

Loving Your Wife Well

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God instructs all husbands to love their wives. God does not stutter when he utters this instruction. Nor does God leave it ambiguous as to its meaning. God tells husbands to love their wives *just as* Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her. So, what is entailed, then, in a man loving his wife well? To love one's wife well, a man must have the following essentials.

1. Love Christ.

The first step in loving the wife is to love Christ. A godly man cannot love his wife without first seeking strength, wisdom, grace, and help from Christ Himself! To love Christ is to feed on Christ! To love Christ is to follow Christ! To love Christ is to serve, submit, and worship Christ as Sovereign King! For a husband to love his wife, he must first realize that his marriage must be preceded by a singular pursuit of Christ. A man cannot give what he does not have. The godly man can love his wife when he loves Christ supremely.

2. Walk Uprightly.

Christ transforms lives. The power of God displays itself so marvelously in taking rebellious, blasphemous sinners and turning them into submissive, humble, and meek children who walk in obedience! To love one's wife, the man must set the example. He must love Christ and walk uprightly. There must be no hypocrisy in him whatsoever. He must pray much, read often, meditate daily, repent regularly, and walk purely in all matters of life! He must have no double-talk nor should he have any double-living. He must walk purely, righteously and humbly in life.

3. Gladly Sacrifice.

Christ loves His own and gave Himself up for them. He willingly laid down His life for His own sheep. He died for them. He gave up His life in their stead. He willingly purchased them with His own blood. True love, the way that Christ loves, is a sacrificial, giving love. And it does so gladly, willingly, and eagerly. True love looks for opportunities to serve, sacrifice, and represent Christ.

4. Show Affection.

The lovers in the Song of Solomon speak to each other in the most affectionate, heart-warming, and intimate of ways. A godly husband will show affection to his wife irregardless of whether she reciprocates it, deserves it, or even notices it! Solomon speaks to his lover and calls her his darling, his beautiful one, and he beckons her to come away with him and enjoy each other! A godly husband learns from Christ who speaks so tenderly to His people. Christ wins and woos His Bride. He nurtures her, cherishes her, protects her, and speaks promise after promise to her and guarantees to fulfill them all. Christ wins the hearts of His people and His people long for Him intimately. So husbands should show affection to their wives.

5. Prize Her.

Christ has only one Bride. He has no other lovers. He does not have a backup or other lovers that he enjoys. He prizes the Church passionately and loves her supremely! Christ loved His people to the end—to the max! A husband should speak well of his wife and he should praise her. The Proverbs 31 husband rises and praises his God-given wife—even in the presence of the children! Let all godly men prize their wives as precious gifts of God, women of infinite value, and fellow heirs of the grace of life!

6. Cultivate Oneness.

True marriage is a God-graced, God-given, God-ordained, and God-blessed union between one man and one woman who enjoy oneness with each other. Just as the Triune God enjoys perfect and intimate fellowship with each person of the Trinity (and there is still one God!) so the husband and his wife enjoy close and intimate relations one with another because they are one flesh. A husband and his wife who have left their parents have conjoined themselves together—or, super-glued themselves together—and are 'one-flesh.' Nothing can separate them. This union between the husband and wife reflects the intimate union and glorious relationship between Jesus and the Church, the Perfect Bridegroom and His Bride. Godly husbands must cultivate oneness sexually, emotionally, relationally, communicatively, spiritually, physically, and he must continue to pursue her as long as they live together as a married couple.