

What God Expects of Husbands & Wives: IN MARRIAGE & MINISTRY

Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Peter 3:1-7

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This morning we talked about what God expects of pastors
One of the things we said was that He expects us to serve our sheep
We said He expects us to serve our number 1 sheep first
Who is our number one sheep? Wife
God says this very important
He gives us examples in the Bible about how to be a good husband

Joseph was a good example
Joseph was legally engaged to Mary
He had given her his dowry
But before they had the marriage ceremony he found she was going to have a baby
That must have hurt him very badly
This was before God told Joseph that the baby was from God
God's law said Joseph could not marry her
He would have to break the relationship with her.
There were 3 ways he could break it
One way was to have her stoned to death for adultery
The second way was to bring her in front of all the people and shame her for what she had done.
It would show everyone it was her fault and Joseph was innocent
People mock and criticize her
Joseph would get his dowry back
Most of the men would have done this to get back at her for being unfaithful
There was a third thing he could do
He could just quietly break the relationship
Everyone would mock him and blame him
He would lose his dowry
But Mary would be protected from the shame

Which of those 3 did Joseph choose? – the third
He chose to do it quietly to protect her
It was a big sacrifice on his part but it would protect Mary from the shame?
How do you think it make Mary feel?

Not all the husbands in the Bible are like Joseph.

Abraham was an example of a husband who didn't put his wife first
He obeyed God and moved to a new land but there was a famine

Instead of trusting God to provide he went down to Egypt
Pharaoh would take all the beautiful women and put them in his harem
If the woman was married he would kill the husband
Sarah was very beautiful and Abraham didn't want to die
Do you know what he told her to do? Tell them you are my sister
When they came and took her for the harem they didn't kill Abraham
Abraham did that again many years later.
How do you think that made Sarah feel?
Did she feel Abraham was protecting her?
Did it seem like Abraham was taking care of himself and not protecting her?

Joseph sacrificed himself to protect Mary
Abraham put himself first and didn't protect Sarah.
Who are you more like? Are you more like Abraham or are you more like Joseph?
Who would your wife say you are more like?
Would she say, "My husband protects me like Joseph" or "My husband protects himself like Abraham"
God wants us to be husbands like Joseph

How many have been married more than 5 years? 10? 20? 30?
Nancy and I married 38 years, not always easy!
Much to learn to make good marriage

MARRIAGE is a picture of God and the church
It shows the world what God's relationship with us is like.
That's another reason we must have good marriages

I. HUSBANDS: SACRIFICIAL LOVE

I want to talk to the husbands first about what God expect of you as husbands.
God expects us to SACRIFICIALLY LOVE OUR WIVES.

Read Ephesians 5:25-33 (ALL) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. ...

God says husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church
That's our example, the way Jesus loves us
He loves us unconditionally, no matter what.

Do you know the story of **Hosea and Gomer** in the Old Testament?
Gomer was unfaithful to her husband Hosea
She had children by other men, then she left him to live with other men
After awhile she got sold as a slave

Hosea went and paid the price to bring her back as his wife
God wanted him to do that to show what God's love was like
God was saying, "My love for you is unconditional, no what you do I'll love you."

Some men say "If my wife was a better wife then I'd be a better husband."

"When she changes some things then I'll love her."

Is that what Jesus says to you?

"When you are a better Christian and change some things, then I'll love you?"

He loves us unconditionally, no matter what.

He doesn't love us because of what we do, He loves us no matter what we do

He commands us to love our wives the same way

He wants us to realize how special and important our wives are to us

Adam walked and talked with God before sin entered the world

But there was still something missing in his life.

So what did God provide?

Did He provide a church to pastor?

Parents to take care of?

Children to raise?

No, he provided a wife because a man needs a wife.

In Genesis 2 God says a man needs a **wife to complete him.**

She fills up the empty spaces in him **(lace fingers together to show)**

It's not God's will for everyone to get married.

There are some He chooses to remain single, or be widows or widowers.

When that is the case He completes them Himself so they are full.

For most people marriage is the way He accomplishes this.

Completing each other makes us much stronger.

God wants you to love your wife as He loves you.

We are to love our wife as Jesus loves the church

That means we must **sacrifice** as Jesus sacrificed for us

What did Jesus sacrifice for you?

He left heaven to come to earth.

On earth He went through pain and rejection

He was crucified and suffered what we would have suffered in hell to pay for our sins

Did He do that for Himself?

No, He did it for us.

He sacrificed everything just for us

That's how He wants us to sacrifice for our wife.

How does it make you feel that He loves you that much?

Does your wife know that you love her that much?
Can your wife say, "I see Jesus' love for me in the way my husband loves me"?
That's the way we are to love our wives.
Even more important than being a pastor is to love our wife.
Make sure she knows she is as important to you as you are to Jesus.

That **sets an example** to the world of how Jesus loves us
It sets an example to the people in your church and the children in your family.
Many men don't want to do that
They think it's a shame for them to serve their wife but an honor for their wife to serve them
But the Bible says the opposite is true.
It's an honor for us to serve them because then we are treating them the way God treats us
It's a shame to just make them serve their husbands because Jesus doesn't do that with
His people

We are to sacrificially serve our wives like Jesus serves us.
There is a cost to sacrificially serve
You have to sacrifice your time to help her when she needs help.
You talk to her about the things that are happening in your life.
You spend money on her and the family, not just yourself
You listen to what her plans and dreams are in life
You help her when she is discouraged
You spend time going places and doing things she enjoys
You treat her like your best friend
You protect her from people who criticize her or take advantage of her time
You make sure your children obey and are respectful to her
You make sure that her needs are met before your own needs
You do the things for her that Jesus does for you
Jesus made sure our needs were met before His own
God says our wife is our first responsibility, even before our church

Man must INITIATE
Be the first to start talking to her.
Ask her about her day and how she is doing.
Initiate reading the Bible and praying together.
Be the first one to apologize.

II. WIVES: SUBMISSIVE TRUST FROM HEART

Now let's talk about what God expects from wives.
A wife must have a submissive trust from her heart.

Read Ephesians 5:22-24 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

1 Peter 3:1 Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands

In **India** women are taught to submit to their husband from birth
They are trained to obey no matter what the husband wants them to do
Many times they grow up thinking they aren't as important as their husband.
They serve because they are afraid not to
They do everything they must but don't do it out of love from their hearts
The Bible says "wives submit to your husbands AS TO THE LORD"

A husband is to treat his wife like Jesus treats a Christian
A wife is then to submit to her husband like a Christian submits to Jesus
We do it out of love for Him, because we trust Him.
We don't do it out of fear but out of love.
A wife needs to submit to her husband the same way.

If you have a husband who treats you like Jesus that is much easier.
Mary knew Joseph would do what was best for her so she trusted him
When Joseph woke her up in the middle of the night and said they were going to move to Egypt she went
When he said they were moving back to Nazareth even though people would make fun of them she went
She trusted he was going to do what right and best for her

Sarah didn't submit to Abraham
She told Abraham to have a baby by Hagar.
Then she said she didn't want them and to get rid of them.
When the messenger came she was listening at the door of the tent
She didn't submit to Abraham and that was wrong.
But can you husbands see how Abraham was partly at fault for that?
He didn't show her that she could trust him
Men, if your wife isn't submissive and trust you, it could be because you haven't showed her you will take care of her first
Just because Ab didn't put her first doesn't mean she shouldn't submit
It's much harder but she is still required to do that.

When a wife follows and trust her husband it is **really Jesus she is trusting**
She is obeying Jesus' commands and submitting to His will.
Jesus will be with her no matter what happens

So when she responds to her husband from her heart she is really submitting to Jesus and trusting Him.

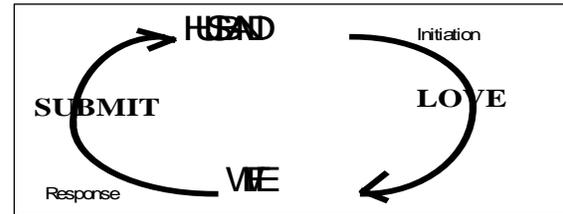
Step 1: Man initiates with sacrificial, unconditional love

Step 2: Wife responds trust, submission, unconditional love back

(Mary to Joseph)

NOT out of fear, duty

BUT out of respect, love, trust



MEN: EARN woman's trust, love, respect by actions

SUBMISSION IS NOT

Men must never yell at your wife or hit her

Jesus never treats you that way and we must be like Him.

A woman needs to be able to trust her husband

One way a woman can show this trust to her husband is by respecting him

It is very important for a man to feel respected by His wife.

A woman needs to feel love. A man needs to feel respected.

That doesn't mean you can't tell him if you think he is doing something wrong

The Bible says you can speak the truth in love

But it has to be done in love

You can't nag or criticize

If you can say it in love say it, but if you can't say it in love don't say it

Treat your husband as you treat Jesus

A woman shows submission to her husband by being involved in his ministry

She supports him and encourages him in any way she can

God has chosen you to be a pastor's wife the same as He chosen your husband to be a pastor

He has given you special gifts to use to minister, just as He has done with your husband

You must know what your gifts are and use them for the ministry

Some men don't let their wives help them minister

They just give them the work in the church that no one else wants to do

God has gifted your wife to serve the same as you., it is never

Find out what her gifts are and give her opportunities to use them

NOT expect mate to change so better marriage

BUT be what God wants you to be, change self!

A woman needs to show respect to her husband from trust in her heart

A man needs to show unconditional, sacrificial love to his wife

CONCLUSION

Those are **very hard to do**

It's very hard for a man to put someone else first

I forget I'm supposed to serve my wife and just think she should serve me

My pride says she should do what I want
Sacrificing for others is very difficult for a man
It is very hard for a **woman** to trust a man from her heart
Many women have been hurt by the men they tried to trust
But these are the things God expects us to do
That shows how Jesus loves us and how we trust Him.

Let me show you using my ROPES
Suppose I try to braid 2 ropes together
Can I braid two? What happens?
No I can't braid 2
What do I need to braid? I need 3, then I can braid
Then it will stay together
Whatever problems or difficulties come it is strong
Now if one of these is the husband and the other the wife, what is the third strand? God

Psalm 127 says that unless the Lord builds the house they who labor to build it labor in vain.

You won't be able to do these things I talk about without God's help

Husbands, you need to stay very close to Jesus and make sure you are growing spiritually
You will never be able to be like Him unless He works in your life

Wives, you need to stay very close to Jesus, too, and grow spiritually
Only as you submit in trust to Him will you be able to submit in trust to your husband

You need to pray every day to be the **husbands** God wants you to be
Pray you will love your wife like God loves you.

Wives need to pray every day that their husbands will be able to do this.

Wives need to pray every day that they will trust their husbands as they trust Jesus.
Husbands needs to pray for their wives for this as well.

You need to **pray together** about these things every day
Talk about them, talk about your marriage
Husbands, ask your wives what you can do to show them Jesus' love for them.
Ask them what needs they have that you aren't meeting.
Then you wives must explain these things to them or they will never understand you.

Spend time together.

Be best friends

Your marriage comes before your ministry, your children and your parents

You need to forgive each other as soon as something happens.

If you do these things you will hear Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Doing this is more important than being a good pastor