

Text: Ephesians 5:25-33

Title: Husbands and Wives

ETS: Paul called on Ephesian husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the church.

ESS: Husbands, love your wives like Christ loves the church.

OSS: I want husbands to love their wives like Christ loves the church.

Question: How does a husband love his wife like Christ loves us?

Unifying Word: Truths

INTRODUCTION

OUTLINE

- I. Love sacrificially.
 - A. Not surprisingly, Paul's description to Ephesian husbands of how to love like Christ begins with sacrifice.
 - B. For a husband to love his wife the way the Lord intends us to, we have to give ourselves up for her.
 - C. It is impossible to truly love someone as Christ loves us and not be willing to sacrifice for the sake of the relationship.
- II. Love purposefully.
 - A. Paul points out that Christ's love for the church is not only sacrificial but strategic in nature.
 - 1. Christ's goal in dying for the church was so that He could sanctify us and make us acceptable to the Father.
 - 2. When Christ died for our sins, there were two things that drove Him to the cross.
 - a) Satisfying the Father's will.
 - b) His love for the church.
 - B. Purpose may be one of the most overlooked aspects of Christ-like love in a marriage.
 - 1. Husbands, this is not a question of what you want to get out of the marriage, but how you want your wife to benefit from the marriage.
 - 2. This means as husbands, we have to ask, "What do I want to accomplish through my love for my wife so that she grows in character and Christlikeness?"
 - C. Have you stopped to consider that the reason your marriage may feel somewhat chaotic is that you do not have a goal for it that benefits your wife?
- III. Love jealously.
 - A. Paul goes on to argue that the level of love that husbands have for their wives should be no less than the love that they have for themselves.
 - B. Husbands have to care for their wives like they care for themselves.
 - C. Love your wife so that she has no doubt that you only want the best for her.
- IV. Love devotedly.
 - A. Paul's final reminder to the Ephesian husbands was that they were now one with their wives.

- B. To truly love his wife, a husband has to think of himself and his wife as one person.
- C. Good or bad, what we do as husbands affects our wives because we are one person.

CONCLUSION