

SERMON:

**Walking in Love:
How Husbands Teach the Church**

Ephesians 5:25-33

EPHESIANS: SUMMARY STATEMENT

The reconciling wisdom of God has been gloriously displayed in Christ, calling us to walk by grace in the peace He has given us.

OUTLINE – FIRST HALF

1. **To the Praise of His Glory (Ephesians 1)** *The Wonder of Salvation*
 - Praising His Glory: The Wonder of Sovereign Redemption
 - Praising His Glory: The Wonder of Unmerited Riches
 - Let Us See Glory! A Prayer of Wonder

2. **You Were... But Now ... (Ephesians 2)** *The Unity of Salvation*
 - Dead Men Walking: Who You Were
 - Dead Men Walking: Who God Is
 - The Outcast Comes Home: Peace by the Blood
 - The Outcast Comes Home: A New Family and Temple

3. **The Manifold Wisdom of God (Ephesians 3)** *The Wisdom of Salvation*
 - A Wondrous Mystery: The Unity of the Gospel
 - A Wondrous Wisdom: The Gospel and the Church
 - Wondering at Wisdom: A Prayer of Wonder

OUTLINE – SECOND HALF

4. Walking with God According to Our Calling (*Ephesians 4:1-5:21*)

- Walking in Wonder: Living in Light of Our Calling
- Walking in Unison: Living Our Calling in Community
- Walking in Distinction: Living in Contradiction to the World
- Walking in Love: Imitators of God
- Walking in Light: Hating Deeds of Darkness
- Walking in Wisdom: Rejoicing in Christ

5. Submitting to Each Other in Honor of Christ (*Ephesians 5:22-6:9*)

- Walking in Submission: Testifying to the Worth of Christ
- Walking in Love: Displaying the Glory of Christ
- Walking in Obedience: Being a Child of God

6. Resisting the Devil by the Power of God (*Ephesians 6:10-20*)

- Walking in Strength: Taking Battle to the Enemy
- Walking in Armor: Using What God has Provided
- Walking in Prayer: Calling on God to Provide

EPHESIANS 5:25-33

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷in order to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

EPHESIANS 5:25-33

²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³²This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Proposition: Husbands are called to love their wives as an example, a picture, and a testimony and the church is called to learn from and imitate husbands.

- A. A Picture
- B. A Command
- C. An Example
- D. A Treasure
- E. A Complement

A PICTURE

EPHESIANS 5:23-24 (REVIEW)

For the husband is head of the wife as Christ is head of the church, Him being the Savior of the body. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives to their own husbands in everything.

Diagram illustrating the relationship between the text and its theological context:

- rooted in** (green arrow): Points from the phrase "as Christ is head of the church" to the phrase "For the husband is head of the wife".
- picture** (red arrow): Points from the phrase "as Christ is head of the church" to the phrase "For the husband is head of the wife".
- rooted in** (purple arrow): Points from the phrase "as Christ is head of the church" to the phrase "Him being the Savior of the body".
- example** (orange arrow): Points from the phrase "so also wives to their own husbands in everything" to the phrase "as Christ is head of the church".

Marriage is a profound picture of the gospel and a wife is integral to that picture

EPHESIANS 1:3-10 (REVIEW)

*... even as **he chose us** in him ...*

*... **In love** he predestined us for adoption ...*

*... **In him we have redemption** through his blood ...*

*... the riches of **his grace, which he lavished upon us,** ...*

*... **to unite** all things in him ...*

Chosen, loved, won, lavished, united

A PICTURE (REVIEW)

- **The Gospel is:**
 - The story of Jesus choosing a bride
 - The story of Jesus setting His love on His choice
 - The story of Jesus winning His bride
 - The story of Jesus lavishing gifts on His bride
 - The story of Jesus and His bride made one
- **The Ideal of Marriage is:**
 - A story of a husband choosing a bride
 - A story of a husband setting his love on his choice
 - A story of a husband winning his bride
 - A story of a husband lavishing gifts on his bride
 - A story of a husband and his bride made one

EPHESIANS 5:31-32 (REVIEW)

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” *This is a profound mystery—but*
I am talking about Christ and the church.

something revealed in the Old Testament but not understood until the New
something that causes us to wonder at the wisdom of God

The purpose of marriage from the very first week of creation was to be a pattern and picture that revealed Christ’s relationship with the church to us

A PICTURE (REVIEW)

1. Marriage isn't about us – the purpose of marriage isn't to fulfill us or make us happy or serve our needs – marriage is about Jesus
2. Men and women are given certain roles in marriage, not because of differing value or even (specifically) because of innate gifting, but to play a part in revealing a glorious picture of the gospel
3. Therefore, both roles in marriage are infinitely valuable and infinitely necessary because both parts need to be played

EPHESIANS 5:25-27

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, in order to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

A PICTURE

- Jesus loves the church: husbands are a picture of how Jesus loves the church

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A PICTURE

- **Jesus loves the church: husbands are a picture of how Jesus loves the church**
 - **Jesus loves the church through sacrifice**

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- **Jesus loves the church: husbands are a picture of how Jesus loves the church**
 - **Jesus loves the church through sacrifice**
 - **Jesus loves the church for sanctification**

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The diagram consists of several colored boxes highlighting key phrases in the text, with arrows indicating relationships between them. A green box highlights 'just as Christ loved the church'. A purple box highlights 'and gave himself up for her'. A red box highlights 'to make her holy'. A pink box highlights 'cleansing her by the washing with water'. A blue box highlights 'in order to present her to himself as a radiant church'. A blue box highlights 'but holy and blameless'. A red arrow points from the purple box to the red box. A blue arrow points from the pink box to the blue box.

A PICTURE

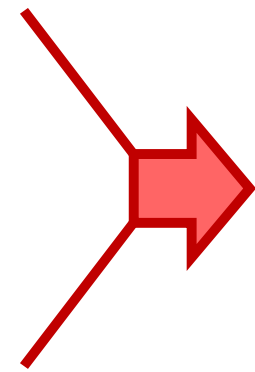
- **Jesus loves the church: husbands are a picture of how Jesus loves the church**
 - **Jesus loves the church through sacrifice**
 - **Jesus loves the church for sanctification**
 - **Jesus loves the church to splendor**

EPHESIANS 5:28-30

In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church – for we are members of his body.

A PICTURE

- Jesus loves the church: husbands are a picture of how Jesus loves the church
 - Jesus loves the church through sacrifice
 - Jesus loves the church for sanctification
 - Jesus loves the church to splendor
 - Jesus loves the church as His own self



**The
Gospel**

The purpose of marriage from the very first week of creation was to be a pattern and picture that revealed Christ's relationship with the church to us

KIDS' QUESTION:

**WHAT IS A HUSBAND
CALLED TO BE?**

A picture of Christ's
relationship with the Church.

A COMMAND: LOVE

EPHESIANS 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

EPHESIANS 5:28

In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies.

If marriage is a picture of the Gospel, and wives are called to display the church, then husbands must stand and represent Christ, which means husbands must love their wives

A COMMAND

- **A husband's love is sacrificial: he serves His wife**
 - Because Jesus loves the church through sacrifice
- **A husband's love is sanctifying: he works for her holiness**
 - Because Jesus loves the church for sanctification
- **A husband's love produces splendor: he delights in her**
 - Because Jesus loves the church to splendor
- **A husband's love is selfless (i.e. not selfish)**
 - Because Jesus loves the church as His own self

AN EXAMPLE: LOVE

EPHESIANS 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

EPHESIANS 5:2

and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us

Husbands are called to show the church what love means – the church learns how to love each other just as Christ loved us by looking at how husbands love their wives

AN EXAMPLE: LOVE

- Husbands are the proximal recipients of this command
- But the church is the ultimate recipient of this command
 - Husbands are called to love because the church is called to love, they love as an example to the church
- So:
 1. This passage isn't just for men and husbands – this passage is for the whole church
 2. Men, your role is honorable and important – it's not just about you and your wife, it affects the whole church

AN EXAMPLE: LOVE

- **A husband's love is:**
 - **Sacrificial**: husbands serve wives at their own expense
 - **Sanctifying**: husbands work for their wives' holiness
 - **Splendor seeking**: a husband delights in His wife
 - **Selfless**: a husband cares for his wife as he cares for himself
- **The church's love is:**
 - **Sacrificial**: we serve each other at our own expense
 - **Sanctifying**: we work for each others' holiness
 - **Splendor seeking**: we seek to delight in each other
 - **Selfless**: we care for each other like we care for ourselves

KIDS' QUESTION:

**WHAT IS A HUSBAND
CALLED TO DO?**

To show the church
what love means.

A TREASURE: JESUS

EPHESIANS 5:25-33

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ... In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself...

However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself

In Paul's command to husbands, nowhere does he reference the character of the wife (*husbands, love your wives if...*)

EPHESIANS 5:25-33

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However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself

Paul can command husbands to love wives in the absence of any qualifications because a husband's treasure is Christ

A PICTURE (A *PURPOSEFUL* COMMAND): SUBMISSION

1. Marriage is a picture of the gospel
 - A wife's role and a husband's role are meant to display the glories of the gospel here on earth
2. And the gospel is what fuels the picture of marriage
 - Neither husbands nor wives are perfect
 - So our passion for living out our role in marriage cannot come from our spouse, but must come from the gospel
 - Jesus must be our treasure if we are to live in marriage well
 - Jesus must be a husband's treasure if he is to love well

KIDS' QUESTION:

**WHAT IS A HUSBAND
CALLED TO VALUE?**

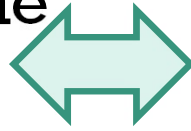
A husband can only be a picture of
Christ's relationship to the church if his
treasure is Christ.

A COMPLEMENT: MALE AND FEMALE

A COMPLEMENT: MALE AND FEMALE

A HUSBAND:

- Loves his wife
- Cares for his wife before he cares for himself



A WIFE:

- Submits to her husband
- Follows and respects her husbands lead

When both husband and wife live in their roles, there is great beauty, and harmony, and complementarity!

- A husband leads his house after Christ
- A wife's needs are met sacrificially by her husband

EPHESIANS 5:31

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

GENESIS 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

The temporal beauty of marriage is creation's design

EPHESIANS 5:31-32

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” *This is a profound mystery—but*
I am talking about Christ and the church.

The eternal beauty of marriage is creation's goal

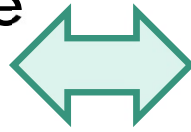
REVELATION 19:6-8

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"--- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

A COMPLEMENT: CHRIST

CHRIST:

- Loves the Church
- Cares for His Church as He cares for Himself



THE CHURCH:

- Submits to Christ
- Follows the way that Christ leads in obedience

When Christ and the Church live in their roles, there is great beauty, and harmony, and complementarity!

- Christ leads His house to God
- The church's needs are met perfectly by Christ

This is the purpose of marriage!

Proposition: Husbands are called to love their wives as an example, a picture, and a testimony and the church is called to learn from and imitate husbands.

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