

From: Neil Uher 2@yahoo.com

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Subject: Husbands, Love Your Wives - Eph. 5:25

Greetings my beloved friends, another week has gone by - and quickly, i might add - and as i mentioned last week, i would like for us to examine some duties to the husbands out there by going through the Scriptures - our only sure and absolutely faithful repository of God's "precious promises" (2 Pet. 1:4).

i know there are many good Christian books out there dealing with our present subject which are far better suited to explain such things than myself. My prayer to God, is, for His blessing upon my imperfect and inadequate labours, for the edification of His ~~people~~<sup>church</sup>. May God send His Spirit in our midst, softening hearts, and making them tender and willing to ~~conform~~<sup>yield</sup> in sweet submission to the conformity to the only true God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. To Whom be glory and honour forever. Amen.

It is my prayerful wish for the husbands to read this letter together with

their wives; and not independently. Therefore, if necessary, wait until you're together before reading on; and that you have sufficient time to be together without distraction... And now that I have you both together and nestled comfortably in each others arms; let's illuminate your love for each other.

### I. Marriage is companionship

With all of the errors surrounding the marriage institution, I think it would be profitable to revisit what the Bible instructs upon this matter before proceeding to particular duties.

Most people today think marriage is all about sex; and becoming a Christian just postpones this until after marriage occurs. While it is true, sex is part of marriage; that is not all; in fact, marriage - especially a Christian marriage, is so much more.

If we turn back the pages of our Bibles all the way back to the very beginning, when God created the heaven and the earth, and everything in them, we would find that although He said when all was done that it was all, "very good" (Gen. 1:31); The first

Mention of something being "not good," was that Adam was alone - without a female companion.

"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Genesis 2:18

Therefore God filled this void in man's life by giving ~~him~~ <sup>him</sup> a wife, a companion. Someone to live with, to talk to, to share ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> burdens and to be joined to him in such a way, ~~so as~~ <sup>so as</sup> to unite in <sup>the</sup> ~~most~~ intimate relationship to ever join two people. Husbands, when our friends turn on us, when our families move away, when we become old and worn down by the passing of time and become slow in our abilities, ~~we~~ <sup>and</sup> are no longer funny as we once were, no longer handsome and falling apart - and though we should be forsaken by every other creature, every other friend, but God... there would be yet one other by your side - your rib, your wife. O the sweet mercy and benevolence of God

in giving us such a gift as a wife,  
and should she be a godly, virtuous woman,  
"her price ~~is~~ is far above rubies" (Prov. 31:10) -  
she's priceless!

Such is the companionship of a God  
fearing wife, such is the teaching of why  
God made Eve from Adam's rib, to illustrate  
companionship, friendship, intimacy, etc. Many years  
ago, I read Matthew Henry's comments upon  
Genesis 2:21-22 and although it's been a very  
long while, <sup>but</sup> he said something like this, "The  
bone which God took from Adam to make  
Eve, was it from the crown of his head  
as though she should rule over him;  
neither did God take a bone from Adam's  
foot as though he should trample upon her;  
but God took a rib from Adam, which is  
close to his heart and for him to gather her  
under his arm to love her, to protect her,  
and to cherish her..." Now let's get to  
some particulars.

## II. Christ's Love to Church is Example to husbands

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

Who can be a husband and not tremble at these words? Of such great importance is the duty of husbands to their wives that it is likened to Christ sacrificing Himself for His Church. Therefore when we read, "Husbands, love your wives," this isn't referring to that superficial love which abounds and means nothing; here, "love" is defined. It's as though the charge is so high and so <sup>great</sup>, that Christ set forth the example <sup>himself</sup>. "O ye husbands, great must be thy love to thy wives, thou must settest forth her before thyself. Yea, though thou mayest find many definitions of how to love thy wife, I give thee one... remember Me, My sweat like blood, My shame, My humility, My mockings and scourgings, remember My body, <sup>my</sup> blood and My life, which I willingly gave for My wife... so mayest thou, O ye husbands, thou lovest her... as I, lovedst thee..."

O beloved husbands! Great is the task set before you! And yet the greater love you show to her, the greater submission she will show to you. As the moon reflects the light of the sun, so do the wives reflect the love of their husbands! It starts with you husbands, if you love your neighbour (Mt. 5:43) and love your enemies (Mt. 5:44), how much more ~~and~~ ought you to love your own wife?

- "Husbands, love your wives" Eph. 5:25
- "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself;" Eph. 5:33
- "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." Col. 3:19

### III. Don't Get Bitter

Over and over again, the duty of the husband is to love his wife. Notice what the Bible says in that last verse just quoted, Colossians 3:19 "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."

Out of all the things not to be, here we are warned not to be "bitter."

A few years ago at work, a friend of mine had an argument with the Superintendent; and afterward, he docked my friend's pay. As my friend explained what happened, he said "You know what Neil? I'm bitter, I'm just really bitter about all of this - and now I'm not going to anything extra, I'm just going to do the absolute bare minimum..."

That's a pretty good illustration of being bitter, isn't it? Don't do anything extra, "leave me alone, I'm just showing up to the job..." Well the Bible says for this not to happen to the husbands, don't get bitter at your wives. You get into a disagreement, what do you do? Love her! She isn't being as submissive as she ought, what do you do? Love her! She has annoying habits, nags constantly, neglecting her duties of marriage... What do you do? What should you do? Get mad? Stop talking to her? Punish her by unkindnesses?

No beloved, no, for then ye sin so against Christ... rather,

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for her;" Eph. 5:25

Remember your daily offences against God and how they are all forgiven in Christ, and love her to obedience, as Christ does (2 Cor. 5:14) <sup>us</sup>. When her passions overcome her - for she is the "weaker vessel" - ~~at~~ calm her with your love for her and talk with her; contrast her gently, lovingly, and honour ~~her~~ her, as though to better her, and not <sup>to</sup> destroy her.

"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them [i.e. your wives] according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." 1 Peter 3:7

#### IV. Husbands are the Head of Households

So many problems arise in families today because the husbands neglect the Bible's directives

concerning Marriage, parenting, discipline, etc. The proper rule of the home, is for the children to honour their parents, for the wife to submit to her husband, and for the husband to be the head of the home - all these are under his care, and the husbands are under Christ.

O how many husbands there are who are so careful and attentive to their work, or hobbies, or themselves; but God would have you to set the needs of your family before any other ... even your own; and your very own wife - who looks at you and so adores you with her "dove's eyes" - should be your highest privilege to cherish, to nurture, and so to please your wife (1 Cor. 7:33). If husbands could learn to love their wives as the Bible says, they would reap the same ten fold more from their wives, "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loves his wife loves himself." (Eph. 5:28). Marital love is reciprocal and yet God places the burden of initiative on the husband; in the home, love must begin with the husband, is reflected back

to him by his wife, and so are the children taught the love that should exist between husband and wife as being "one flesh," under God.

### V. Husband's Spiritual Duties to Family

The spiritual welfare of the family ought to be the husband's priority, and if you fail here, if you fail in this, you fail in all. Raise the children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" and spend some quality time fellowshiping with your wife. Tell her about what happened at work today and relate it to a passage in the Bible, teach her the Word of God, who in turn, is the primary teacher of the children. And spend a little time in sweet prayer together each day, grab your wife and hold her while you <sup>both</sup> confess your daily sins, and thank God for her faithfulness, for guiding the home, and for her companionship, and for the million and one ways she completes you, and benefits you.

### VI. Husband's Conjugal Duties to Wife

And finally, if I may, speak a seasonable word concerning the conjugal love

between husbands and wives; we read in  
1 Corinthians 7:3-4

"Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife has not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband has not power of his own body, but the wife."

Husbands, so often the conjugal love between husband and wife is centered on pleasing the husband, as if he only should be pleased and the wife neglected. Your wife is not a sex object to fuel your lustful passions. Husbands should always treat their wives with honour and the most tender of affections; and rather than focusing on pleasing yourself, please her... caress her, comfort her, and spend some time each week rendering unto her "due benevolence." Think of how great and powerful ~~our~~ <sup>Christ</sup> is, and yet so tender is He to His wife that He says that not one of our hairs shall fall to the

ground without His consent. He is powerful enough to crush the mightiest of foes in a single breath; and yet so tender and gentle is He towards His bride, that He loved her to the point that He gave Himself for her; therefore He withholds nothing from her... so ought the husbands be to their wives.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for her." Eph. 5:25

## VI. Conclusion

Will you give yourself for your wife? Do you love her that much? If you were in a situation where only one of you could escape certain death, would you willingly lay down your life so that she may live? Of course you would beloved, but don't wait for such a situation to arise to show her how much you love her... show her now, reassure her of your love to her by the things of far lesser value than your very life; spend time with her, go places with her, and may the love of Christ, Who died

for you both, constrain you all the days of your life, to love your wife as Christ loved the Church.

Now look your wife in her eyes right now, and express your love to her and really mean every word you say; and tell her something like, "Thou art my beloved wife, a gift from God, thou art bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh, and though I have failed thee in many ways and am unworthy of thy love; forgive me of my pride, for neglecting thee, and for not cherishing thee as I ought. But be it known unto thee, that from this day forward, I will seek - by the grace of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ - to love thee as my Master hath showed me. As Job, I make a 'covenant with mine eyes; because I desire none else besides thee, thou art my beautiful wife to have, and to hold, and to cherish, all the days of my life. I love thee now, more than when God first joined us together, and so will I love thee, my wife, my bride, my rib, my companion... My perfectly

imperfect companion, and I will love thee  
as Christ loved His church. May God so  
help me...

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

Your servant for Christ's sake,

Herb A. Uher

Next week, God willing, we can go  
through some of the duties of the wives to  
their husbands.

The Church's One Foundation by Stowe 1866

The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
she is His new creation  
by water and the Word;  
from heaven He came and sought her  
to be His holy bride;  
with His own blood He bought her,  
and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,  
yet one over all the earth,  
her charter of salvation,  
one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
one holy Name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder  
Men see her sore oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder,  
by heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping,  
their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.

Amid toil and tribulation  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace forevermore,  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great Church victorious  
shall be the Church at rest.