

Ephesians

Harmony in the Home, Part II

Ephesians 5:25-33

September 28th, 2025

I. Introduction – The Sons of Issachar

The sons of Issachar were described in this way: they “had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do” (1 Chron. 12:32). They knew the times; they had vision for where the battle would be won. In our day, we, too, need to understand the times, and we need to know where the battle will be won. Charlie Kirk was certainly a son of Issachar in our day. This was his counsel for our generation: “Get married. Have children. Build a legacy. Pass down your values. Pursue the eternal. Seek true joy. Eventually we will replace the nihilists.” He knew the times, and he knew what God’s people should do. The battle in our day will be won by happy, godly, Christ-extolling homes joining together in productive community with one another, ascending the Hill of Mount Zion every Sunday to worship the Lord, and then overlaid with God’s blessing, bringing that blessing to the world around us.

II. Text – Ephesians 5:25-33

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 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.

Christ who was rich become poor so that we might become rich in Him. What are these riches? First, it is the wealth of _____. Christ married His bride, and gave Himself up for her so that she could be sanctified, cleansed, washed of her sin—both the guilt of it and its power. And second, so that He might present to Himself a glorious church, a chosen people, His own possession. Christ’s love for His people is not *disinterested*. He loves the Church and gave Himself up for her so that He might present her to _____, so that He might have her for Himself, in other words. The Church is Christ’s inheritance. At the end of the age, there is a feast, and it is a marriage feast.

This understanding is foundational to our marriages because our marriages are designed by God to tell this story on a miniature scale. The story of Christ and His Bride is the epic story spanning millennia. Your marriage is the story of Christ and His Bride spanning fifty years, seventy years, or, perhaps even eighty years.

After looking at the love of Christ for the Church, Paul exhorts husbands to love their wives as their own body. Our wife is our own flesh and blood, “bone of my bones, flesh of my flesh.” God creates of husband and wife a mysterious and glorious union. He makes us one, and our love flows from recognizing this. The way we treat our wives must reflect His love, or else it lies about Christ and His Church.

III. A Husband's Love

First, A husband's love _____ for his wife. A man who loves his wife as his own flesh and blood, that man is going to provide for her, for, "No one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes it and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the Church." We all provide for our own body. We feed ourself. We clothe ourself. We even buy for ourself things we don't need. Again, no man ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it. So likewise, a husband ought to love his own wife as his own body.

Providing means: Making sure the bills are paid; Making sure your wife has enough resources to carry out her work; Making sure you are wisely planning for the future; and Making sure to spend for your wife (and family) in a way that shows you cherish her, that she is your own body.

Second, A husband's love _____ his wife. The story of Scripture can be described as: "Kill the dragon, get the girl." Adam failed in this. Adam let his wife be deceived and taken away by the dragon. Instead of slaying the dragon, he let it into his home. Through Adam's abdication and cowardice, the dragon deceived the woman. Then, Adam, again abdicating his responsibility, chose to die *with* his wife, instead of dying *for* his wife. And the world broke. That's the first telling of the story. But then Christ as the Second Adam demonstrates how it was supposed to go: Christ destroys the work of the dragon, protects His Bride, and lives happily ever after with her.

If our marriages are supposed to be short retellings of that story, this means that the devil is real. Deceivers have gone out into the world. Their target is first and foremost our wives and our children. Nature itself teaches us this. This means for us as husbands, following the pattern of Christ our Lord, our love for our wife must be protective.

Third, A husband's love _____ his wife. A man is called to a mission, and God gives him his Eve as his helper. Adam, remember, was called to garden work. God planted a garden, and put Adam into that garden: "Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it" (Gen. 2:15). Since this is the case, a husband needs to recognize his calling, and communicate his calling and his mission to his wife so that she can help him.

"Kill the dragon, get the girl," is, really, only the beginning of the story. We can fill it out a bit more by adding one last part: "Kill the dragon, get the girl, *and save the* _____." That is the full Gospel story. Christ destroys the work of the devil. Rescues His bride out of his cruel bondage, just like Israel out of Egypt. He feasts with her, sanctifies her, and then Christ and the Church make all things new. Husbands are called to provide for their wives, protect their wives, and then get to work in seeing the kingdom built up.

Some advice: First, think through the priorities you have for your family (i.e., What are the five most important things that God has called you to?). Second, figure out how to accomplish those priorities, practically speaking. It's a twofold work: you need to be *mission-focused*, knowing your priorities, knowing where you're going; and you have to be *task-oriented*, you need to know how to get there, how to accomplish your mission.

IV. Come & Welcome to Jesus Christ