

# Marriage



## MARRIAGE PART 17 - THE ROLE OF THE HUSBAND

Now that we understand the purpose of the marriage covenant between a man and a woman is spiritual and physical oneness, we can look at the unique instructions or roles that the Father gives to the husband and the wife

As a reminder, our ability to keep and live out these spiritual roles, is based purely on our individual oneness or fellowship with the Father and Son.

In this resource, we will look at the role or instruction to the husband and in part 18 we will look at the instruction or role given to the wife.

It's important to note that these instructions are not the only instructions, but they are the primary ones which all other instructions are defined by.

***Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,"***

The man is instructed by God to do one thing in this verse.

1. To love his wife as Christ loves His church

Instruction one is known as the second part of the Great Commandment.

God gives the husband a divine instruction which is purely breath taking. To love his wife as Jesus loves - wow. This is mind boggling. This is a heart instruction and one of extreme significance. What an honour and a privilege man is entrusted with by God, to love His daughter and people the way He does.

Can there be a greater invitation than to know and experience what it is to love like God? To minister the love of heaven, which is being perfected within you, to another just as Jesus loves, bringing glory to the Father's name.

This is something we get to do and are fully capable of doing, when our lives are hidden in Christ.

When we are living in and from this love we innately and authentically fulfil the second aspect of verse 25, by giving ourselves up or laying down our lives for our wives. This instruction isn't overtly declared in this verse, as Jesus knows His love in us will naturally empower the laying down of our lives to see our wives lifted up. This is how powerful His love is. It never fails to love or perform on what it is - love.

# Marriage



***John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."***

The word 'friends' means covenantal partner. It doesn't mean our mate, buddy or pal with whom we have a natural connection. It means to be in a spiritual covenant with this person. If we are married, our spouse is our first covenantal partner.

The husband will offer up his life for his wife, serving her, to see her grow and become all she is to become in Christ.

The ability to be this husband and walk in this manner, all comes from continuously receiving and partaking of Christ's life within him.

***Matthew 4:4 "But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.' ""***

***John 6:51 "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.""***

***John 6:55-56 "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him."***

***John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."***

The husband that loves his wife the way God instructs, prepares her for the sanctificational work of the Spirit, by the word of God.

***2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 "But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."***

Paul describes this process as a 'washing of water' with the transformational word of God.

***Ephesians 5:26 "so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word."***

Notice who is the one who cleanses her. It's not her husband but the Christ Himself. The husband's role is to love his wife as Christ loves her, not to try and cleanse or change her. As he loves her, Christ goes to

# Marriage



work on the inside of her heart and mind, presenting to Himself, a church that includes the husband, in all her glory.

***Ephesians 5:27 “that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.”***

The power of a husband loving his wife like this is second to none. This is God’s design for all husbands to live out. Anything short of this is to come short of His design and miss the mark.

Husbands, God has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness, so there can be no excuses. When He gave us His Son He gave us everything we need to be able to live like this and demonstrate this kind of love.

How well do we know the Son?

If this is not yet your reality, I pray it will be and I pray you will desire to be this kind of husband to your wife. Husbands this is not to be taken lightly or justified away by our flesh. It is to cause within us a deep-rooted conviction of spirit which has us turning towards God for His divine help.

This is the kind of husband Jesus desires you to be and this is the kind of husband He desires for every wife.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Why is the ability to love our wives like this based on our fellowship with God?
2. Why is the role we have been given as husbands such a privilege in Him?
3. How easy is this role to live out and why?
4. What are some of the challenges in being this kind of husband?
5. What kind of husband do you truly desire to be and become?

Watch the accompanying You Tube videos here: <https://youtu.be/HIbLYFfwKz4>