

Husbands Love Your Wives

Paul instructed husbands in Eph 5:25-28 to love their wives: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, . . . So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself." This passage establishes the very nature of a man's most important human relationship. The phrase, *as Christ loved the church*, describes how men are to love their own wives. The phrase, *as their own bodies*, speaks to the degree of this love. These powerful metaphoric phrases extend into practical *do's* and *don'ts*.

Do:

- Compliment your wife in public and private.
- Express appreciation for services: cooking, laundry, caring for children, and housework. These are services to be appreciated, not obligations to be taken for granted.
- If your wife is a Christian, go to services with her even if you are not a Christian, or if you are lukewarm or erring. Public fronts are tough for us all. If for no other reason, do it for the children's sake.
- Create loving opportunities for you and your wife, offering kind words, approving actions, and fond and intimate gestures. Someone has said that good hugs, three times a day, will insure a loving relationship. You can not be distant to someone you are nice to and hug often.
- Spend as much leisure time as possible at home with your wife and children. Create mutual activities to do together.
- Be your wife's best friend.
- Return your wife's angry words with kind, soft words.

Don't:

- Criticize your wife in public, but give your suggestions at home on the most positive and informative level possible, offering them only if absolutely necessary.
- Contradict what your wife is saying before friends and the children.
- Take the children's side against their mother.
- Physically or verbally abuse your wife. Remember she is your own body.
- Flirt with other women.
- Leave the disciplining of the children to your wife.
- Habitually leave your wife alone at night to go other places or to be with other people.
- Keep secrets from your wife.
- Speak to your wife with angry or sarcastic words.

Peter taught us: "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered." 1 Peter 3:7.

Conclusion.

Consideration and respect of their wives makes husbands and wives joint heirs of the gracious gift of life. What a wonderful reward now and in the hereafter. However, to achieve this relationship takes continuing effort and consideration on the part of the husband. Neglect, sarcasm, and ridicule aimed at the wife can never foster a proper loving relationship.

Study questions.

1. Describe the love of a husband for his own wife using Christ as an example. _____

2. Describe the love of a husband for his own wife using his own body as an example. _____

3. Husbands, what are the three most important things you can do for your wife to really help your relationship? Wives, what are the three most important things your husband can do to really improve your relationship? _____

4. Husbands, what are the three most important things you can stop doing to really help your relationship? Wives, what are the three most important things your husband can stop doing to really improve your relationship? _____

5. What does dwelling with your wives with understanding mean? _____
