

Week 24: "Husbands Love"

Day One: "Love Your Wives"

Read: Ephesians 5:25-27

Reflect: Reflecting on how you were raised and what your role models (fathers, grandfathers) taught you, how would you describe the role and responsibility of a husband?

Dig: In the Greek language there are four words for love:

Eros (erotic love), storge' (family love), philos (friendship love), and agape' (self sacrificing love). The love in verse 25 is agape' or self-sacrificing love. How might this command be related to verse 21?

Agape' is described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Write the list of adjectives which describe this husband-love in the space provided.

According to 1Peter 3:7, what happens to a husband's prayer life if he is not treating his wife with gentleness and respect?

Apply: In what area of your life do you need to practice self-sacrificing love? Be specific.

Week Twenty-Four: "Husbands Love"

Day Two: "As Christ Loved the Church"

Read: Ephesians 5:25-27

Reflect: When Christ was on this earth, in what radical ways did he show love to his followers?

Dig: Read John 13:1-5. How did Jesus love his disciples and give himself up for them?

Read Philippians 2:5-8. How is Christ's example taught here?

Read Colossians 3:19. According to this passage, what will husbands not do if they love their wives?

Apply: What would be the equivalent of washing feet (lowliest job) in our homes?

What practical comforts or conveniences should husbands give up to fulfill the call to love "*just as*" Christ loved the church?

Week Twenty-Four: "Husbands Love"
Day Three: "To Make Her Holy"

Read: Ephesians 5:25-27

Reflect: Off the top of your head, how would you answer this question: What is the purpose of marriage?

Dig: According to Ephesians 5:26, what is the purpose of the husband's love?

According to Ephesians 5:26, how is a marriage made clean and pure?

For more Biblical insight into this question, look up these texts and write them out in the space provided:

John 3:5-
John 15:3-
Titus 3:5-
James 1:18-

Apply: If a husband wants a holy and pure marriage, what habits of Bible study and sharing with his wife should he engage in?

Week Twenty-Four: "Husbands Love"
Day Four: "A Radiant Bride"

Read: Ephesians 5:25-27

Reflect: How does it show up in a woman's actions and attitudes when she is deeply cherished by her husband?

Dig: List the adjectives that are used by Paul to describe a wife who is sacrificially loved by her husband:
(I counted six)

According to this text, if a wife appears hard and unappealing, what might be the problem?

What does this text have to say to our culture's emphasis on things like breast-implants, anti-aging creams and the drive to look young?

According to a survey of 180,000 women in the U.S.A, the ones who had the most fulfilling and intimate and free sexual relationship with their husbands were the ones whose husbands were the most religious. According to this text, why should that not surprise us?

Apply: In what practical ways could a husband contribute to a wife's becoming radiantly beautiful?

Week Twenty-Four: "Husbands Love"

Day Five: "Lectio Divina"

Read: Ephesians 5:25-27 *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."*

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

-- **reading:** you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness: after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.

-- **meditation:** you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life: write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.

-- **prayer:** you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer -- thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.