

A HUSBAND'S LOVE

Request: Can you explain in simple terms how a husband is to love his wife according to the Bible and give examples?

Eph.5:25-31 was chosen because it is the most frequently quoted NT Scripture on this subject.

We will examine this Scripture by the following SIX homiletical points of the HUSBAND'S LOVE for his wife.

- Command to love (5:25a)
- Comparison of love (5:25b)
- Changed by love (5:26-27)
- Challenge of love (5:28)
- Cherished by love (5:29)
- Cleaved to love (5:30-31)

1. **Command to love (5:25a) –agapao / p.a.impv.2pl – unconditional, sacrificial, and unselfish love. Agape love is solely the responsibility of the husband without any condition necessary from the wife! The husband is commanded to love his wife with God's love (John 3:16; Rom.5:8).**

Marriage as a divine institution (DI #2) operates by laws of divine establishment.

Agape love is one of three laws of divine institution of DI #2 regarding the husband's responsibilities to Lord towards his wife's psychological (psuche / soul) needs (Col.3:21) (love, nourishes, and cherish).

This command can always be fulfilled no matter what the circumstances because of the filling ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16-17, 22-23).

2. **Comparison of love (5:25b) – “just as (kathos / comparative adverb) Christ also loved (a.a.ind) the Church and gave (paradidomi / a.a.ind) Himself up for (huper + ablative of substitution) her.”**

What are the two ways the husband is compared to Christ and the Church and why?
_____ and _____.

3. **Changed by love (5:26-27) – The Greek (hina/ that) is used three times to explain the powerful influence of change of wife by the husband's love of his wife.**

- *That* he might *sanctify* (hagiazō / a.a.subj) her - spiritual leadership of husband (rhema / CBD).
- *That* he might present himself the wife in all her *glory* (endoxos / reflected) – spiritual change of wife by renewal of the mind - (without spot or wrinkle or any such things / Eph.4:22-24).
- *But that* she should be (eimi / p.a.subj / result) *holy and blameless* – spiritual transformation (holy and blameless) (Rom.12:2).

4. **Challenge of love (5:28-29a) – so (demonstrative adverb/ houtos) ought (opheilo/p.a.ind./ obligation).**

Because of the wife will be changed by love the husband the husband is motivated to the law of divine establishment to LOVE his wife as Christ.

As (hos / comparative particle) his own body (SELF) – the husband is to think in terms of two and NOT JUST ONE in every area of his life (your life is marriage and not I have a married life). “He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh.”

5. **Cherished (thalpo / to hold as dear) and nourished (ektrepho/ to bring into maturity) by love (5:29b) – Christianity uplifts women when husband holds their wives in high esteem. [Hosea is a good example of this principle of love.]**

6. **Cleave (proskollao / f.p.ind / super glue together) to love (5:30-31) – The husband is instructed to leave single life and to cleave to marital life and NOT vice versa. He does this to express in person God’s love to his wife.**

The husband is given a list of examples of agape love in 1 Cor.13:4-8.

“But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; *but the greatest of these is love.*” (1 Cor.13:13)