

THE NEW HUMANITY OF JESUS THE CHRIST:

MEDITATIONS IN THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL'S ADDRESS TO THE EPHESIAN FAITHFUL

HUSBANDS, LOVE:

A VISION OF THE SPIRIT-FILLED, TIME-REDEEMING, CHRIST-REVERING HUSBAND

Ephesians 5:25-33

I. Introduction

II. (Spirit-Filled) Husbands, Love Your Wives (Eph 5:25-33)

- A. Summary of 5:21-24:
 1. Paul is unpacking what it means to submit to one another (5:21).
 2. Submission is mutual submission between Spirit-filled equals (5:18).
 3. The wife submits to her husband as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit in her.
- B. "Husbands, love" (5:25)
 1. Paul addresses "husbands" (*andres*).
 2. The husband's love is commanded.
 3. The husband's love is a choice.
 4. The husband's love should be like the love Christ showed to the church.
- C. Why Christ Jesus gave himself up for the church (5:26-27).
 1. Christ gave himself "that he might sanctify her."
 2. Christ washed the church "that he might present the church to himself in splendor."
 3. Christ washed the church "that she might be holy."
- D. Husbands should love their wives like their own bodies (5:28).
 - Just as Christ loved the church as his own body, so should husbands love their wives like their own bodies.
- E. Why husbands must love their wives like their own bodies (5:29-30).
 1. No one ever hated his own flesh.
 2. All people nourish and cherish their own bodies.
 3. We cherish our own bodies as Christ loved the church and nourishes and cherishes the church.
- F. Genesis 2:24 is the basis for the idea that husband and wife are "one flesh" (5:31).
- G. Genesis 2:24 refers to Christ and the church (5:32).
 1. Marriage is a symbol of the greatest relationship of all: Christ and his bride, God and Israel.
 2. Paul probably had Ezekiel 16:8-14 in mind.

- H. Husbands and wives must heed the following instructions (5:33).
 1. Husbands are to love their wives as themselves.
 2. Wives are to respect their husbands.
- I. Husbands may be the hardest hit by Ephesians 5:25-33.
 1. Paul's words were radical for husbands; who, in ancient times, were not required to love their wives.
 2. Servant-headship is not an embarrassment—it is the divine pattern, set by God himself.

III. Spirit-Filled Living in Evil-Filled Days—For Husbands

God does not want us husbands to be wasting our lives on our self-centered ambitions. Instead, he wants us to be filled with his Holy Spirit, and to devote ourselves to the good of our wives in conformity to the Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. Ephesians 5:25-33 has practical implications for Spirit-filled husbands.
 1. Love means denying yourself for your wife's good.
 2. Love means protecting our wives from ourselves.
 - a. We can hide self-worship under "the good of the family."
 - b. We can hide self-worship under "the will of God."
 3. Love means seeking the glorification of your wife in Christ (Rom 8:30).
 - This is the purpose of the Christian husband's headship.
- B. Ephesians 5:25-33 has practical implications for Spirit-filled unmarried men.
 1. Ask: Am I an Ephesians 5:25-33 man?
 2. Stop dreaming of a Proverbs 31 wife if you do not plan on being an Ephesians 5 man!

IV. Good News for Unloving Husbands

- A. Clearly, husbands don't love as they should.
- B. Fear is often the underlying cause:
 1. Love threatens self-centered men.
 2. Love may mean changing career goals.
 3. Love may mean ending some of your dreams.
- C. But Jesus Christ has already given himself to you.
 1. Christ gives himself to you as your prosperity and accomplishment (1 Cor 1:30; Col 2:3).
 2. Christ does not change based on our performance.
- D. You can be free to love because you have already received love and acceptance in Christ.
- E. Christ gave himself for unloving, even abusive husbands.
 - He died for us so that we can live for our wives.