

SS, Marriage, M&F, Husbands' Responsibilities 4/9/23

IT IS THE HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITY TO LOVE HIS WIFE AS CHRIST HAS LOVED HIS BRIDE, THE CHURCH

Eph. 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her....*²⁸ *In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*²⁹ ...³³ *However, let each one of you love his wife as himself...*

Col. 3:19 *Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.*

[**Acknowledge Stuart Scott's book, The Exemplary Husband: A Biblical Perspective**. It's over 300 pages long, with 21 chapters. One section, "A Husband's Responsibilities" takes up six chapters, one of which is, "LOVE".]

I. WHAT BIBLICAL LOVE IS NOT

1. Biblical Love is not to be equated with Romantic Feelings and/or Sexual Desire

- 1) Marital love involves such feelings at times (Song of Solomon).
- 2) But romantic feelings and sexual desire are notoriously unreliable. Living a godly life often involves *resisting our feelings* rather than giving in to them.
- 3) Biblical love is a continuous commitment. We persist in CHOOSING to love.

1Co 13:7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, **endures all things**. (Cf. Ps 117:2).

John 13:1 ...Jesus... having loved his own who were in the world, **he loved them to the end**.

2. Biblical Love is not to be Equated with a Large Sense of Needing Someone or Benefitting from Someone

- 1) We need one another; feelings of longing and need are not to be ignored.
- 2) But love focuses on what another needs, not on what SELF needs.
- 3) A husband may have a large sense of, "I LIKE WHAT YOU DO FOR ME". Love, however, is concerned with what it can do for others.

1Co 13:4-5b Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant⁵ or rude. **It does not insist on its own way**; NIV ...it is not self-seeking; NKJV ...does not seek its own

II. WHAT BIBLICAL LOVE IS (AS SEEN IN CHRIST)

1. Above all, a husband's love is to be self-sacrificing.

Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church **and gave himself up for her**.

Cf. Eph. 5:2; John 10:11; Gal. 2:20b; 1John 3:16

PRACTICAL APPLICATION: What are some practical ways in which a husband can "give himself up for" or sacrifice himself on behalf of his wife?

2. A Husband's Love is to be Unconditional- Ps. 103:10; Rom. 5:6-8

PRACTICAL APPLICATION: What are some practical ways in which a husband should strive to love his wife well, even if she is acting like his enemy? Luke 6:27-38; Rom. 12:21

- He can do good to her, bless her, and pray for her, even if she acts unkindly towards him
- Rather than retaliate when injured, he can willingly bear more injury and give even more than expected; he can treat her as he wishes she would treat him
- He can draw motivation and joy from the reality that God gives greater rewards to those who love people in situations where loving is very difficult

3. A Husband's Love, Like Christ's for Us, Should Express an Unconditional Treasuring of Her- Luke 15:11-32

APPLICATION QUESTION: What are some practical ways in which a husband can demonstrate to his wife that he TREASURES her (even amidst her blemishes and spots)?

IT IS THE HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITY TO UNDERSTAND HIS WIFE AND SHOW HER HONOR

1Pe 3:7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

APPLICATION QUESTION: Wives, what are some of the ways that you most want to be understood and honored?

IT IS THE HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITY TO BE PREPARED TO INSTRUCT HIS WIFE IN THE SCRIPTURES- 1Co 14:34-35

APPLICATION QUESTION: What is the most basic way that a husband should seek to be prepared to instruct his wife in the Scriptures? Ps. 1:1-3

IT IS THE HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP TO HIS WIFE AND HOME-1Ti 3:4, 12; NT texts calling for wives to submit

- Husbands should lead by example
- Husbands should embrace the overall responsibility for making assessments about what is needed and making decisions about how best to address what is needed
- Husbands should seek, consider, and value input from their wives. In many things, they can defer to their wives.
- While a husband should be a Servant-Leader, he is still responsible to the leader, not essentially the follower in the home.

CONCLUSION: Jesus Christ is the Perfect Husband. He is the perfect Leader. He has taken full responsibility for his bride. And he really does love his bride immensely, always having in view her best interests.

