

When a Man Loves a Woman (Ephesians 5:25-33)

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A young man said to his father at breakfast one morning, “Dad, I’m going to get married.” “How do you know you’re ready to get married?” asked the father. “Are you in love?” “I sure am,” said the son. “How do you know you’re in love?” asked the father. “Last night, as I was kissing my fiancé good night her dog bit me and I didn’t feel the pain until I got home.”

In this study we want to look at a passage of Scripture that speaks about a man loving a woman. The text is Ephesians 5:25-33. We can title this section of Scripture, “When a Man Loves a Woman.”

We have all seen the recruiting poster from which the face of a tough-as-nails drill sergeant peers at us. The caption beneath reads, “The Marines are looking for a few good men.” But God is also doing some looking too. He is looking for godly men who want to stand in the gap and do what is right for their families.



When a man loves a woman he goes after her to maintain a relationship with her, to gain her confidence, to seek her spiritual welfare, and to communicate and console her. When a man loves a woman he will go to great lengths to please her, provide for her,

protect her, and pour out his heart to her in acts of loving service, sacrifice, and sympathy. Men, has you wife every got you to watch one of those old love flicks where at the end of the picture the man gets on his horse and goes after his woman who has taking the stagecoach out of town? Some of you men need to get on your horse and go after the wife that God gave to you and reconcile with her, express your love to her, and get things right. It’s our responsibility as men to do this.

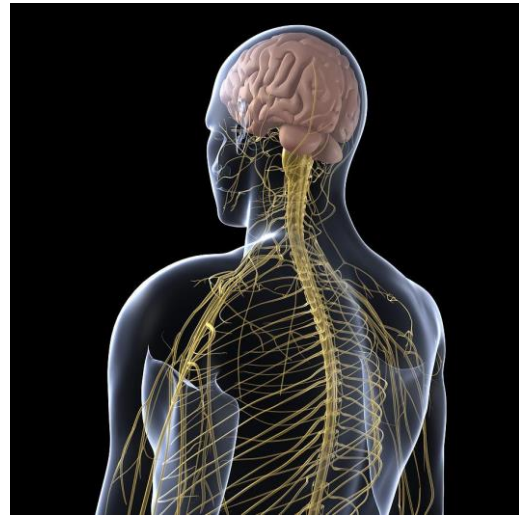
In the Bible the man is presented as the head or leader of the wife and the family unit. However, his headship and leadership is to be expressed in a loving, serving, caring, and compassionate manner. Servant leadership is the way he is to express his role before his wife and family. Nevertheless, we do need to remember that the man is to be the leader in the marriage relationship. God's Word is very clear on this matter.

1 Corinthians 11:3

"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."

Ephesians 5:23

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."



The Bible clearly defines the man as the head of the home or family unit. This is not only old-fashioned – it's Bible-fashioned! The idea of headship stresses authority and leadership even as Christ is head of the Church and the sole authority over its members.

Ephesians 1:22

"And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church."

As the human analogy suggests, the head is the leader of the rest of the body. The head gives orders to the body so it can function; the body does not give the orders to the head. The body responds to what the head tells it to do. This is the way it is to be within the home setting and marriage. The man is the leader. The husband is to the wife what the head is to the human body. He is the head of the house and gives the orders and directions so the family can function smoothly and spiritually. He has the lead role and takes charge.

There can be no question about the meaning of this analogy even though the Christian egalitarians who promote equality are twisting the meaning of the word “head” to mean the man is only the source of the woman (the woman created from the man). Only a feminist with an axe to grind will miss the clear teaching of God’s Word on the headship of man. We have way too many Scripture twisters in the Church today who “wrest ... scriptures” (2 Pet. 3:16). They put the Bible on the rack and begin to twist and torture the true meaning of it, interpreting it through the lens of humanism and feminism instead of the clearly revealed truth presented in the Bible.

The Bible teaches that the man shoulders a tremendous responsibility to be the kind of leader that God expects. As the head of the household, God expects the man to be a spiritual leader, to see that his family is following God’s will for their lives and moving in a godly direction. As leader of the family unit the man must take the initiative to lead in the decision-making role. His leadership does not mean he must make every little decision in the marriage; however, the man’s decisions must always be final, and his wife must be willing to follow him, compliment him, and support him.

Genesis 2:18

“And the LORD God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”

The man must take the lead in the relationship by making spiritual decisions. He must see to it that his family is in church and that his family is growing and prospering spiritually. Biblical manhood is expressed when men step up to the plate and take charge of the family unit. A fundamental flaw occurs in the marriage if the man does not lead the family unit and when women try to lead from behind. However, the man who is head of the family unit must always understand what kind of leadership is ordained by God and is effective. Paul makes it very clear that only loving and *servant leadership* will work. Anything less than genuine loving leadership will result in marital division and family turmoil. In this section of Scripture, Paul outlines how a man should love a woman while being the leader of the wife and family.

Matthew Henry eloquently wrote:

"The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved."

When a man loves a woman he will express four types of love for her.

1. Sacrificial Love

Ephesians 5:25

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."



When a man loves a woman, he will sacrifice his life for her. The way Christ expressed love for the Church was by sacrificing Himself on the cross.

John W. Peterson wrote: "There is no greater love!"

It is true. How could Christ express any greater love than to offer Himself on the cross for you and me? Jesus hung on the cross and went through terrible atrocities and agonies for His Bride the Church.

John 15:13

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

The relationship that Christ has with the Church is used as an analogy of the same type of relationship that a man is to possess with his wife in the marriage. The Church is the Bride of Christ (Rev. 21:9; 2 Cor. 11:2) and He loved the Church and was willing to give everything for her – even His own life. The Greek word for "love" in Ephesians 5:25 points to the agape or sacrificial type of love (Calvary love) which Jesus expressed toward the

Church and the kind of love the Father expressed when sending His Son to die for us on the cross (John 3:16).

Men, this passage of Scripture should challenge us to be more like Christ in our marriage relationships by manifesting loving and therefore sacrificial leadership before our wives. Christ's love for His Bride was a true expression of Biblical manhood and headship. Christ's headship involved sacrificial love and giving beyond measure.

“He left the splendor of Heaven
Knowing His destiny.
Was the lonely hill of Golgotha
There to lay down His life for me.

If that isn't love
Then the ocean is dry.
There's no stars in the sky
And the little sparrows can't fly.

If that isn't love
Then Heaven's a myth.
There's no feeling like this
If that isn't love.”

Paul is comparing the way Christ loved the Church with how the husband is to love his wife. The man is to love his wife in a sacrificial manner. He is to give himself to her and for her. No husband as a true spiritual leader will become selfish or domineering. This means a husband should not insist on having his way all the time. A wise leader will take into consideration his wife's feelings, desires, and needs. He is to have sensitivity, consideration, and respect for her. He will try to please her in all that he does.

1 Corinthians 7:32-33 speaks of the sacrificial nature of love:

“But I would have you without carefulness (free from care or added duties). He that is unmarried careth (*has concern*) for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: But he that is married careth (*has concern*) for the things that are of the world, how he may please *his* wife.”

This is stated in a positive light. It does not mean that a married man cannot be very attentive to the things of the Lord (devoting his attention to serving the Lord). However, it is a general observation that married life requires that a man please his wife. This means he has additional obligations to think about. When Paul says the married man “careth for the things that are of the world” he is not talking about the married man being concerned about fulfilling his own worldly and selfish pleasures (putting sports and hobbies before his wife) but reminding us that a married man is to be concerned about the natural things in the world which he must focus on to meet his wife’s needs and please her. He must make sure she is provided for (1 Tim. 5:8) and that he spends time with her within the marriage relationship so that he might please her.

As Vine has pointed out:

“In general, if a man is married, he has limited his range of service. If he is unmarried, he can go on to the ends of the earth and preach the gospel.

But this is not necessarily true of a married man. A married man needs to also be concerned about his family responsibilities and in particular in meeting his wife’s earthly, physical, spiritual, and monetary needs.

A well-known Scottish preacher was experiencing a great deal of public criticism because of a stand he took on a certain issue, and almost every day there was a negative report in the newspapers. A friend met him one day and asked, “How are you able to carry on in the face of this opposition?” The man replied quietly, “I am happy at home.”

The man pleases the woman by being considerate of her feelings and being sensitive to her needs and wants in life. He is to be a very compassionate leader who wants to sacrifice his time and life for her in every way. This is the kind of loving leadership that God expects from the man.

Men, if you are not giving yourself to your wife through loving sacrifice then you need to start allowing the Holy Spirit to manifest a newfound love in your heart toward the bride that God has given you. Being “filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18) will produce this type of love. You need to start expressing sacrificial love toward your wife by taking time for her, meeting

her physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, fellowshiping with her, helping her in the home, and reaching out to her when she needs your strong hand. When a man loves a woman he will sacrifice his life for her. Never forget this.

One dad gave a true story that speaks of sacrificial love. “Two weeks ago I took Helen (eight years old) and Brandon (five years old) to the Cloverleaf Mall in Hattiesburg to do a little shopping. As we drove up, we spotted a Peterbilt eighteen-wheeler parked with a big sign on it that said, ‘Petting Zoo.’ The kids jumped up in a rush and asked, ‘Daddy, Daddy. Can we go? Please. Please. Can we go?’

“‘Sure,’ I said, flipping them both a quarter before walking into Sears. They bolted away, and I felt free to take my time looking for a scroll saw. A petting zoo consists of a portable fence erected in the mall with about six inches of sawdust and a hundred little furry baby animals of all kinds. Kids pay their money and stay in the enclosure enraptured with the squirmy little critters while their moms and dads shop.

“A few minutes later, I turned around and saw Helen walking along behind me. I was shocked to see she preferred the hardware department to the petting zoo. Recognizing my error, I bent down and asked her what was wrong.

“She looked up at me with those giant, limpid brown eyes and said sadly, ‘Well, Daddy, it cost fifty cents. So, I gave Brandon my quarter.’ Then she said the most beautiful thing I ever heard. She repeated the family motto. The family motto is this: ‘Love is Action!’

“What do you think I did? Well, not what you might think. As soon as I finished my errands, I took Helen to the petting zoo. We stood by the fence and watched Brandon go crazy petting and feeding the animals. Helen stood with her hands and chin resting on the fence and just watched Brandon. I had fifty cents burning a hole in my pocket; I never offered it to Helen, and she never asked for it.

“This is because she knew the whole family motto - “Love is Action.” In other words, ‘Love is SACRIFICIAL Action!’ Love always pays a price. Love

always costs something. Love is expensive. When you love, benefits accrue to another's account. Love is for others. Love gives; it doesn't grab."

Men, this should be true in our marriages. Love is action. Love is sacrificial action. Love costs us something. When a man loves a woman, he will go to great heights to sacrifice his time and life for her. Our wives need committed, Christlike, sacrificial love. Remember that Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it. This is the greatest example of sacrificial love. We must love our wives in the same manner. "Love seeketh not her own" (1 Cor. 13:5). In short, love is not selfish but sacrificial.

Someone said:

"A successful marriage demands a divorce; a divorce from your own self-love."

2. Purifying love

Ephesians 5:26-27 goes on to say: "That he might sanctify and cleanse it (*positionally before His presence and throne*) with the washing of water by the word (*the agent of instrument of our salvation – 1 Pet. 1:23*). That he might present it to himself a glorious church (*at the Rapture*), not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."



This is an extension from verse 25 and further explains how Christ loves the Church. When a man loves a woman he will seek to keep his wife pure. He will have a purifying effect upon her by the way he lives and what he promotes within the family. This is what the text is saying. Verses 26-27 give the reason why Christ loved and died for the Church. Christ lovingly sacrificed Himself for the Church so He might cleanse the Church of all her sins and give her a clean and spotless position before God's presence. For this reason (cleansing) the Lord Jesus will someday return and find a Bride that is spotless and prepared to meet Him ("That he might present it to himself a glorious church").

1 Thessalonians 4:17 speaks of this event:

“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

When the Rapture takes place, the Church will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and there is going to be a consummation of the Church’s marriage relationship with Christ.

Revelation 19:7 prophetically reveals:

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.”

The Jewish custom of marriage is in view. The Church is pictured as being espoused or betrothed to Christ today as His Bride (2 Cor. 11:3), awaiting the consummation of the marriage, when we physically meet the Lord in the air. The point is this. Jesus has prepared the Church to meet Him when He returns. The consummation of the marriage is at hand. “The Lord is at hand” (Phil. 4:5) and Christ has prepared the Church by purifying her with His own sacrifice on the cross. His betrothed Bride is prepared to meet Him when He returns in the Rapture.

The teaching of Christ’s purifying relationship to the Church has a direct parallel and application to the way each husband is to love his own wife in the marriage relationship. Ephesians 5:26-27 suggests that the husband as a leader will seek to keep his wife pure from sinful and wrong living. He is to have a cleansing or purifying affect upon her life as he guides her by the truth of the Word of God (“the washing of the water by the word” – vs. 26). Men, this is why we need to Biblically direct our wives in the way of truth and point her in a spiritual direction.

This is why men need to obey the truth, stand up for what is right, and never give ground to the enemy (“Neither give no place to the devil” - Eph. 4:27). We must take our stand and turn our backs on the world, the flesh, and the devil! We must not be influenced by our contemporary culture and society which is seeking to pull our lives and families into the great vortex of the world system (1 John 2:15-17). We must teach and mentor before

our wife and family godly and virtuous living, holiness, character and integrity, and teach them the importance of Biblical separation, sanctified music and service to the Lord through the local church.

We must stand against the world and counteract the culture today and explain spiritual, sexual, and sanctified living to our families. We have this responsibility. It falls on our shoulders. As men we must stand in the gap and save our families from the cultural rot of these last days and seek to keep our families pure up to the time of the Rapture. God commands the man to have a purifying effect upon his wife as he directs her in a holy and sanctified manner of living which is honoring to God. This concept is again brought out in the phrase “that it should be holy and without blemish” (vs. 27). This is an important part of male leadership. It involves keeping the wife and entire family pure or clean from a spiritual perspective as the Bible is applied in a practical way in the home life.

The man’s role and responsibility is to maintain a pure and wholesome atmosphere in the home and direct his wife and family in the way of truth and righteousness (“I lead in the way of righteousness” - Prov. 8:20). The husband is to help his wife stay on target spiritually and that she is living for Christ and serving Him. It’s the responsibility of the man to lovingly express to his wife the path of holy and righteous living that she must walk so that his wife and family will be influenced in a godly or holy way instead of a worldly and carnal way.

If a man does not lead his family into spiritual living and keep the family unspotted from the world system (James 1:27), then he is not practicing Biblical manhood. Many Christian husbands today do not take the spiritual lead and seek to direct their wives and families in the paths of holy living and righteousness (Ps. 23:3). Most husbands are bent on living their own lives, doing their own thing, and having their own fling while forgetting about the tremendous responsibility God has placed on their shoulders.

God wants Christian men to love their wives in a purifying manner. The Lord wants men to lead their wives in a sanctified manner that is pleasing to Him. The Church is comparable to “a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ” (1 Pet.

2:5). The same should be true of the wife and family unit which is to be a reflection of Christ's relationship with the Church.

Someone wrote:

"A leader is a person with a magnet in his heart and a compass in his head."

The magnet that every man should have in his heart should be a consuming and compassionate love for God (Mark 12:30). The compass he should have in his mind should be the truth of God's Word which the psalmist said is "a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105). Every man needs this magnet and compass so he might have a purifying effect upon his wife and entire family. The family compass must be the Word of God or else the family will become lost in a sea of foggy neutrality and cultural confusion.

Colossians 1:9

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."

This should be the desire that every man has for his wife. He should seek to fill her mind and heart with the knowledge of God's will and the wisdom and spiritual understanding that can only come through the Word of God. When truth is presented (Ps. 119:72) and a consistent example (1 Tim. 4:12) is set by the man, it's then that the wife and children can have a godly example which can bring a purifying effect upon their lives. The man who stands on the truth, conveys Biblical principles to his wife, and then lives what he preaches can have a tremendous spiritual impact upon his wife and family.

Male leadership that is committed to purity of living and excellence (Phil. 1:10) can have a sanctifying impact and effect on everyday family living. As men, we must teach our wives and families to steer away from such things as gossip, unforgiveness, jealousy, bitterness, holding grudges, and from possessing partiality toward others. We should teach them how to serve God, be committed to local church ministry, and demonstrate kindness and

love toward all people. We should expose the sinful and promote the sacred.

As a train was about to leave a large railroad station the conductor began to take tickets. Looking at the ticket of the first passenger he remarked, "Friend, I think you're on the wrong train!" "But," replied the man, "the ticket agent told me this was my train." After a little discussion, the conductor decided to check with the ticket agent. Before long it became clear that the conductor was on the wrong train!

Here is the obvious application. When the leader is lost and on the wrong train then how can those depending upon the conductor arrive at the right destination? In other words, when the husband is moving in the wrong direction then how can he ever expect to have a purifying effect upon his wife and family? Some men ought to be ashamed of where they take their wives and families and what they expose them to in the culturally debunked world in which we live today.

God expects men to protect their families from the moral rot in our society. It's the responsibility of the man to keep his family from watching things on TV and the Internet (the cyber world) where foul-mouthed talking is approved, sex is glorified, and where God is mocked. Many children have gone down the path of abusing alcohol because their daddy did not set an example for them to not use alcoholic beverages (Prov. 23:31-32). Men, we have an obligation to keep our families from viewing despicable things and promoting degrading things which do not reflect God's way of holiness. Many men are training their families to accept cursing, nudity, social drinking, smoking, dancing, and many other things, which tear apart the moral and spiritual foundations of our families.

The man should maintain a separated standard from the heathen culture and the practices of the world (Rom. 12:2) as he seeks to promote a purifying effect upon his wife and family. The man should teach his wife and family about the *vices* of the world system (1 John 2:15-17) and then convey to them the *virtues* of godly living (2 Pet. 1:1-8). The purifying effect men are to have on their families not only involves exposing the negative influences (Gal. 5:19-21) but also highlighting the positive influences of the

Spirit's character-building ministry in their hearts and lives (Gal. 5:22-23). All negative exposure without the positive exposure brings unbalance in the lives of our families.

As men we need to reevaluate our lives today and see if we are setting the proper example, and expressing the right kind of love, a purifying love toward our wives and families ("that it should be holy and without blemish" – Eph. 5:27). Christ died for the Church to cleanse His Bride and has prepared her for His coming. In a similar manner, the man should have a purifying impact upon his wife and prepare her for the Lord's return.

1 John 3:3

"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

1 John 2:28

"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."

Jesus is coming again! As men, what have we been doing to prepare our wives and families for His return? Are we having that purifying impact upon our families by sharing Scriptural principles with them, having devotions with them, teaching them discipline, setting Biblical standards and spiritual priorities for our homes, and maintaining a godly example? It's our responsibility to love our wife and entire family in a purifying manner. When a man loves a woman he will seek to keep her pure and living in such a way that she is prepared for the Lord's return. Love "Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth" (1 Cor. 13:6). When a man truly loves his wife, he will stick with the truth and teach his wife and family what is spiritually right and honoring to God. He will stand in the gap and have a purifying impact on his family.

We need to step up to the plate as a man. We may not hit a home run every time, but we do need to start by hitting a few singles. After a while, we will get a double, trip, and sometime a homerun. But unless we stop up to the plate and become a sacrificial leader that walks in holiness, we won't have a spiritual impact on our families.

On one occasion, Robert E. Lee, perhaps the best-loved general in the Confederate Army, visited an encampment near the scene of battle at dusk. Riding his famous white horse, Traveler, General Lee passed in review as the soldiers stood at attention. A deep silence reigned. Not a single word was spoken. Then, as unexpectedly as he had come, the great general departed. No sooner had he disappeared from sight, when a young soldier from Georgia shattered the stillness by shouting in a voice that everyone could hear, "Now then, after what the general has said, will you fight or won't you?" The military leader, of course, had said nothing. Yet the very presence of General Lee who had captured the allegiance of that young man through his own bravery and example was in itself a "call to action."

This reminds me that it's not always what our families are *taught* but what they *caught* which matters! Men, has your wife and family captured your spirit of allegiance that you have for Jesus Christ and His truth? Do they see something in you that makes them want to serve the Lord? We are to have a purifying effect upon our wives and families in these days of carnality, compromise, and calloused hearts.

3. Compassionate love



A letter was written to a boyfriend. It went like this.

Dearest Jimmy,
No words could ever express the great unhappiness I've felt since breaking our engagement. Please say you'll take me back. No one could ever take your place in my heart, so please forgive me. I love you, I love you, I love you!

Yours forever, Marie.

P.S. And congratulations on winning the state lottery!

This is hardly a genuine and caring love! Rather, it is a hypocritical love with ulterior motives. The Bible teaches that when a man loves a woman, he will express a tender, caring, and compassionate love toward her, a love that is free from all hypocrisy.

The analogy of a man loving his wife (vv. 25-27) is still on Paul's mind as he moves on to the next material.

Ephesians 5:28-33 states this about love:

“So (in like manner as Christ loved the Church) ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church (as Christ shows compassion and cares for the Church so the husband should demonstrate loving compassion toward his wife). For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones (a physical illustration that teaches we possess a spiritual union with Christ). For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh (shall create a spiritual bond and union together as Christ shares with the Church). This is a great mystery (a sacred secret not revealed in the Old Testament): but I speak concerning Christ and the church (as the Church shares a mystical union with Christ so the man and wife share a union together in the marriage relationship). Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself (in this union or one flesh relationship); and the wife see that she reverence her husband” (respecting his headship).

The general idea of these verses is that the husband and wife share a mystical union together like Christ and the Church. In this union between Christ and the Church, our Bridegroom (Jesus Christ) is the leader, and we receive compassion and nourishment from Him. In the same manner, the husband in the man and wife union is to be a compassionate leader and nourish and cherish his wife in the relationship.

Why should a man love his wife as his own body and care for her as he cares for his own body? It's because the man shares a mystical union with his wife. In some way, a man's wife becomes part of his own body, a one-flesh union, an extension of himself (Gen. 2:23-24; 5:2) as both share a

spiritual union together. As Eve was a part of Adam, taken out of his side, so the wife is to the man because she is a part of him. The reality of this union must dominate the husband's thinking and actions in marriage. For this reason (the wife's union with the man), the husband should love and treat her as he does his own body. When he loves her, he is in this sense loving his own body because both are mystically joined together in a marriage union.

Lloyd Jones remarks:

"You cannot detach yourself from your body, so you cannot detach yourself from your wife. She is a part of you, says the Apostle, so remember that always. The husband must realize that his wife is a part of himself. He will not feel this instinctively; he has to be taught it; and the Bible in all its parts teaches it. In other words, the husband must understand that he and his wife are not two: they are one."

When a man loves a woman he will care for her and meet her needs even as he meets the personal needs of his own body. A man will take care of himself by being sure he has money and food in his stomach so he can function. A man takes care of himself when he hurts himself. The general truth that is proclaimed in these verses cannot be missed. Christ takes care of His Bride which is the Church ("even as the Lord the church") and which possesses a union with Him. In the same way, the man should show compassion toward his wife and take care of His own personal bride that God has given to him since he shares a one flesh union with her. As the Church is part of Christ so the wife is part of the man and therefore he should express loving compassion toward her as he does in taking care of himself.

Someone said:

"The Lord wants a husband's arms to be a safe place for his wife, as the church is in his arms."

As a man cares for his own body so he is to care for his wife and protect her. This is a compassionate and protective love that Paul is talking about. He will seek to protect his wife from heartache, harm, and disappointment in life. He will cherish her and care for her all the days of his life. The Biblical

pattern of male headship and leadership has always been to protect and provide for the wife. Leadership is one thing, but loving leadership is something altogether different.

The other day I was outside during some yardwork, and I cut myself. Well, I needed to attend to the cut. I went in and washed it out and put a band aid on it. Later I took off the band aid and rewashed it and put some salve on it. What was I doing? I was taking care of my body. Taking care of ourselves, our own health and body is a personal matter. Man is born with the instinct to cherish and care for his own body. He feeds, clothes, and bathes it; he protects it from discomfort, pain, and harm. As a man, we must care about our wife in the same manner. It's a personal thing for us! We are to take it seriously because we share this one flesh union with our wife. When she hurts and has needs, we respond to her.

As a man cares for his own body so he is to care for his wife and protect her. He will seek to protect his wife from heartache, harm, and disappointment in life. He will cherish her and care for her all the days of his life. The Biblical pattern of male headship and leadership has always been to protect and provide for the wife.

1 Timothy 5:8

“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”

The importance of Ephesians 5:28-30 cannot be underestimated: “He that loveth his wife loveth himself (*the two are mutually exclusive due to a spiritual union shared together*). For no man ever yet hated his own flesh (*the body*); but nourisheth (*providing the body with strength and nourishment*) and cherisheth it (*protecting, caring for the body, giving it comfort*), even as the Lord the church” (*as Christ does for His Church in His mystical union of the Body of Christ*).

The word “nourisheth” (Eph. 5:29) speaks of providing for the wife's needs and suggests that the man seeks to meet the physical and spiritual needs of his wife. He does not allow her to try and make it without his help and assistance. The man is to be there for her and help her through life. The

next word “cherisheth” originally meant to warm, to brood, or to keep warm (as with body heat), to soften by heat. It pictures a mother bird hovering over her brood. The idea is to cherish with tender love, comfort, and care. Webster says that cherish means to hold dear, to feel or show affection for, protect and care for lovingly, to keep or cultivate with care and affection. To cherish your wife is to use tender love and physical affection to give her warmth, comfort, protection, and security. These responsibilities are primarily the husband’s, not the wives.

Do you know what most marriages need more than anything else? Well, most marriages in America need two funerals and one wedding, where both the husband and the wife die to themselves and come alive to Jesus Christ. In marriage, we must die to our selfish desires and serve one another. This is especially true of the man who is to cherish his wife, reach out to her, and meet her needs.

Cherishing your wife certainly means to be gentle with your wife. A leader is to be gentle. If you’re one of these tough guys who is always saying, “I’m the boss,” there’s something wrong with your headship. You have become a head case!

1 Thessalonians 2:7

“But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children.”

Adrian Rogers once said:

“How many husbands today are gentle with their wives? Do you know what you need to be, sir, if you think you’re the head of the home? You need to be a ‘gentle-man.’ That’s leadership—to be gentle.”

The Bible says that the man is to cherish and care for his wife “even as the Lord (cares for) the church.”

David Guzik gives a valuable comparison between Christ and the Church and how this should relate to the man cherishing his wife. The theme of oneness is dominant in the relationship between Christ and His Church and the same principles should carry over into the relationship between the man and wife who share a union together.

- ✓ There is oneness of life: We share the same vital resurrection life that resides in Jesus Himself.
- ✓ There is oneness of service: We are privileged to be co-workers with our Lord.
- ✓ There is oneness of feeling: Jesus feels a unique sympathy with us, and we feel a unique sympathy with Him.
- ✓ There is oneness of mutual necessity: We cannot exist without Him and He cannot exist without us, in the sense that a redeemer is not a redeemer without any redeemed; a savior is not a savior without any saved.
- ✓ There is oneness of nature: The same genetic code links us with our Savior, and we are partakers of the divine nature.
- ✓ There is oneness of possession: We share in the riches of His glory both now and in the age to come.
- ✓ There is oneness of present condition: When our Savior is lifted high, so are His people with Him.
- ✓ There is oneness of future destiny: We will be glorified with Him.”

You see, as Christ shares His life with the Church, so the man shares his life with his wife. The two are joined together in a spiritual unity and bond that cannot be separated. Therefore, there is to be a shared life together in the holy bond of marriage. The man must remember this for he is to be the acting head and leader who reaches out to his wife and meets her needs. This is what Christ does for the Church which He deeply cherishes and cares for on a constant basis.

1 Peter 5:7

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

Men, think of how Christ meets your spiritual needs. Think of your relationship with Him. Remember how He is always there for you to supply you with the grace and mercies you need to go on in life. Remember how he provides for your ever need. When you need strength, He gives you strength. When you need encouragement, he gives you that. Then think of how you are one with your wife and how you should, as Christ showers compassion on you, express compassion and care toward your own wife

and reach out to meet her needs. Men, we need to cherish our wives in this way.

As Christ provides and takes care of His Church, so every husband is to take care of his wife, seeking always to help her and meet her physical, spiritual, emotional, and monetary needs. Once again, when she needs strength, he gives her strength. When she needs encouragement, he provides this for her. In other words, He cherishes her by showing loving compassion and care for her and providing her every need. Just as God supplies “all your (our) need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:19), the loving husband should seek to supply all the needs of his wife.

A wife needs to feel wanted, secure, fulfilled, and to enjoy his companionship and her shared spiritual equality with her husband in the relationship (Gal. 3:28). Remember that a man cares for his own body even though he is imperfect and so he should care for his wife even though she is imperfect! Yes, the Lord clearly supplies every need of His Body the Church and husbands likewise are to do the same for their wives however imperfect they might be. They are not to just provide for most of her needs or just provide when she is not too picky or too demanding. Because the Lord cherishes the Church, He supplies her needs and husbands are to do the same to their wives.

But there is one qualifier - husbands are not to provide for her every WANT but her every NEED. Each husband is to help her to discern the difference between wants and needs, but to do it with gentleness and kindness. The husband is the provider, the protector, and the preserver. But husbands are missing the mark of expressing compassion toward their wives, cherishing their wives, when they view them as only objects such as cooks, babysitters, house cleaners, mere sex partners, etc. Our wife is God's gift to us, and she is to be continually nourished and cherished through the loving leadership of the man.

Men, you cherish many things in life. When your Harley motorcycle has a spot on it you shine it up. When your car needs washing you clean it. When you break a golf club you go buy a new one. Well, God has given you

something much better than a motorcycle or golf club, He's given you a wife! Love and cherish and take care of her.

So, the man is to love his wife as he loves himself. Why? Again, it's because both the man and wife are inseparably bound together in God's eyes. This is why the man is to cherish and care for his wife in the relationship. She is part of himself.

Have you ever used super glue? The stuff really works. I was gluing some small item together with super glue. However, without knowing it, I got some on my one finger. Suddenly, before I knew what really happened, I glued my two fingers together! Be careful with this stuff! The point is this, the Bible teaches that the man and wife are superglued together in a mystical union and for this reason the man should cherish and take care of his wife as he would his own body.

I was talking on the phone a while back. The man told me that his wife is having trouble forgiving his neglect of the family for the many years that he worked and served the Lord at the expense of taking care of his family. Men, we should never leave our wives to fend for themselves. When she needs strength, the man must give her strength. When she needs encouragement, the man must give her encouragement. We must remember that a man is the divinely ordained provider and protector of his wife; therefore, he must meet her needs in a loving, compassionate, and caring way. When a man truly loves a woman, he will provide both physical and spiritual nourishment for her. He will meet her daily needs and seek to provide her with security and help.

Dr. A. T. Robertson, perhaps the greatest American Greek scholar of all time, in his commentary on Colossians says, "It is useless to call your wife 'Honey,' if you act like vinegar toward her!" God has called us to express tender and loving compassion toward our wives. Our wives must know they are loved, needed, appreciated, and cared for in life. Men, do you cherish your wife? Is she a special treasure to you? She should be. When a man loves a woman he will treasure her as his prized possession or his "pearl of great price" as the Church is to Christ (Matt. 13:46).

“I’ve found the pearl of greatest price.
My heart doeth sing for joy.”

Some men treasure their golf clubs, cars, boats, motorcycles, and other material things more than their wives! When a wife is viewed as a special treasure the husband will provide a secure, warm, and haven or safe environment for his wife. He will not shove his wife out into the cold, hard, harsh, and cruel world and let her fend for herself. This is not Biblical manhood nor is it an expression of caring and compassionate love. He must provide for her and protect her, he must give security to her, and be the kind of spiritual, loving, and caring husband that God wants him to be.

The man should come to her rescue in all areas of life even as Christ came to rescue the Church by becoming “the Saviour of the body” (Eph. 5:23b). As Christ is the savior of the body or Church, so the husband should in one sense be the savior of the wife. It’s his responsibility as the leader to express loving care, compassion, and protection for his wife and seek to save her from harm and hurt.



Yes, God has called the man to be like a savior to his wife. There is something about superman and shining knights in armor that still fits the Biblical picture of a man caring for his wife. Men are called upon to reach out and rescue their wives from harm’s way and provide special shelter and provision for them. This is the true expression of love toward a wife that is beloved by the husband. Men, you are to be like the Lone Ranger to your wife. No ladies, you cannot make your man young again and he does not have to ride in on a

white horse every time he comes home from work! But as men, God has called us to be the provider and a compassionate caretaker of our wife and families.

Steve Harvey once said:

“A woman can’t change a man because she loves him. A man changes himself because he loves her.”

When a man loves a woman in a Christlike manner, it makes it much easier for the wife to respond in submission and reverence (“reverence her husband” – Eph. 5:33). The Bible says that love “is kind” (1 Cor. 13:4) which means that love expresses itself in acts of loving compassion and kindness. Love is always courteous. It will keep you from criticizing or contradicting your partner in front of others. Love will keep you from quarreling in front of your children, which could undermine their security. A man is to possess and practice a kind, courteous, and compassionate love toward his wife. He should possess a caring attitude toward her, meet her needs in life, and express affection and acts of kindness toward his wife, which prove the genuine love he has for her.

1 Peter 3:7 gives us some old-fashioned advice for contemporary marriages: “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

To express “knowledge” (gnosis) toward her wife means to possess compassionate understanding and wisdom in relating to her and interacting with her. The word “honour” speaks of highly valuing your wife and showing dignity toward her in the way that you treat her and care for her as the “weaker vessel.” In this day of the women’s liberation movement, the Bible might seem out of step with the times in speaking of women as the weaker vessels. But it is a simple fact of life that the average woman is weaker than the man physically and emotionally.

This does not mean that she’s an inferior vessel or a less competent vessel but that she is the weaker vessel. Peter is teaching that the wife is a “weaker vessel” in her physiological and emotional makeup. Of course, this is not a *demeaning* statement but a *creative* statement. It’s the way God made women. Women undergo physical and emotional experiences which men do not. God made ladies different from men in their emotional and physical capacity. She is more emotional, can become frustrated and hurt very easily, and is more fragile. In general, she is more dependent than the man.

Since the woman has a different emotional makeup and design than a man she must be treated with gentleness and kindness. She can be fragile, tender, and emotionally weak at times. For this reason, husbands need to treat their wives with special consideration, cherish them, and meet their needs.

Peter also reveals that being at odds with each other in the marriage relationship, which produces unforgiving and bitter spirits, results in the hindering of our prayers. When there is discord, prayers are hindered.

Bigg says:

“The sighs of the injured wife come between the husband’s prayers and God’s hearing.”

Also, it is very difficult for a couple to pray together when something is disrupting their fellowship.

1 Peter 3:8 goes on to say:

“Finally, *be ye* all of one mind, having compassion (*sympathy*) one of another, love as brethren, *be pitiful* (*showing compassion, being tender hearted*), *be courteous*” (*friendly and kind*).

Compassion, showing mercy, and being courteous go a long way in any marriage relationship. A caring and compassionate love knows no boundaries and continues to manifest and bloom.

For the peace and welfare of the home it is important for the husband and wife to observe a few basic rules:

- Maintain absolute honesty in order to have a basis of mutual confidence.
- Keep lines of communication open. There must be a constant readiness to talk things out. When steam is allowed to build up in the boiler, an explosion is inevitable. Talking things out includes the willingness for each to say, “I am sorry” and to forgive.

- Overlook minor faults and idiosyncrasies. Love covers a multitude of sins. Don't demand perfection in others when you are unable to produce it in yourself.
- Strive for unity in finances. Avoid overspending and a covetous spirit to keep up with the Joneses.
- Remember that love is a commandment, not an uncontrollable emotion.

Peter finally concludes that a man's attitude toward his wife should recognize the fact that she is a fellow heir "of the grace of life" (1 Pet. 3:7). This refers to a marriage in which both are believers. Though weaker than the man in some ways, the woman enjoys equal standing before God and shares equally the gift of everlasting life and a new way of life.

A newspaper reported a case involving a woman who had gone for advice to a local marriage guidance service. She complained that her husband seemed to be growing cold toward her, and she feared she had lost his affection. When the man was privately interviewed by the counselor, however, he spoke very highly of his wife. He even produced a diary from his pocket in which he had written just a few days before, "I have the best wife on earth--bless her!"

The adviser looked at him in amazement and said, "Man, what's the use of keeping your love locked up in the pages of a book? Why don't you show her how much she means to you!" "Oh," said the husband, "I thought she knew!" The counselor reminded him that the Bible admonishes us to demonstrate our affection in both deed and truth.

1 John 3:18

"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

Getting back to our text in Ephesians 5 we must once again reiterate something by asking the main question. What did Paul mean in Ephesians 5:30 when he said, "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones" (quoting Genesis 2:23). He was teaching that the Body of Christ (the Church) has a spiritual union (a shared life with Christ). Together we share a

vital and living relationship with the resurrection Christ (Gal. 2:20). But the same is true in the marriage relationship. The man shares a union with his wife and therefore as the leader he should cherish and care for his wife.

In closing of the “flesh” over the rib of Adam, the man in the marriage relationship responds with these similar words which are found in Genesis 2:23. “And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” The statement of Adam shows that the woman is of the same substance as the man and that there is an equal partnership shared together between the two without negating the roles within the marriage. Together they share a spiritual union and bond together before God’s eyes. In fact, we share our lives together emotionally, socially, physically, and spiritually in this unique mystical union that God has created between the man and wife.

In Genesis 2:23 the word “woman” (Heb. ishah) sounds similar to the Hebrew word translated “man” (ish). This similarity reflects the close union between the two. Adam acknowledged that Eve was part of himself: “bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh” (Gen. 2:23). When a man and a woman unite in marriage, they become part of one another forming a close spiritual bond and unity. This is a unique working of God. They become soul mates and are interconnected together.

Ephesians 5:30 puts it like this:

“For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.”

Paul is using a physical illustration of the human body (flesh and bones) to teach the truth that we (the Church) possess a spiritual union with Christ (sharing His life) which results in Christ caring for His people and providing their every need. The implication is that husbands should likewise care for their wives since the wives are a “member” of their bodies. In other words, since the man shares a union with his wife in marriage (she is joined together with him) and since he is to be the leader and provider, he is to show compassion, care, and provide for his wife as the Head (Christ) does for His Church.

As men, we all know what it is like to neglect something, like a noise or a maintenance issue on our car. If we neglect it, it comes back to haunt us.

Husbands, it is even more true regarding your wife, because she is part of you. Only a fool neglects his own broken arm or infected leg; yet there are many foolish husbands who hurt or neglect their wives and they do and will suffer from it.

On a very practical level, the husband's thinking must always include his wife's needs. He must never think of himself in isolation or detachment from her. The moment he does so he has broken the most fundamental principle of marriage – oneness. In a sense, the moment a man thinks of himself in isolation he has hindered the marriage bond. And he has no right to do this!

Men, let's say the light is green on your side and red on the other side, but in spite of the red light the semi-truck is coming, he is not going to slow down. Instead, he is going to run the light. What are you going to say in this situation? "Well, I know my rights. I'm the leader. I have the green light." You might come to this conclusion just like a driver did.

"Here lies the body of Benjamin May,
Who died defending the right of way.
He was right—dead right—as he sped along,
But just as dead as if he were wrong."

Here is the point. There are a lot of husbands who are so wrong in the way they stubbornly stand up for their rights without cherishing their wife and considering her needs. They are very wrong! They do it the wrong way, and they make a wreck of their marriage.

4. Unbreakable love

Lastly, our passage of Scripture in Ephesians 5 reveals the need to possess an unbreakable love with our marriage partner. While speaking of the man loving his wife as himself in the union or bond he shares with her, Paul confirms the enduring nature of love. It's an unbreakable love!



Ephesians 5:31 concludes: “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.”

When a man loves a woman he will never leave her. Never! He will cleave to her all the days of his life as Genesis 2:24 states. There are two important points in this verse. First, the man must leave the family and form a new family that has a newly established base of authority. One great barrier to successful marriages is the failure of one, or both spouses, to “leave” their parents. When two people leave their families it means a new family unit begins with the marriage. This means the couple’s relationship of authority and responsibility to their parents has been severed. Parents are not to control the lives of their children once they leave the nest. Of course, parents give their children guidance and advice, but this is different than running their lives for them and trying to keep them under their authority. Mama must cut the apron strings!

Second, although the man is to leave his parents, he is never to leave his wife. Never! The two form a new relationship whereby they are “joined” or cemented to each other in a new family relationship, which is unattached to the previous one (Gen. 2:24). The idea of being glued together in a new relationship speaks of an ongoing loving bond, a love that is to be unbreakable and lasting. This is what marriage is all about. It consists of a loving and secure bond that is never to be broken. Marriage is for life (1 Cor. 7:39). God has never condoned divorce in the Bible. In fact, God still hates divorce in the 21st century.

Malachi 2:16

“For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away.”

Jesus taught in Matthew 19:8:

“He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.”

I have always taken God’s view on divorce and remarriage – “from the beginning it was not so.” God has not changed His mind on the matter of divorce. It was settled at the beginning when He created Adam and Eve to be together for life. Moses was not APPROVING of divorce and remarriage

but was REGULATING the problems related to divorce and remarriage for REBELLIOUS and HARD-HEARTED people (“Moses because of the hardness of your heart ... suffered it to be so” - Matt. 19:8). If you want to divorce and remarry against God’s original law, it becomes a matter of disobedience and callousness to God’s original purpose and design for marriage. Marriage is for keeps!

Romans 7:2 speaks of the permanency of the marriage bond:

“For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law (*the law of marriage which God gave in Genesis*) to her husband so long as he liveth but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.”

1 Corinthians 7:39 gives the same conclusion:

“The wife is bound by the law (*the law of the permanency of marriage established in Genesis*) as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.”

This has always been God’s way for marriage. He established the permanency of marriage at the very beginning. If you think God actually approves of divorce, then think about this. Why didn’t God make two or three women just in case Adam wanted to divorce Eve? I mean, there was no other woman to marry but Eve! Why? It’s because of God’s law of the permanency of marriage!

God has not changed the blueprint for marriage even though society at large has become totally calloused toward the permanence and sacredness of marriage. Divorce among Christians must stop. Our love is to be unbreakable.

Genesis 2:24

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

You get the picture. Cleaving means we are not leaving! Yes, we are to *leave* our previous family unit but then (as man and wife) *cleave* to one another in a new loving union that lasts forever. God is not getting the glory through divorce. Christians must stop mimicking the unsaved in the ways of

marriage and divorce. Divorce destroys what God has ordained to be unbreakable (“What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” - Matt. 19:6). God intends for the marriage unit to remain glued or cemented together in an unbreakable loving bond and undying devotion to one another. Young man, when you come to a woman and ask for her hand in marriage, don’t plan on signing any prenuptial agreements. You come to your woman knowing that she is going to be your partner forever and that God wants you to stay glued together for life.

Marriage is for life and true love in a marriage will keep it from the divorce courts. Do you know why? It’s because the Bible says, “Charity never faileth” (1 Cor. 13:8). Whatever happened to those vows, “In sickness and in health?” and “Until death do us part?” Do they really mean anything anymore? They should to the obedient, Bible-believing, God-fearing Christian. Divorce should not be in the vocabulary of a Christian.



An ancient Arabic proverb says that marriage starts out with a prince kissing an angel but ends up with a bald-headed man staring across the table at an overweight woman! We may chuckle at this proverb, but it does drive home a point. Our love for one another in the marriage should never be conditioned upon exact specifications and expectations. Our love for one another should be unconditional like Christ’s love for us for He states that nothing “shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38-39). What if God would love you conditionally? That would be disastrous. How often are we really worthy of His love? Now listen, true love, Biblical love, is unbreakable. This is because it’s unconditional.

A certain preacher was preaching in the Midwest one day, when a woman came to him with a little girl at her side. This woman showed by the cast on her arm and some scars on the side of her face that she had been in the hospital. She said, "I was in the hospital because of a very serious fire. There were burns over two-thirds of my body. My husband walked into the hospital room, took one look at me, and said, 'You're not the woman I married.'" She then told the minister that her husband had left her to marry someone younger and more beautiful.

Human love says, "As long as you stimulate me, as long as I can be proud of you, as long as you're beautiful, I can love you. If you change, my love for you changes." However, the Biblical definition of a husband's love for his wife comes from God's word: "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh" (Eph. 5:31). In short, it's an unbreakable love! It cannot be broken by misunderstandings,



When a man loves a woman he will not leave his wife for a younger model. He will not leave her because of her appearance and physical problems. When a man truly loves a woman, he will love her forever!

One preacher said:

"I have seen resurrection in marriage after marriage when the persons became genuinely convicted over their sin and did not see divorce as an option."

When a man loves a woman he will commit himself to her for life. Love is a commitment. It's a commitment to God and to your wife and it's a lifelong commitment. Love is a choice. Circumstances and feelings do not change your choice to love. When a man chooses to love, the Holy Spirit will make it happen (Gal. 5:18), as the man yields to the Spirit's inner work of grace (Gal. 5:22).

Someone wrote:

“Genuine love is volitional rather than emotional. The person who truly loves does so because of a decision to love. This person has made a commitment to love whether or not the love ‘feeling’ is present. It is so much the better if that feeling is there; but if it isn’t, the commitment to love, the will to love, still stands and is still exercised. ... I therefore must choose the person on whom to focus my capacity to love, toward whom to direct my will to love. True love is not a feeling by which we are overwhelmed. It is a committed, thoughtful decision.”

True love lasts forever and when a man loves a woman, he will love her forever. Love cannot be broken due to the trying and difficult circumstances in life or because of some change in a marriage partner. Love that is generated in the heart of a Christian by the Holy Spirit cannot be broken. Love does not end. Again, “Charity never faileth” (1 Cor. 13:8). Love continues to blossom right up to the end of our lives even as Jesus loved His own until He died (“having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end” - John 13:1).

William Gladstone, in announcing the death of Princess Alice to the House of Commons, told a touching story. The little daughter of the Princess was seriously ill with diphtheria. The doctors told the princess not to kiss her little daughter and endanger her life by breathing the child’s breath. Once, when the child was struggling to breathe, the mother, forgetting herself entirely, took the little one into her arms to keep her from choking to death. Rasping and struggling for her life, the child said, “Momma, kiss me!” Without thinking of herself, the mother tenderly kissed her daughter. She got diphtheria, and some days thereafter, she went to be forever with the Lord. Dear friend, real love forgets self. It knows no danger. It doesn’t count the cost.

The Song of Solomon 8:7 says, “Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.” Men, have you been unconditionally loving the wife that God gave to you? Are you really committed to her spiritual welfare and happiness? Have you been expressing a sacrificial, purifying, compassionate, and unbreakable love toward your wife? Our wives and families need Biblical manhood and love expressed to them on a daily basis.

Love is the sweetest flower that blooms in God's garden. Let us never forget. Men, saddle up your horse and ride out to save your wife, save your marriage if necessary, and save your lives from much heartache and misery. Love your wife as Christ loved the Church – sacrificially, purifyingly, compassionately, and permanently.

“Mid the cares of married life,
In spite of toil and business strife,
If you value your sweet wife,
Tell her so!

There was a time you thought it bliss
To get the favor of a kiss;
A dozen now won't come amiss—
Tell her so!

Do not act as if she has passed her prime,
As though to please her were a crime—
If e'er you loved her, now is the time;
Tell her so!

Never let her heart grow cold;
Richer beauties will unfold.
She is worth her weight in gold;
Tell her so!”