

**I. Introduction and review: The buck stops here.**

**II. Husbands love your wives as Christ loves the church. Eph. 5:25-27**

**A. Love her unconditionally. v. 25a I Co. 13:4-7**

1. The world has cheapened the meaning of love.
2. Your love is not dependent upon the worthiness of the beloved.
3. Christ loved you when you were not worthy to be loved. Eph. 2:1-3 Ro. 5:8,10  
I John 4:10
4. Seek the good of your wife, whether she deserves it or not.
5. Christlike love (agape) is not merely a feeling or a passion. It is a commitment.
6. You are to be the initiator in love. I John 4:19
7. Christlike love comes from the heart.

**B. Love her sacrificially. Eph. 5:25b**

1. Christ's love is demonstrated on the Cross. Eph. 5:2 Ga. 2:20
2. Christ's love for the church is particular. John 10:11
3. Give up your life for your bride.
  - a. Paul is not merely saying you must be *willing* to give up your life.
  - b. Sacrifice your rights and interests for her good. Phil. 2:3f I Co. 7:33
4. Authority has been given to serve. John 13:3f Mark 10:45 Mt. 20:20-28

**C. Love her with a purifying love. v. 26-27**

1. Christ our Bridegroom is committed to making you holy. Eph. 1:4 Titus 2:14  
John 17:19 Phil. 1:6 Col. 1:22 Rev. 19:7
2. Your love for your wife should make her more beautiful spiritually. II Co. 11:2
3. Do you have the courage to make biblical decisions which go against her preferences? Gen. 3:6 16:2

**III. Husbands, love your wives as your own bodies. v. 28-30**

**A. Love your wife as you love yourself. v. 28**

1. You love her because you are united.
2. She is not just *like* a part of yourself. She *is* part of you. Gen. 2:23 .
  - a. Paul assumes every man loves himself unconditionally.
  - b. It is unnatural to abuse your own body. v. 29

**B. Nourish your wife. v. 29b**

1. Christ has provided richly for you! II Pe. 2:3-4 Eph. 1:7,9 2:5-6 3:6,12 4:11
2. Provide for her materially. Gen. 3:17ff I Tim. 5:8 Titus 2:3f
3. Meet her emotional needs. I Pet. 3:7 Js. 1:19a
4. Meet her spiritual needs.
5. Meet her sexual needs. I Co. 7:3-5 I Tim. 2:15 5:14 Ex. 21:10 Pr. 5:15-19

**C. Cherish your wife. v. 29c**

1. Understand her. I Pet. 3:7
2. Be patient and gentle with her. Col. 3:19
3. Treat her with respect. Pr. 31:11
4. Express appreciation and affection to her. Pr. 31:28b

**D. If you mistreat your wife, your relationship with God will be affected. I Pe. 3:7b**

**E. Questions.**

- 1. What should you do if your wife is hard to love?**
- 2. What should you do if you don't have loving feelings towards your wife?**

**IV. Concluding applications. Love her and lead her!**

**A. Application to singles.**

**B. Application to husbands: How can anyone love like that? I John 4:19**

**Discussion questions for family worship**

- 1. Why is it hard for husbands to lead these days?**
- 2. What doctrine must you understand if you want to be a good husband?**
- 3. What characteristics of Christ's love are husbands too imitate?**
- 4. What kinds of sacrifices should husbands make for their wives?**
- 5. What can a husband do to make his wife more holy?**
- 6. Why should a husband love his wife as his own body?**
- 7. What does it mean to nourish a wife?**
- 8. Husbands: Ask your wives these questions (From The Complete Husband, by Priolo)**
  - a. If you could change three things about me that would make me more Christ-like, what would you change?**
  - b. Do I have any annoying mannerisms or irritating idiosyncrasies that you would like to see me change?**
  - c. What do you want from me that I'm not giving you?**
  - d. What personal goals do you have for your life? How may I help you achieve them?**