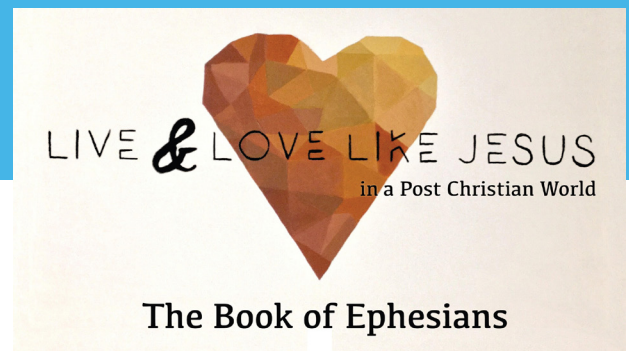


Discussion Questions

April 23, 2023

Ephesians 5:25-33

Husbands Sacrificially Love your Wives



1. Read Ephesians 5:23-33
Summarize what Paul commands of Husbands.

2. How is Jesus' love for the church described?

How does the Roman understanding of headship differ from Jesus' example of headship shown in this passage?

3. Discuss the following quote by the scholar Dr. Klyne Snodgrass in relation to headship in Ephesians. Do you agree with his statements?

The point of the headship analogy is the responsibility husbands have to give themselves to their wives as Christ gave himself for the church. They must be givers, not takers. Husbands are to give up self-centeredness and any privilege of being head in order to promote the well-being of their wives. They are to love their wives as themselves, recognizing that the unity of marriage makes their wives like their own bodies. Husbands should nurture and care for their wives so that they are established and enhanced. When wives are enhanced, so are husbands. The two partners are assumed to be one, mutually enabling each other.

4. Discuss how this passage on marriage should impact the way husbands and wives are to love one another today.

5. Discuss what ways, if any, your understanding of the roles of husbands and wives have been impacted in light of this passage.

6. Married couples - discuss in what ways you have wrestled with "leaving & cleaving", leaving parents and being united to our spouse.

7. Take time to pray for our marriages. If not married, pray for greater capacity to love others like Christ has loved us.

Ephesians 5:25-33 NLT

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. And we are members of his body. As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:21-24 (NIV)

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Ephesians 5:25 (NASB2020)

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

Book of Sirach 25:16-19

I would rather live in the same house with a lion or a dragon than with a bad wife. When a wife is in a bad mood, her expression changes until she looks like an angry bear. Her husband has to go and eat with the neighbors, where he can't hold back his bitter sighs. Compared with the troubles caused by a woman, any other trouble looks small. May such women suffer the fate of sinners!

Book of Sirach 25:24-26

Sin began with a woman, and we must all die because of her. Don't let a bad wife have her way, any more than you would allow water to leak from your cistern. If she won't do as you tell her, divorce her.

Book of Sirach 9:1, 4

Don't be jealous of the wife you love. You will only be teaching her how to do you harm... Don't keep company with female musicians

Dr Clinton Arnold - Zondervan Exegetical Commentary

We can fall into grave error by not seeing certain words, exhortations, or ideas in light of the passage as a whole. One important illustration of this is the statement that "the husband is the head of the wife" (5:23a). Some have unconsciously put a period at the end of this statement rather than reading it in light of the next clause, "as Christ is the head of the church." This means that "headship" is defined not in terms of the Roman view of headship in marriage, but rather in terms of Christ's relationship to the church. There are enormous implications to this that render the passage counter cultural and not defined by the Roman notion of in manu ("in marital submission")...

The pattern Paul provides completely redefines what every first-century man in the churches would have assumed as important in their role as husbands. They are no longer to look at the heavy-handed, oppressive ways that their fathers and grandfathers ruled in their homes. Rather, they must now look to Christ to see what it truly means to be a leader.

Ephesians 5:26 (NASB2020)

..so that He [Christ] might sanctify her [the Church], having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

Ezekiel 36:25–27

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Ephesians 5:27 (NASB2020)

..that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless

Ephesians 1:4 (CSB)

For he [God] chose us in him [Christ], before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him

Dr Kent Hughes - Preaching the Word Commentary

Is our wife more like Christ because she is married to us? Or is she like Christ in spite of us? Our calling is clear, sanctifying love.

Dr Clinton Arnold - Zondervan Exegetical Commentary

The point of the headship analogy is the responsibility husbands have to give themselves to their wives as Christ gave himself for the church. They must be givers, not takers. Husbands are to give up self-centeredness and any privilege of being head in order to promote the well-being of their wives. They are to love their wives as themselves, recognizing that the unity of marriage makes their wives like their own bodies. Husbands should nurture and care for their wives so that they are established and enhanced. When wives are enhanced, so are husbands. The two partners are assumed to be one, mutually enabling each other.

John 13:34 (NLT)

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.