

FOR MEN—LOVING YOUR FAMILY AS AN EXPRESSION OF LOVING GOD

LOVING AND DWELLING WITH YOUR WIFE WITH UNDERSTANDING

I. EPHESIANS 5:25-28

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²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

A. Love Her as Christ Loved the Church

Verse 25 – As Christ Loved the Church

Mark 10:45

⁴⁵For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

This was Jesus' attitude toward church; we as husbands are to have the same attitude toward wives.

- How does Christ love the church?
 1. Treats us tenderly – (scripture provided does not match up)
 2. Died for us – How can we die for our wives – key word – sacrifice.

Philippians 2:3-4

³Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

B. Must Love With I Corinthians 13 Love

- Be patient to her
- Be kind to her
- Be humble to her
- Be polite, not rude, to her
- Be unselfish with her
- Do not get angry toward her
- Think good of her
- Bear with her in her weaknesses
- Love her in her good day and her bad days
- Forgive her every time she does wrong or disappoints you

Mark 11:25

^{(1) 25} "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

C. Sanctify Her By the Washing of the Water of the Word

- Must teach your wife God's Word
- Important to study the Bible together

D. Love Your Wife As Your Own Body (vs. 28)

II. I PETER 3:7

1 Peter 3:7

⁷ Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

A. Introduction to 1 Peter 3:7

Dwelling with understanding (What's it mean?)

With understanding this takes much communication.

God has given you your wife as a tender flower.

Your wife needs to know that she is the most important person in your life. Does she? Women feel important when their husbands take time to talk with them and especially listen to them.

James 1:19

¹⁹ So then, ^[1] my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

Proverbs 20:5

⁵ Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, But a man of understanding will draw it out.

B. Communicate

1. God wants our hearts to be joined to our wives hearts. The way this happens is through communication.
2. What to talk about
3. Communicating Love

1 Peter 4:8

⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."^[1]

Important ways to show love when you communicate

1. Communicating with your countenance
2. The way you talk – your tone of voice

A. Interrupting her while she is talking

Proverbs 18:13

¹³He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.

B. Not listening carefully (Inattentiveness)

Proverbs 18:2

²A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart.

C. Blameshifting

Genesis 3:12

¹²Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

D. Apologizing instead of asking forgiveness.

E. Using harshness

III. OPENING HER CLOSED SPIRIT

- Become tender
- Show understanding
- Admit your wrong
- Ask forgiveness from the heart, with no excuses
- Touch her tenderly, if she is ready

IV. DEALING WITH FAILURE

LOVING YOUR CHILDREN THROUGH DILIGENT TEACHING AND THROUGH INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

I. TEACHING THEM DILIGENTLY THE WORDS OF GOD

It's hard to imagine a more loving thing that a father can do than Deut. 6:6-9

⁶ "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Comments...

God's Word is the only thing that causes life & the world to make sense. It all centers around 4 things:

- Creation
- The Fall
- Redemption at the Cross
- Restoration of all things in the new heaven & new earth

- Do I love and cherish and meditate on the Words of God?—Mt. 12:36
- Do I have an appetite as a Dad for God's Word? Ex. Hodge

“It is unreasonable to expect to be conformed to the image of God unless the truth concerning God operates continuously upon the mind. We cannot make progress in holiness unless we devote much time to reading, hearing, and meditating upon the Word of God, which is the truth whereby we are sanctified. The more this truth is brought before the mind—the more we commune with it, entering into its concerns, applying it to our own case, appropriating its principles, rejoicing in its promises—the more we may expect to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Those distinguished for their godliness have been those accustomed to withdrawing the mind from the influence of the world and to bringing it under the influence of the Word of God.” -Charles Hodge (1797-1878)

- Do I lead my home in a way that all of life is seen in light of Scripture?
- Home will not be filled with appetite for Word if every other appetite is majored on.
- 1 John 2:15-17

Practical ideas:

- Doctrines of God
- Memorize Scripture as a joyful family activity (ex. My children’s testimony)
- Family devotions—anchor of the family
- Cross-focused atmosphere...Failure is all of our constant companion. Whole Bible is pointing to the Gospel!

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Some ingredients:

1. **TIME – Much time!**
2. **GOD’S PRESENCE.** Seeking God together is the ultimate family activity.
3. **GOOD BOOKS.** Reading good, God-focused books together.
4. **SERVICE TOGETHER.** What greater joy.

SOME PRINCIPLES OF RELATIONSHIP:

1. **DRAW OUT.** *Prov. 20:5* Counsel in the heart of a man is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out. Don’t accept silence. Study how to ask questions.
2. **DIVE IN.** *Phil. 2:4* Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Aggressively get into their worlds.
3. **SPEAK SOFTLY.** *Prov. 15:1* A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Take the high ground. Ex. Ted Tripp
4. **SHOW THEM YOU BELIEVE IN GOD’S WORK IN THEM**
‘The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction.’ (prov. 16:21)