

Ephesians - A Christlike Husband

Ephesians 5:1-2 – Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:21-33 – Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church – ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

³² This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

God’s Design For Subordination And Authority

God’s design for authority and submission is based on love, not dominance.

1 Corinthians 11:3 – I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of every woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Ephesians 4:1-3 - I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Four Ways A Christlike Husband Loves His Wife

1) Sacrifice - A Christlike husband will put aside his preferences and let go of his self-seeking desires in order to meet his wife’s needs.

Ephesians 5:25 - Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and **gave himself up for her**...

Philippians 2:3-8 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

2) Sanctifying - A Christlike husband will encourage his wife’s growth – intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually.

Ephesians 5:26 - ... to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word...

Just as Christ’s relationship with His church promotes spiritual growth, so husbands are expected to nurture positive growth in their wives. This might mean freeing up time for your wife to exercise her own gifts, talents, and interests. It certainly means helping her through her hurts, caring about her wounds, being at her side when she needs someone to lean on —anything that contributes to her wholeness and well-being.

3) Forgiving - A Christlike husband will embrace grace rather than hold grudges.

Ephesians 5:27 - ...and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

He extends compassion rather than blame and shame. He accepts and values his wife for who she is rather than demand perfection. Just as Christ cleansed us in order to present the church to Himself spotless and blameless, so also husbands must extend grace and mercy to their wives.

4) Honoring - A Christlike husband will recognize his wife as a precious gift from God and treat her as such.

Ephesians 5:28 - In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

1 Peter 3:7 Colossians 3:17-19