

Dear Church (Part 15)

"Husbands and Wives and Kids, Oh My!" [Eph. 5:21-33]

Pastor Bill Bowers

August 8th, 2017

Scripture Ephesians 5:21-33

Analogy #1 "...love your wife AS Christ loved the church" v25

"Whenever the husbands headship mirrors the headship of Christ then the wife's submission to the protection and provision of his love, far from detracting her womanhood, will positively enrich it."

John RW Stott

FOUR KEY WORDS

1. SACRIFICE v25
2. SANCTIFY v26
3. FORGIVE v 26
4. HONOR v.27

Analogy #2 "...love your wife AS your love your own body." V28

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HomeGroup and Personal Study Questions

- This week we revisit the strong command, "husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the Church" (5:25). After giving it some thought from last week's teaching, how would you describe a daily example of husbands loving their wives as Christ loved the Church. Can you be specific with your examples?
- Consider the following passages:
 - Philippians 2:5-7
 - 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
 - Galatians 5:22-24

Do you think these passages represent how "Christ loves the Church?" Please explain your answers. In what ways might these Scripture examples be modeled in your daily living?

- Pastor Bill provided four words to consider when "loving wives as Christ loves the Church." Consider each word and provide at least one strong example of how these words might be modeled and "lived out."
 - Sacrifice (Eph. 5:25)
 - Sanctify (Eph. 5:26)
 - Forgive (Eph. 5:26)
 - Honor (Eph. 5:27)
- Our teaching begins with (Eph. 5:21), "submit to one another" and we have referred to this as "mutual submission." Do you think there is an expectation of reciprocity for the wives when considering Paul's instruction to the husbands (Eph. 5:25-27)? Why or why not?
- Paul explains his teaching from Ephesians 5:21-30 as "a profound mystery" (Eph. 5:32). What do you think the apostle means by profound mystery and what do you think the mystery is?
- Can you explain what it means for us to "love ourselves" (...must love his wife as he loves himself. Eph. 5:33)? Does this instruction have any connection to Jesus' commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself"? What does love for ourselves look like in practical terms? Do you love yourself rightly? Please explain with examples.