

Ephesians: Unsearchable riches of Christ

Study 28: Husbands: Lead by Loving

READ Eph 5:25-33 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig Baxter's [sermon](#).

Paul projects a vision in this passage (vv. 22-33) for a distinctively Christian marriage. He bases his instructions for each spouse not on what is appropriate in Roman culture, but on lessons that can be derived from the nature of the relationship between the church and Christ. Husbands are head over the wife as Christ is the head of the church and therefore lead their wives by lovingly sacrificing themselves for their physical and spiritual wellbeing. This is true leadership.

Main lesson: A spirit-filled husband will lead his wife by loving her as Christ loves the church.

Questions:

1. A. When you think of the characteristics of Christ's leadership, what words come to mind? See John 13:1-17.

B. In what ways have you seen such qualities displayed in a husband you know toward his wife and what might be some of the observable effects of such leadership?
2. How can love be commanded (v. 25a)? Doesn't biblical marital love involve romantic feelings? How might lost feelings be rekindled?
3. In what way did Christ give Himself up for His bride, the church, and how might this display leadership (v. 25b)? See 1 John 4:10; Rom 5:8; Titus 3:3-5.

4. How might a husband show Christlike leadership toward his wife? Practically, what does it mean to follow Christ in this aspect?
5. How did Christ prepare the church as a bride for Himself (vv. 26-27) and how might this apply to the husband as he leads his wife?
6. Many wives are more spiritually mature than their husbands. How can such a husband seek to lead her to become more like Christ? Where does he begin?
7. What do you learn from 1 Peter 3:7 about how a husband leads his wife and why this is important?
8. What motivation is given for husbands to love their wives (vv. 28-31)?
9. What should a wife who has an immature and irresponsible husband do? Should she try to change him or just accept him as is?
10. What from this passage has challenged or encouraged you?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: *God for His tender loving care and steadfast love toward His children*

Thank: *Jesus for taking the loving initiative to save and sanctify His bride, the church*

Pray: *that the husbands at HBC would lovingly lead and care for their wives*