

HUSBANDS LOVE YOUR WIVES

Ephesians 5:25, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"

Throughout the Book of Acts we read about the attacks of the devil and this evil world against the Church and the obedient disciples. When we reach the end of the Book of Acts, it's easy to see that those efforts ended in failure. The disciples of the Lord, when physically persecuted, were "scattered abroad" and "went every where preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). When the devil and this wicked world attacked the disciples of the Lord, the disciples seemed to be even more determined to tell the story about Jesus Christ our Lord. In Acts 14:22 it was Paul and Barnabas who told the disciples that they "must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" (fellowship with Jesus in the Church). Here in the year 2015, it seems that the devil has changed his strategy. If anyone was diligent in an effort that met failure, does not it make sense that the strategy of the effort would change? In today's world, it is apparent that the devil is attacking the home. The Apostle Paul, in 2 Corinthians 2:11 says that "we are not ignorant of his devices." Likewise, here in this time, we should be aware of the devil's effort. With divorce rates on the rise and families being broken because of a lack of respect for the marriage covenant, it is easy for a person to see where a problem lies.

In the verse previously cited, the Apostle Paul thought it needful to exhort the husbands of the Church at Ephesus to "love" their "wives". If the Bible student will pay close attention, one will find no less than nine verses devoted to this subject in Ephesians chapter five alone, which teaches us the importance of the husband being the spiritual leader of the household when it comes to building a loving environment. In this fifth chapter, as well as the rest of the Bible, we can find at least five reasons why husbands should love their wives and be the example to the household concerning love.

(1) The Institution of Marriage was given to us by God. In Genesis 2:18 it was God who said, "it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Brothers and sisters, if it was God who gave us marriage, we should have the same type of respect for marriage as we do for God. By husbands loving their wives, they show the honor that they should have for the marriage covenant.

(2) The Bible commands the husbands to love their wives (Eph 5:25, "Husbands, love your wives"). If the Bible says to do it, then we should just do it. When we read that we should repent of our sins (Acts 3:19), we need to do it. When we read that we should offer ourselves a living sacrifice in the Lord's service (Romans 12:1-2), we should do it. And, because the Word of God commands husbands to love their wives, we should just do it. When Paul says in verse 28, "So ought men to love their wives", it's not just a good idea, it's a command of the Lord in scripture.

(3) The example of Jesus loving His bride, the Church (Eph 5:25, "as Christ also loved the church"). The greatest example that any disciple has is that of Jesus Christ our Lord. In 1 Peter 2:21 we read that Christ gave "us an example, that ye should follow in his steps:...". If the Lord has given us the example by loving His bride, every husband should be compelled to love his bride likewise.

(4) Ephesians 5:31, "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". The Apostle could not even fathom how a man would hate his own body, but "nourisheth and cherisheth it". The Apostle argued that if you care about yourself, you should care about your bride. In marriage, the man and the woman become one flesh. If a man doesn't love his wife, he is showing his disrespect for himself in the sight of God and showing a spirit lacking appreciation for the knowledge of Christ loving His Church (Eph 5:32). If a husband fails to

love his wife, it will always leave a negative reflection upon himself. And so Paul says in Ephesians 5:28, "He that loveth his wife loveth himself."

(5) The Lord has promised to reward them that obey Him. In Proverbs 13:13 we read, "Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded." The husband, in obeying God's word and showing his love to his wife, can and will be rewarded by God. In Hebrews 11:6 the Apostle writes, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." The rewards of the Lord (temporal blessings), are more than fellowship with God in the Kingdom of God, but also include many more blessings to those who obey His commands. What a great blessing it is to a man when he has peace and love flowing throughout his house and the presence of that peace and love can and will be affected by him loving his wife as God commands. Amen!

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