

Sunday, August 15, 2021—Colossians 3:19 The Role & Responsibilities of the Husband

### **Husband's Role and Responsibilities**

- Ephesians 5:31—Paul uses the same three-pronged definition of marriage that Moses uses in Genesis 2.
- Ephesians 5:21—as we have seen over the last number of weeks, “being filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18) and letting “the world of Christ dwell in you richly” (Col. 3:16) is manifest through the series of submissions that Paul is outlining in Ephesians 5.
- Ephesians 5:25—husbands are instructed to love their wives even as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it. The word rendered “love” is verb. *Strong's Concordance* defines the word as follows:
  - Of persons: to welcome to entertain, to be found of, to love dearly
  - Of things: to be well pleased with, to be contented with or at a thing.
- Bullinger: to regard, esteem, to acquiesce with satisfaction, to cherish with reverence to, considered in reference to the tendency of the will.
- The word is also translated beloved 7 times in the New Testament—Colossians 3:12.
- Paul provides an example of what kind of love he is talking about right in verse 25, the same love that drove Christ to sacrifice his life for the Body of Christ.
- Paul is not talking about feelings based emotional love but a sacrificial love that chooses to esteem and cherish despite whatever is going on in one's circumstances. Love in this case is not a feeling it an act of your will. This is not the kind of love that one falls out of.
- Ephesians 5:28—So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies.
  - So—after this manner, likewise
  - Ought—implies that husbands, according to their marriage contract and bonds, are indebted and obligated to love their own wives.
- Romans 13:8—Husbands are under double obligation.
- How ought men to love their wives? As their own bodies. First, we may interpret this as meaning that husbands are to love their wives to the same degree that they love their personal bodies. Their egocentric love is to be duplicated to include a wife-centric love.
- Second, Paul is telling all husbands to love their wives as those who are looked at as their own bodies or as those who represent their own bodies in other words, even as the Church is the Body of Christ the wives are the bodies of their husbands are to be loved as such.

- The last sentence in the verse removes the gap between a husband and wife. Paul is no longer thinking of them as two distinct persons but as one subjective person with a single identity. This goes right back to the basic definition of marriage.
- Ephesians 5:29—Paul is dealing with the normal attitude of human beings toward themselves. Normally a human being seeks to preserve himself or herself and provide for their physical and emotional needs.
- It is clear from the context that the phrase his own flesh must be understood as including one's wife seeing who the two are made one flesh in marriage.
  - Nourisheth—to make fat by feeding, hence to feed, to nurse, to bring up to maturity.
  - Cherisheth—to warm, to keep warm, to cherish with tender love or foster with tender care.
- Colossians 3:19—This one sentence verse does an excellent job summarize the role and responsibilities of a husband.
  - Bitter—to produce a bitter taste in one's stomach, exasperate
    - render angry, indignant
    - to be embittered, irritated
    - to visit with bitterness, to grieve (deal bitterly with)
- Paul would not say these things if he didn't know that the natural tendency of a husband would be to deal harshly with their wives.
- Ephesians 5:33—the central need that a wife has is to be loved and cherished no matter what. The central responsibility that every husband has is to provide loving headship for his wife.
- I Peter 3:7—this verse is impossible.
- Genesis 2:21-23—In case you hadn't noticed men and women are different God set it up that way.
- Women are more emotional, men are more logical
- Ephesians 5:33—the central need that a wife has is to be loved and cherished no matter what. The central responsibility that every husband has is to provide loving headship for his wife.

### **Unrealistic Expectation & Misplaced Dependencies**

- There are two primary reasons that marriages fail and they both center around properly understanding Ephesians 5:32.
  - *Unrealistic Expectations*
    - Unrealistic—inappropriate to reality or fact

- Expectation—the act or state of expecting, anticipation
  - An unrealistic expectation is anticipating that someone is going to do something for you that above and beyond what they realistically able to.
  - *Misplaced Dependences*
    - Misplace—to put in a wrong or inappropriate place, set on the wrong object or eventuality
    - Dependence—the quality or state of being influenced or determined by or subject to another
  - Misplaced Dependences are relying on someone or something that cannot provide what one desires.
- I'll be happy when I get married, I got married so that all my problems would be taken care of, I got married so that I would have unconditional love and acceptance, I got married so that I could retire. I expect my spouse to . . . This was not what I signed up for, I am so unfulfilled, My spouse is a loser that doesn't meet any of my needs.
  - There are people in this room right now who are disillusioned with their marriage and/or spouse because of unrealistic expectation and misplaced dependences.
  - Your marriage is not what you signed up for because you seeking to get from another human being what you can only get from Jesus Christ.
  - If you are seeking to have your deepest emotional needs meet by another human being, you will always end up disappointed because you are asking them to do the impossible.
  - Colossians 2:9-10, 3:2—You are complete in Jesus Christ we need to look to Christ to meet these needs not our spouses. Because when we ask our spouse to meet these needs for us, we are setting them up for failure and therefore our disillusionment with their inability to measure up.
  - Understanding these realities frees you up to serve your spouse in love knowing that all your soulsh needs are meet in Jesus Christ and therefore not expecting your spouse to do something they are not capable of.