

**Refuge City Church**  
**Marriage & Family With Purpose — October 3, 2021**  
**Part 3: “Husbands” (Ephesians 5:25-33)**

**Introduction**

- **LAST WEEK:** the role of a biblical wife; submission.
  - Wives, you are submitting to an individual who has taken the responsibility to lead well, and is wholly accountable to the Lord his actions.
- **QUOTE:** “No husband is entitled to say that he is the head of the wife unless he loves his wife...it is a leadership of love.” [Martin Lloyd-Jones]

**Ephesians 5:25-33**

**Verse 25:** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

- This is ‘agape’ love. It goes beyond feelings or emotions.
  - If we only love based on our feelings, it would be a *very* conditional love, merely dependent on when I feel like it, or because something nice was done for me [quid pro quo love].
  - **Jeremiah 17:9**, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”
- **The kind of love we are to express is the same love God shows towards us.**
  - **John 3:16**, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”
  - **Romans 5:8**, “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
  - Jesus showed us that love by serving and sacrificing His life.
  - Husbands, if Christ is our example, how are you showing love to your wife?
    - Agape = love for the world [1 John 2:15, “Do not love the world or the things in the world] vs. love for our wives
  - You have to set it in your mind that this is how you are to live and serve your wife and family... It is decisive action.
- **THINK ABOUT IT:** How did Jesus love the Church?
  - **QUOTE:** “The world continually tells the man to be macho, to defend himself, assert himself, bring attention to himself, and live for himself. But God tells the Christian man to give himself up for others, especially for his wife, just as Christ gave Himself up for the church.” [John MacArthur]

**Verses 26-27:** that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 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.

- He did it all to **sanctify** the church. To cleanse it. To purify it.

- **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,”
- If you proclaim, “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” [Joshua 24:15], then it is your duty to maintain a house dedicated to God and His Word.
- This is all about the pursuit of holiness, as we follow Jesus.
  - Husbands, do care about your own pursuit of Jesus?
  - Do you care about your wife’s pursuit of Jesus? Do you encourage her in her devotion?
  - Do you promote God’s Word in your house?
  - Do you let you kids ‘fend for themselves’ when it comes to faith in Jesus? [more on this next week]
- You are the catalyst [driving force] to your family’s faith in the Lord. It is your responsibility. You are the ‘under-shepherd’ of your home.
  - You can’t force them to believe, but you are the example of faith for them.
  - Be a good mirror for them to see Jesus.
- You are a **servant-leader**.
  - Leadership involves recognition that God has placed the husband in a position of responsibility. Not to do as he pleases, but solely to be obedient and please the Lord in all he does. He is accountable to God for his wife and children.
    - Men! The relationship you have with your wife will be a direct reflection of your relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **The Leadership Cycle** [paraphrased from the book, *Lead like Jesus*]
  1. **Personal Leadership [Follow & Learn]**
    - Are you good enough to lead? Who am I?
      - The better question: “Whose are you?”
    - **Matthew 4:19-20**, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
    - Jesus has called you. Therefore He can make you into the leader you need to be for your wife and family.
    - Commit yourself to follow & learn from your prime example of servant-leadership.
  2. **One-on-One Leadership [Practicum]**
    - Jesus will give you the lesson and opportunities to lead... Keep your eyes on Him.
    - **Matthew 14:28-31**, “And Peter answered him, ‘Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.’ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, ‘Lord, save me.’ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, ‘O you of little faith, why did you doubt?’”
    - There will be times of failure. Where are you going to go/who are you going to look to for correction and salvation?

3. **Team/Family Leadership [Lead like Jesus]**
  - **John 13:13-17**, “You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”
  - As Jesus sent His disciples out to establish the church and present the gospel to the rest of the world, so are we to go, love, serve, and sacrifice for our family and those around us.
    - Jesus has given us all the tools we need to be successful. Use them!
4. **Community Leadership [Discipleship]**
  - As Paul said to the church, “Imitate me as I imitate Christ”, we are to be the example of Jesus for those God gives to us [wife, children, community, etc.]
  - **John 17:20-23**, “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”
  - The result is that others would discover their call by Jesus to follow Him, and the cycle starts fresh.
  - As a Christian’s primary responsibility is doing God’s will, a husband’s primary responsibility is effective leadership in the home.
    - **QUOTE:** “If a man doesn’t treat his wife right, I don’t want to hear him talk about Christianity. If I wanted to find out whether a man was a Christian, I wouldn’t go to his minister. I would go and ask his wife.” [D.L. Moody]
  - Husbands are to lead their wives, in mutual submission to Christ’s authority, towards a continual process of mutual sanctification.
    - The continual process of sanctification for the ultimate purpose of appearing before Christ at our resurrection into eternal glory.
      - **Ephesians 1:7-10**, “In **him** we have redemption through **his** blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of **his** grace, which **he** lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of **his** will, according to **his** purpose, which **he** set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in **him**, things in heaven and things on earth.”
      - The purpose: Your leadership in the home, for your wife and children, is not for you. It’s for God’s glory!

**Verses 28-30:** In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.

- We have a natural inclination to take care of ourselves.

- We protect ourselves from danger, distress, pain, etc... So we should love our wives in the same manner.
  - As God formed woman out of man, so He brought them together in marriage unity, as one **[ref. Chapter 4...Walk in Unity]**.
  - We are to think of our wives as members of our own body.
  - That's how Jesus thinks of His church.
    - Earlier, I asked you to think about how Jesus loved the church. What did He do for it?
      - Nourished, protected, cherished, served, and sacrificed Himself for it.

## Conclusion

**Verses 31-33:** “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- **QUOTE:** “This statement from the creation story is the most profound and fundamental statement in the whole of Scripture concerning God's plan for marriage.” [Francis Foulkes]
  - **Genesis 2:23**, “...This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.”
  - **Genesis 2:24**, “...and the two shall become one flesh.”
- For both the husband and the wife, we declared that Jesus is our example. So if the ‘wind & waves’ of uncertainty, fear, doubt, anger, pride, and division enter the picture within your marriage and family, adhere the practices of Jesus.
  1. Practice solitude [**Mark 1:35**, “...{Jesus} went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”]
  2. Experience prayer [**Luke 11:1**, “...Lord, teach us to pray.”]
  3. Apply scripture [**2 Timothy 3:16-17**, “All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.”]
  4. Abide in God’s unconditional love [**John 13:34-35**, “...Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”]
- “The mystery”: Biblical marriage is one that points others to Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for the church to bring us unity, sanctification, and ultimate glory.