

Series: Ephesians: Christ's Life In Us

Sermon: A Worthy Home (Husbands)

Passage: Ephesians 5:25-33

Illustration:

Need: Because of who we are in Christ, we can live out God's purpose for the home as husbands & fathers.

I. Love her like Jesus

- **(5:25)** Sacrificial Love = Seeking her greatest good, without consideration of merit, no matter what it takes.
- Sacrificial love is the commitment of the will and not at all based or dependent on feeling.
 - Dying to self. Saying "NO" to anything that would ever be more important to me than my wife. Job/Career; Hobbies; Sports; Children; Toys; Dreams/Pursuits; Ministry;
 - Being attentive to her needs. Compassionately putting her needs above my own and meeting them. Physical; Intellectual; Emotional; Spiritual.
 - Being faithful to her. Giving no room to anything that would create any disconnection. Affairs; Pornography; Flirting; Absenteeism; Dishonesty; Jokes at her expense; Degrading or discouraging words (shame).
 - Being vulnerable with her. Opening up to her and revealing your thoughts, fears, and hopes.
 - Forgiving her. Nothing she can do is unforgivable if Christ is willing to forgive her.
 - Being unwilling to quit.
- **(5:26-27)** Sacrificial love keeps an end-result motivation in focus - Her Perfection!
 - Sanctify - to bring a person into an inner circle of that which is holy.
 - Cleanse - moral cleansing.
 - Wash - washing away what is not pure by that which brings cleansing (the Word of God).
 - Present - the desire to put another forward to be seen and celebrated.
- You cannot influence your wife's discipleship if you are not walking with God first.
- Question: "Does my wife look more like Jesus because of my influence or in spite of it?" B Holloway

II. Love her like your own body (5:28-33)

- Every sane person cares for his or her own physical body. If it's hurt or sick we seek to address the need.
- In the same way, husbands are to be as attentive to their wives as they are their own bodies.
- We are one flesh with Jesus (**1 Cor. 12:27**). He cares for Himself as He cares for us!
- In the same way we are one flesh with our wives. Our attention to loving her should be as evident as our awareness of our own aches and pains, hunger and thirst, sickness and fatigue.
- Christian couples have the opportunity to model both Jesus' relationship to the church as well as Jesus' relationship to the father - submission, respect, and sacrificial love.

III. Application for Husbands:

- Ask your wife these questions and give her the freedom to answer you honestly:
 - Is there anything in my life that I allow to steal from you?
 - What needs do you have that I can seek to fulfill?
 - Are there any areas or relationships in my life that make you uncomfortable?
 - What can I do to be more vulnerable and open to you?
 - Is there anything that I do that consistently causes you pain or sadness?
 - What are some ways that I could demonstrate my love to you practically?
- Love your wife by reading "The Meaning of Marriage" by Keller & "The Five Love Languages" by Chapman with her.