

## LOVE: HUSBANDS AND WIVES

TEXT: Eph. 5:22-33:

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

(New King James)

### I. IF A MAN TRULY LOVES HIS WIFE, HE WILL ABIDE BY CERTAIN PRINCIPLES:

- A. He will put her first - (Leave father and mother and cleave to his wife.)
- B. He will love her as he loves himself.
- C. He will love her as Christ loved the Church.
- D. He will be true to his marriage vows.
  - 1. For better - For worse.
  - 2. For richer - For poorer.
  - 3. In sickness - In health.
  - 4. To love and to cherish until death us do part.
- E. He will not be constantly broadcasting her faults to others - Even his children.
- F. He will share his money. (Not yours or mine - but ours).

G. He will forgive and forget.

Here is a good quotation from O. J. Russell:

“Both the Bible and Webster agree that forgiveness involves forgetting. It is one thing to forgive a person; another thing to forget. Someone has said that “A woman is always ready to forgive and forget - but it should be added that they never forget what they forgive.” .... To illustrate: A husband is forgiven but the card is filed. Then when anything is provoked, the card is pulled. A husband sinned heinously against his wife, but every day for twenty-five years she nagged him with this forgiveness. Which is the most guilty?

H. He will love her more dearly when her hair has turned to silver.

“Grow old with me, the best is yet to be,  
The last of life for which the first is made.”  
(Robert Browning)

I. He will command - Not demand - her respect by his speech, his demeanor - his goals.

J. He will recognize that he and his wife are partners:

1. Partners in purpose.
2. Partners in preparation.
3. Partners in promise.

II. EVERY WIFE SHOULD STRIVE TO FILL SOLOMON'S PORTRAIT OF A WORTHY WOMAN.

Prov. 31:10-31: “Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands. She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar. She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants. She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms. She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night. She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle. She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with scarlet. She makes tapestry for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the gates,

when he sits among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies sashes for the merchants. Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all." Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates."

Note: I'd like to go on record right now and affirm that my own dear wife fits this portrait more than any other woman I know.

1. The Greatest Gift a Husband and Wife Can Give to Their Children is to Love Each Other and Provide a Christian Home for Them.

"Home is where the heart is"

In dwelling great and small  
And there is many a stately mansion  
That isn't home at all;  
And a cottage lighted with love-light  
Is the dearest home of all.

Should you go first and I remain  
    To walk the road alone,  
I'll live in memory's garden dear,  
    With happy days we've known.  
In spring I'll watch for roses red  
    When fades the lilac blue,  
In early fall when brown leaves call  
    I'll catch a glimpse of you.

Should you go first and I remain  
    To finish with the scroll,  
No length'ning shadows shall creep in  
    To make this life seem droll.  
We've known so much of happiness,  
    We've had our cup of joy  
And memory is one gift of God  
    That death cannot destroy.

Should you go first and I remain  
    For battles to be fought,  
Each thing you've touched along the way  
    Will be a hallowed spot.  
I'll hear your voice, I'll see your smile,  
    Though blindly I may grope.  
The memory of your helping hand  
    Will buoy me on with hope.

Should you go first and I remain  
    One thing I'd have you do;  
Walk slowly down that long, lone path,  
    For soon I'll follow you. ...  
I'll want to know each step you take  
    That I may walk the same.  
For someday, down that lonely road,  
    You'll hear me call your name.