

FRONTLINES

The Homefront: Husbands and Wives, Part 2

Ephesians 5:25-33

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The Manner of Marital Love

1) Sacrificial love

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,” Ephesians 5:25

“Husbands, do you view your home primarily as a ‘refuge for relaxation’ or as a ‘context to serve?’”

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

“Let...the leader [become] as one who serves.” Luke 22:26

2) Purifying love

“²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”
Ephesians 5:26-27

3) Caring love

“In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.” Ephesians 5:28

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:39b

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 7:12

“...husbands should devote the same energy and time and creativity to making their wives happy that they devote naturally to making themselves happy. The result will be that in doing this, they will make themselves happy. For he who loves his wife loves himself. Since the wife is one flesh with her husband, the same applies to her love for him... Husbands and wives, recognize that in marriage you have become one flesh. If you live for your private pleasure at the expense of your spouse, you are living against yourself and destroying your joy. But if you devote yourself with all your heart to the holy joy of your spouse, you will also be living for your joy and making a marriage after the image of Christ and His church.” John Piper

“²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body.” Ephesians 5:29-30

4) Committed love

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” Ephesians 5:31

The Mystery of Marital Love

“³¹ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”

Ephesians 5:31-32

“God doesn’t do things willy-nilly. Everything has a purpose and meaning. When God engaged to create man and woman and to ordain the union of marriage, He didn’t roll the dice or draw straws or flip a coin as to how they might be related to each other. He patterned marriage very purposefully after the relationship between His Son and the church, which He had planned from all eternity.” John Piper

“However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” Ephesians 5:33