

Love First

July 9, 2017
Colossians 3:19

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)
Pastor Mark W. Turner

I. Husbands must love their wives

- the standard: as Christ loved the church Eph 5:25
- command is not to rule, but to love and not be harsh
- Agape love - not a feeling, but an action of wanting the absolute best for the object of your love regardless of the cost to you 1 Jn 3:16

A. Agape love requires a committed choice

- agape love is a command of action, not a feeling
- agape love is primarily a matter of obedience to God Eph 5:25

B. Agape love may require a great sacrifice

- Our example of agape love is Christ Eph 5:25
- Love is about God's agenda, not our own selfish one Jn 8:28-29; 1 Cor 10:31

C. Goal of Agape love is godliness in the one loved

- Love seeks highest good of the one loved – to become like Christ Rm 8:29
- Not by telling, but by modeling Christlikeness biblically Gal 5:22-23

II. Husbands must not be harsh with their wives

- do not be harsh; be not bitter - word picture=to make bitter or sharp

A. Don't be harsh implies leading by love

- beware of bitterness (Heb 12:15) when challenged
- Christ is our leadership model
- Does Fruit define your love & leadership? Gal 5:22-23

B. Not being harsh means controlling anger & disappointment

- bitterness - response comes from sinfully dealing with unmet expectations
- Anger can be properly dealt with – be angry & do not sin Eph 4:26; 1 Pt 2:23
- Marriage is made of 2 sinners – live in that reality at foot of cross!

C. Not being harsh means creating & maintaining a loving Gospel environment in your home

- Your job as 'leader' is to love by creating Gospel environment
- Go all out in love for your wives – seek God's best in everything!
- Keep your focus on being faithful servant of Christ to love your wife

To win the battle against sin and live victoriously, You must live in light of your identity in the risen Christ.

Husband Study Verses:

Col 3:18-25; Eph 5:25-33; Gal 5:22-23; 1 Jn 3:16; 1 Pet 2:23-25

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