesh will reap of his flesh and if he sows to the Spirit he will reap of the Spirit. Gal. 6:7-8  
\* My credentials for ministry are not ability, talent, gifts nor degrees, but my home!

- c. Ladies careful you are not high maintenance, taking advantage of your husband!
- 2. The physical needs of the woman are essential.
  - a. Foreseeing her need of affection, not just sex.
  - b. Being sensitive to her sexual needs, not just your own gratification.
  - c. Being sensitive of her need for help around the house.
  - d. The natural man will give love to get sex and the woman will give sex to get love!
  - e. The product of sex is equal to the process of the day, all that precedes through the day.
  - f. Is she the one doing much of the physical work around the house, mowing the lawn, fixing the dripping faucet, etc.
- 3. The emotional needs of the woman needs to be met.
  - a. Be considerate as to who receives the most benefits in your decisions, what you buy, where you go and what you do, etc
  - b. Relieve her of the children at times.
  - c. Do something special for her even though it is not her birthday.
    - 1) I can not meet all of the needs of my wife, only Jesus can but I can't be slothful in my responsibility!
    - 2) It is not a matter of works but love being the motivation of all I do!
  - d. Let her know that you love her, tell her!
    - \* "Husbands dwell with your wives according o knowledge (understanding), giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel and

- as being heirs together of the grace of life that your prayers be not hindered." 1Pet. 3:7
- 1) She is the weaker vessel.
  - 2) I am the weak vessel.
  - 4. Many wives are the product of their husbands?
    - a. The man is the initiator and the woman is the responder.
    - b. The woman often turns into what the man has made her, though there are exceptions and certainly she is not without fault.
    - c. Time does not automatically mean you are progressing in transformation!
  - 5. Many godly men are doing exactly what we have just studied by and through their love for Jesus and I commend you.
    - a. Despite the unfairness of their wife.
    - b. Despite the rebellion of their carnal wife or being an unbeliever.
    - c. Despite they could be released from the marriage.
      - \* **"If** you know these things, blessed are you **if** you **do** them." Jn. 13:17

*The man's love is to be satisfying!*

### Conclusion

The man's role is to love his wife just as Christ loved the church in this three-fold manner.

- I.** The man's love is to be sacrificing!
- II.** The man's love is to be sanctifying!
- III.** The man's love is to be satisfying!