

## Pt. 2 “What Every Husband Owes His Wife”

Ephesians 5:25-33

**Opening.....**Video –“Resolutions”

**Statements...**

1. The Christian home should be like a symphony - harmonious.
  - a. The only way that is possible is by doing it God's way, each playing our own part.
2. In the life time of some in this room, the divorce rate was as low as 1 in 7.
  - a. By the 60s it was 1 in 4.
  - b. It wasn't long before it was 1 in 2,
  - c. Then you have America today, where divorces far outnumber marriages every year!
3. What starts out as the ideal turns into an ordeal and then somebody is looking for a new deal.
4. Too bad, because marriage is supposed to be a taste of heaven on earth...the closest thing to paradise this world can know. It's a picture of our relationship with Christ!

**Illustration.--**Spurgeon said when a Christian home is done right angels would feel at home in it.

5. The devil knows that if he can hurt the home he can hurt us everywhere, from home to church to nation to world!
6. According to God, it all begins with dad.
  - a. No wonder the devil levels his artillery until the man of the house is dead in his sights!
7. The Bible not only tells us what to do and how to do it and where to get the power to do it...but then it draws us a picture so we can't miss the main message.
8. Perhaps God knew men would be slower than women and infinitely hard headed.

**Read.....Ephesians 5:25-33**

**Men...we owe our wives...**

**A. Godly Leadership.**

Jesus is the leader of the church, and men ought to lead their wives...in the right way.

1. Godly Leadership is not...

- a. Dictatorship
- b. Coercion

Jesus doesn't make the church obey Him. *"I will serve thee because I love thee."*

- c. Domination

- Some guys try to use their Bibles to beat their wife into submission. Not cool.
- You cannot subdue anyone into submission, because by definition, submission is voluntary.
- Submission of a woman is to be in response to loving leadership on the part of the husband.
- I get a kick out of these guys who say headship of the home is their Biblical right. Actually, it's something to earn - like respect.

**Illustration.**--'traffic rights'.

*We all have our rights on the roads...but if you force the issue, it might mean death!  
[the quick and the dead]*

*Tombstone: "Here lies the body of Jerry Ray, who refused to give up his right of way, he was right... dead right as he traveled along, but just as dead as if he was wrong!"*

- If you demand submission, you won't have it, and you might get yourself killed!

V. 23... 'head' does not mean boss.

1. We have Christian men today trying to be the boss of their home instead of the loving leader of their home.

**Illustration.**---Gordon Selveridge built huge department stores in England by being a leader, and not a boss.

He said, "A boss drives men, a leader coaches them.

The boss depends upon authority, the leader good will.

The boss inspires fear, the leader enthusiasm.

The boss says I, the leader says we.

The boss fixes blame for breakdowns, the leader fixes breakdowns.

The boss knows how it is done, the leader SHOWS how it is done.

The boss says go, the leader says let's go."

It's the difference between cornering someone and getting them in your corner.

2. In a harmonious home, dad is to be the leader... and he is responsible for all.
  - if someone is out of step, it is likely his fault!
  - Not always, but most often problems are caused by the man not providing the right leadership in the home.
  - Eve may have sinned, but God came looking for Adam!

***The main problem in our homes today isn't unsubmitive wives, but husbands w/ warped views on leadership or no leadership at all.***

**Passive Husbands & fathers**

It shouldn't be the wives leading the family to church, tho' we can be thankful for those who do out of necessity.

It should be the man, the leader of the band! God help the man whose wife has to pray over the meal or it won't get done, or has to pray w/ the kids at bedtime, or it won't happen, or has to bring up spiritual topics or remind about quiet time, or it will never take place.

You are to be the spiritual leader of your home!

## 2. A Godly Leader is...

a. Marked by a servant attitude.

1. The word “serving” is the verb related to the noun “bond-servant” or slave.
  - Paul often referred to himself as a bond-servant of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:1; Gal. 1:10; Col. 1:7; 4:7; Titus 1:1).
  - It was the way he viewed himself, and the way that every Christian should view himself. We do not belong to ourselves; we are slaves of Jesus Christ.
2. When a man truly sees himself as a servant of Jesus Christ, he will take up the towel and basin as Jesus did (John 13:1-17), and serve others out of love.
  - Lording it over others is the world’s way.
  - Christ’s way is that the greatest among us should be the servant of all (Mark 10:42-45).

b. Marked by transparent integrity.

1. Paul said, “You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time” (20:18).
  - They had seen how he lived.
  - He didn’t put on a front when he was with them, but then live differently when he was away from them.
  - He had nothing to hide.
2. Integrity... means that what you are in private or at home is the same as what you are in public. Your life is a single fabric of honesty
  - This stems from the first quality, that you are aware that you are serving the Lord, who knows every thought and motive of the heart.

**Illustration...** *In the 1940’s, a preacher named Will Houghton served as the President of Moody Bible Institute. An agnostic man, who was contemplating suicide, decided that if he could find a minister who lived his faith, he would listen to him. So he hired a private detective to watch Houghton. When the investigator’s report came back, it revealed that this preacher’s life was above reproach. He was for real. The agnostic went to Houghton’s church, trusted in Christ, and later sent his daughter to Moody Bible Institute. **Husbands must be men of godly integrity.***

c. Marked by Godly Character.

Many godly character qualities could be listed, such as the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

## Three Qualities stand out...

### 1. Humility

What does it mean to be humble?

- A humble person is continually aware that all that he is stems from God's grace.
- His confidence is not in himself, but in the Lord, so that he is quick to give the glory to God in every situation.

**Illustration...** *I recently received a promotional letter from some folks in the church growth movement that reported a study that reveals "that although successful leaders have many strengths and various factors in common, there is only one factor that all successful leaders have in common—self-confidence" . Having concluded that self-confidence is an essential quality for successful leaders, they proceeded to develop a tool that would help pastors develop confidence in themselves (I'm not making this up!).*

*But in the context of warning us about the deceitfulness of the heart, the Bible strongly warns against self-confidence (Jer. 17:5-9). True, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Phil. 4:13). But there is a huge difference between confidence in Christ in us and confidence in ourselves. A godly leader depends on Christ and is quick to share his own weaknesses (2 Chron. 20:12; 2 Cor. 12:5-10). That is the essence of biblical humility.*

### 2. Love, concern, and compassion.

- These qualities are behind the word "tears" (Acts 20:19).
- Paul's tears showed how much he cared about these men, and the feelings were mutual.
- As the old saying goes, "People don't care how much you know unless they know how much you care."

### 3. Steadfastness in trials.

#### d. Marked by faithful biblical teaching.

Five aspects of faithful teaching:

1. not dodging difficult truths.
2. practical application that helps people to grow in their faith.
3. teaching should take place both in formal and informal settings.
4. Teaching reflects a seriousness about eternal truths.
5. teaching proclaims repentance and faith as the core requirements for those who want to be right with God.

## Men...we owe our wives:

### **B. Love...vv. 25, 28, 33**

What kind of love is that?

1. Sacrificial love--v. 25b--"and gave himself for it."

a. Jesus died for the church. We should be willing to die for our wives.

- How do you know if you are willing to die for her?
- Are you living for her?
- Are you dying to yourself?

*Let's be honest men, we are pretty selfish. We're like a tick on a dog...we're only in it for what we can get out of it. The problem in marriage is that there's 2 ticks, and no dog!*

b. v. 25 means there should be nothing so precious to us that we wouldn't give it up for our wife.

*"Well I work hard all week, and it's my right to do what I want with my time off."  
Grow up! That sounds like a spoiled school boy.*

2. Sanctifying love--vv. 26-27--an elevating love!

- She's supposed to be a better Christian because she married me.
- Oh my! I must never lead her into anything impure or unholy.
- Remember, love lifts you up, and never drags you down.

3. Secure love--vv. 28-30--provide her protection and security!

a. This is physical protection for the weaker vessel.

b. This is emotional protection.

- We are to be her help meet in weak areas, and yet some guys seem to get a kick out of aggravating and taking advantages of their wives' emotional state.
- I remind you that according to the Bible, when your wife hurts, YOU are supposed to hurt! [one flesh]  
That's the kind of Savior we serve. He is touched w/ the feelings of our infirmities!

c. v. 29 'cherish' = to warm someone when they are cold. 'nourish' = to feed.

- See to it that her needs are met, and when you provide her financial security as well as physical and emotional security, in some strange way, you will also be better for it, because you are one flesh!

## Men...we owe our wives...

### **C. Loyalty.**

1. v. 31 'Leave' ...speaks of the priority of marriage.

'Joined'... [welded] speaks of the permanence of marriage.

'One flesh'... speaks of the purpose of marriage.

It's all summed up by one word: loyalty.

2. Contrary to popular opinion, the highest relationship on earth is not mother/child, but husband/wife.
  - a. Look at most any divorce and you see the opposite occurring.
    - Your child has your unconditional love and loyalty, as they should,
    - **and as your spouse also should!**
  - b. "But I owe it to myself to be happy."
    - No, you owe it to God to be holy, and to keep your vow!
    - All couples have problems, but not all have the commitment to work thru it.
  - c. "But we're no longer in love."
    - It's not love which sustains commitment, but commitment which sustains love.

### **Practical ideas for men...**

1. Pay Attention to your wife....the Bible instructs us to know her
  - a. Listen to her
  - b. Talk to her
  - c. Communicate with her
    1. Learn to control anger.
      - a. Some blow up.
        - One lady said her husband was like a volcano, and would spew all over her, and it upset her so much she was losing weight.
        - Her friend asked if she was going to confront him about it and she said, yes, as soon as I get down to 120lbs. !
      - b. Some clam up, and refuse to talk, but these usually end up blowing up.
      - c. We must learn to look up, and open up, and express our anger rationally, and let God help us through it.
        - Direct anger towards the problem, not the closest person to vent on.
        - We hurt those we love the most, but the more we love them, the less we should hurt them.
    2. Control your tongue.
      - a. Women hear differently because they feel things more deeply.
        - Illustration....--a dating couple strolled along down a country road. You could hear the crickets, and also a practicing church choir. The girl asked, "How do they make such lovely music?" He replied, "By rubbing their legs together!"
        - We speak different languages, and hear things differently. We must learn to speak one another's language.
      - b. Be careful what you say, and how you say it.
      - c. Also, **WHEN** you say it. Pick your time to talk.
      - d. Finally, be careful if you even **OUGHT** to say it.
2. Give time to your wife
  - a. Work on projects together
  - b. Pray together
  - c. Play together
  - d. Travel together
  - e. Serve the Lord together
  - f. Spend time with Family together
  - g. Laugh together