

Ephesians 5:25-33

A Husband's Responsibility in Marriage

Points to Consider

1. Christ's love is sacrificial.
2. Christ's love is purposeful.
3. Christ's love is unifying.
4. Christ's love is predetermined.
5. Christ's love is verbalized.
6. Christ's love is practical.
7. Christ's love is protective.

A husband is to love his wife

Eph 5:25-28 - Notice that Paul did not instruct husbands to _____ their authority over their wives. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ _____ the church. Christ loved the church so much that He _____ Himself for her. Husbands should give themselves to their wives in _____. It is a _____ that husbands love their wives. There are no excuses! Since loving your wife is a command, it must be a _____ we can make. Remember, many of the Christians came out of pagan backgrounds where monogamy wasn't held in high esteem. Also, many of the marriages were arranged. A Christian man had to change His _____ from his wife being his property to a mindset of love and service. There may not have been a stronger _____ for Christ in all of Ephesus than a Christian man who loved His wife as Christ loved the church.

Eph 3:17-19; Eph 4:2-4

Christ's love:

1. Is a _____ love.

Eph 5:1-2; Phil 2:5-7

Christ's love for us motivated Him to come down to this earth and _____ Himself as a sacrifice for our sins.

Practical suggestion – Do something for your wife that isn't something you normally do and don't want to do.

2. Is a _____ love.

Eph 5:26 - The purpose of Christ's sacrificial love for the church was to _____ her, make her _____, and remove all blemishes.

Est 2:12 *Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had completed twelve months' preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with perfumes and preparations for beautifying women. NKJV*

In the ancient world, preparing to marry a king took _____ preparation.
Christ has provided His blood to cleanse the church and His word to _____ to cleanse her until the end.
As husbands, we love our wives in such a way that we _____ them get to heaven.

Practical suggestion – plan something for you and your wife to do together that shows your love for her.

3. Is a _____ – _____ love.

Eph 5:30-33 - Christ doesn't see Himself as _____ from His church but His church as His body.
A man doesn't see Himself as separate from his wife, but he sees them as _____ flesh.
We should be very careful not to have any improper _____ contact with another woman.
We should have _____ only for our wife.

1 Tim 3:1-2 *This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach.* NKJV

A bishop is to be a _____ -woman man.

Practical suggestion – talk to your wife about the exclusive nature of your relationship. Make sure she knows that you only have eyes for her. Get rid of anything that makes your wife think differently.

4. Is a _____ love.

Eph 1:3-5; Eph 1:10-12 *...that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth — in Him. 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will...* NKJV

Traditional wedding vows

"I, _____, take thee, _____, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day **forward**, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge thee my faith [or] pledge myself to you."

When we got married we agreed to love our wife during _____ conditions and for as long as we both are alive.

I've never heard the word "if" in wedding vows.

The wedding vows are the most _____ part of your wedding!

Practical suggestion – try and memorize your wedding vows. If you can't find yours, look online and find vows that most resemble the ones used on your wedding day.

5. Is a _____ love.

John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.* NKJV

John 15:9-14 *"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment,*

that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. NKJV

Jesus did not hesitate to tell His disciples that He loved them.

We need to verbalize our love for our wives on a _____ basis.

Practical suggestion – tell your wife you love her at least three times a day. Try to say it in unique and unsuspecting ways.

6. Is a _____ love.

John 13:2-5 *And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. NKJV*

Jesus knew that God had given Him all authority, yet he didn't use His authority to get the disciples to wash _____ feet.

Jesus served His disciples, the ones He loved.

1 John 3:16-18 *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. NKJV*

We should lay down our lives for our _____.

We should meet her needs.

A re-write of Phil 2:3-4 might look like this, "3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem his _____ better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of your wife. NKJV

Gen 2:18 *Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." ESV*

God did not make woman to serve man but to _____ man. Help him how? Help him do what?

Prov 31:23 *Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land. ESV*

Acts 18:24-27 Ideally, your wife is helping you in your _____ work.

Practical suggestion – Have a discussion on how the tasks around the house should be divided up. If this is a sensitive issue at your house, you might need help or method that takes the emotion out of the topic.

7. Is a _____ love.

Hebrews 7:23-25 *Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. 24 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. NKJV*

Jesus always lives to make _____ for those who come to God through Him.

2 Thess 3:3-4 *But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.* NKJV

Jesus guards His people from the evil one.

Eph 4:11-15 - Jesus gave the church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to _____ her and help her grow.

Acts 20:28-30 *Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.* NKJV

Heb 13:17 *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.* NKJV

Jesus protected His bride by providing _____ who watch for the souls of her members.

We need to protect our wives _____.

We need to protect our wives _____.

We need to protect our wives _____.

Practical suggestion – come up with one thing you can do to help protect your wife physically, emotionally or spiritually.

Final practical suggestion – Sign up to read and discuss the book *Loving Your Wife as Christ Loved the Church* by Larry McCall.