



The Godly Husband

Week of August 22, 2021

Intro Discussion Question(s):

- *What have you learned most in your study of God's Word this week?*
- *Who are some examples of men that you have seen displaying the characteristics of a godly husband? Why?*

Read Bible Study Summary:

Marriage is a holy union ordained by God and empowered by his Spirit. In the Scriptures we find that Christ has set the pattern for marriage by his submission to the Father and his love for the church. Therefore, submission is a vital concept when it comes to a person's relationship with God and with their family. Paul states that we should submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (Eph. 5:21) and then gives the specific example of a wife's submission to her husband as the church submits to Christ. He goes on to talk about the love a husband should have for his wife which is reflective of the love Christ has for His church.

Main Scripture

- *Read Ephesians 5:25-33*

How do husbands love their wives as Christ loves the church?¹

1. With Sacrificial Love (5:25)

- **“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”** If you truly love someone enough to die for them, your life should reflect that level of love! Jesus not only died for the church, but He poured His life into his disciples who would become the leaders of the Church. He discipled them not only by teaching them about life, but by showing them how to live. Before Jesus died for us, He lived for us.
- Many men would say they would die for their wife, but some refuse to live for them by their actions. For the husband, marriage involves both dying to self and living for his bride by giving away himself through love. It involves crucifying the flesh and resolving to be a faithful husband, not yielding to

¹The main points of this small group outline were adapted from Tony Merida, *Exalting Jesus in Ephesians*. Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2014), 140-142.

the temptations of lust, anger, and pride.² Instead, a husband should be active in displaying Christlike love and service to his wife. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul describes this “active” love in more detail.

- **Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7** - *4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*
- **Ask Questions**
 - *Why is crucifying the flesh and pursuing faithfulness so crucial for a husband’s leadership of his wife?*
 - *In what ways do you think husbands can display “sacrificial love” practically?*

2. With Sanctifying Love (5:26-27)

- **“To make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with the water through the word”** - Through the cross of Christ, Christians are cleansed or sanctified by water and word. Paul uses the imagery of water to emphasize the spiritual cleansing that takes place when an individual accepts Christ as their Lord. It also could have a secondary reference to the bridal bath described in Ezekial 16:8-14. “The word” is meant as the word of the gospel through which Christ cleanses his bride spiritually. The following scriptures reference both the washing of water and word:
 - **Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11** - *9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. **But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.***
 - **Read John 15:1-3** - *1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 **You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.***
- Husbands cannot cleanse sin. Only Christ can do that. However, Christ’s sanctifying work is a pattern for husbands. A husband should love his bride in such a way that he helps her grow into the likeness of Christ. A husband should be concerned for his wife’s spiritual well-being, share the word with her, shepherd her, and care for her soul.³
- **Ask Question**
 - *In what ways do you think a husband can display “sanctifying love” practically? How does he do this on a daily basis?*

3. With Satisfying Love (5:28-33)

- **“Husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies”** - The directive for satisfying love may sound self-serving for the husband or demeaning to the wife, but that is not the meaning behind this scripture. This admonishment makes perfect sense in light of the fact that the two have become one flesh (v. 31; see also Gen. 2:24). Just as a husband longs to satisfy his own needs, he should also seek

²Merida, *Exalting Jesus in Ephesians*, 140.

³Ibid, 140.

to satisfy the needs of his wife: intimacy, joy, security, health, peace, companionship, and community, etc.⁴

- **“This is a profound mystery”** - Paul employs the word “mystery” here to describe the significance of the marriage union and how it symbolizes Christ and his union with his church. What is revealed here in these verses is how they mutually inform our understanding of both. When we investigate how marriages ought to work as intended by God (one flesh), we can then better understand how Christ and the church ought to relate. We see more clearly how the church needs to submit to Christ as Lord, and we understand more deeply the kind of selfless love a husband ought to have for his wife.⁵
- **“Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”** - Paul urges each husband to love his wife as himself and urges each wife to respect her husband. This is a rare instance in scripture where reverence or respect for a person does not imply being afraid. Since the husband represents Christ to his wife, he in turn deserves her respect.⁶
- **Ask Questions**
 - *What do you think it means for a husband and wife to become “one flesh”?*
 - *Why do you think the Bible directs husbands to love their wives and wives to respect their husbands?*
 - *What are some practical examples of how a husband’s love and wife’s respect work together to strengthen a marriage?*

Closing

- **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing right now? Is there some way our group can help you specifically?*
- Pray together over those requests.

⁴Merida, *Exalting Jesus in Ephesians*, 140.

⁵William W. Klein, *Ephesians-Philemon*, The Expositor’s Bible Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), 154.

⁶Ibid.