

Husband and Wife God's Way II

Ephesians 5: 21-33

11/10/02

Intro

- Progress at the building. First Sunday change.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped at the building.

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We are now on those famous verses where Paul discusses the filling of the Holy Spirit as applied to marriage.

It's important to put it in that context because these are not just principles for any marriage; they are principles for a marriage filled with the Holy Spirit.

Last week we ended by discussing the role of the husband, so that is where we begin today. Paul has been telling us that a husband should love his wife like Christ loved the church. The question is this; what kind of love is that? He explains and that is where we begin today.

It's interesting that he actually states the concept as a directive – husbands love your wives. That helps settle the question as to whether love is a feeling or if love is a choice. The answer? Love is a choice. The same is true for what we will see that Paul says to wives, respect is a choice.

I. What kind of love should husbands have?.

A. A sacrificing love.

- If husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church, then we can see that it must be a sacrificing love.
- He gave himself up FOR the church. We are to give ourselves up FOR our wives, not TO our wives.
- Paul is describing leadership that is focused blessing the other, rather than leadership for self satisfaction.

B. A sanctifying love.

- This is setting her apart for the Lord.
- Investing in her spiritually.
- Praying with your wife.
- But you can't bring her somewhere that you've never been.

Illus – The place to begin is in praying for your wife. When I was away on a recent trip, it occurred to me that I was not praying for her as I should. So I made it a priority and I believe it has made a big difference not just in her, but also in me.

- A spiritually beautiful wife is the most beautiful of all.

C. A secure love.

- A man who loves his wife loves himself.

Illus – A man who does not love his wife is hitting himself with a hammer.

- Paul is describing a self-respecting love.

Illus – When we don't have confidence in what God is doing in us, then we are very insecure.

- When I am the worst husband? When I am sick, tired, feeling badly about myself, etc...

D. A cherishing love.

- A man who honors his wife honors himself.
- To honor and cherish is to give great value.

Illus – If something was very important to us, we take great care of it. When it doesn't mean anything to us, then we treat it poorly.

- Let us not put down, criticize, belittle, or demean, but instead bring honor.

Illus – If you don't like something in your wife, bring her into right relationship with the Lord and let the Lord do the work of sanctifying.

II. Wives respect your husbands.

A. This also is a choice.

- Even if he doesn't deserve it, wives are called to respect their husbands.

B. This is the one thing that husbands value most in marriage.

Illus – I remember when a couple that I had never met before came to see me for marriage counseling. After listening to them for a few minutes I said, "I believe I know your problem." They were surprised that I had so quickly suggested a solution.

"The problem," I said, is that you don't feel loved (to the wife) and you don't feel respected (to the husband)."

They were amazed. Yet it's right here in scripture.

III. Keys to a good and godly marriage.

A. Don't hold on to hurt.

- The mercies of the Lord are new every morning.
- We should bury our hurts at the foot of the cross.

Illus – Otherwise, our hurts will begin to stinketh.

B. Fulfill your part out of honor to Christ.

- Don't wait for the other to do his/her part first.

Illus – "I'll start submitting when he starts loving," or "I'll start loving when she starts submitting," won't work.

- Do your part for Christ, even if your partner never does his/hers.

C. If a husband will truly love his wife and a wife will truly love her husband, there will be a good marriage.

- These are the keys for a long and satisfying marriage.

Conclusion

May we experience the blessings of God in marriage as we apply His principles and believe His Word.