

GOD'S DESIGN FOR ALL HUSBANDS (Ephesians 5:25-33)

The Lord is the greatest lover of all. None are even close. Not Romeo or some other human being. The Bible is really the greatest love story of all, for it tells of God's great love for sinful men and women and the depths that He went to rescue us from the penalty of our sin.

In Marriage, a husband is commanded to picture GOD'S LOVE by the way he loves his wife. God's design for men is to love their wives. Men are to be lovers. This is God's role for them. It is different from the wife's role.

Men, you must know your part. Imagine the confusion that would occur on a football field where no one knew his specific responsibility. Imagine the frustration that would exist in business where no one had a job description.

THREE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE LOVE THAT YOU, AS A HUSBAND, MUST SHOWER UPON YOUR WIFE.

For your primary role to her is not leader, but lover! She will flourish if you love her like this!

I. Your Love For Her Must Be Sacrificial. (v.25)

A. God tells with a command, "love your wife." The sense of this is that we are to love with a never ending love. (Present tense) "Forever!"

Furthermore, the word used here for "love" describes the way that God loves. (John 3:16)

B. So, your love for her must not be the domineering type, but one of self-sacrifice.

1. Jesus is our example in this. He gave Himself for the church. (1 John 3:16)

2. A husband's sacrificial love is described as: not for what she can do for me, but what I can do for her. This self-denying love is the picture of Christ's love for us.

C. This kind of love is far more than a feeling. It is a deliberate act of the will, it is voluntary, and it is always evidenced by giving. It is the love that gives. It does not take.

Every husband owes his wife this love, his commitment to her welfare.

For a husband to protest, "I can't love my wife," is sheer rebellion against God's command.

Remember, it is not a case of deserving. Love is not earned. We did not deserve Christ's love.

Husband: When was the last time you made a sacrifice for your wife by dying to your own desires?

II. Your Love For Her Must Be The Kind That Purifies Her. (v.26-27)

A. Christ's love so greatly displayed at Calvary was given to make us pure and holy.

... "without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless." Pure!

B. You as a husband are to love your wife with this kind of love. It is a love that seeks and

