

Spirit-Controlled Husbands

Ephesians 5:25-33 - NCBC, November 13, 2022

Main Point: **Spirit-controlled husbands sacrificially love their wives for the sake of joy.**

- What is God's design for Spirit-controlled men?
 - To responsibly control himself (Prov 31:3-5)
 - To compassionately care for others (Prov 31:6-9)
 - To display strength through faith and love (1 Cor 16:13-14)
- What is Spirit-controlled love from husbands?
 - NOT: conditional, manipulative, or sappy
 - IS: sacrificially living for the wife's eternal joy
 - IS: voluntarily dying to self to meet wife's needs
- What motivates a husband's Spirit-controlled love?
 - The joy pictured by Christ's love for His church (25-27)
 - The joy realized through his oneness with his wife (28-31)
 - The joy of God's gospel-centered design for marriage (32-33)

Application: **Embrace and celebrate God's wisdom for Spirit-controlled husbands.**

Opening Announcements:

- **Thank you to our Veterans!** Your service for our country is appreciated, and pray God will encourage you today with our love.

- **Congregational Meeting today at 9:30a.** Everyone is invited to join us for this special time of elder updates and prayer.
- The Recommended Resource of the Month for November is ***Designed for Joy: How the Gospel Impacts Men and Women, Identity and Practice***, edited by Jonathan Parnell and Owen Strachan. Please pick up your complimentary copy in the Resource Center anytime this month.
- **Today's exit offering helps fund our Resettlement Ministry** for our beloved family from Ukraine. Collected funds will be applied to rent and utilities for the first year, which totals approximately \$17,000. Thanks for helping us welcome this hurting family to our NCBC family with Christ's generosity and love.

<<Jesus I my Cross have Taken>>



Amen. The world hates us, but following our suffering Savior is the path to eternal glory and joy.

Please continue your worship now by opening your Bible to **Ephesians chapter 5**. Today **verses 25-33** teach us God's joyful wisdom for husbands in marriage.



If you would like a Bible, simply raise your hand, as we'd gladly give you a Bible to use today or take home as a gift.

Since it's been a couple of weeks, let's quickly reset our table before we read the Scripture together.

Paul's Letter to the EPHESIANS				BUILDING UP THE BODY		
Focus	Calling			Conduct		
	What God has Done			How We Should Live		
CH.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Topics	Spiritual Blessings & Prayer	Our Position in Christ	"Mystery" Revealed & Prayer	Walk in Unity & Holiness	Walk in Love & Wisdom	Stand against Evil
God has united us in grace so that we may live in love together ...all to the praise of His glory!						

¹ Colossians 3:16

We're in **Ephesians chapter 5**, which is in the second half of Paul's letter to the Christians in Ephesus.

Remember the words we are about to read were written by a persecuted Christian – from a prison cell in Rome.

Chapter 5 teaches us to walk in love and in wisdom. In **verse 18** we were taught that wise people are filled with the Spirit. Meaning: wisdom seeks to be saturated with God's Word¹ and always live under the control of God's Spirit.


After commanding Christians to be Spirit-controlled in **verse 18**, Paul continued with 5 participles – 5 "ing-words" – that are all the results of a Spirit-controlled life. And **verse 21** teaches a Spirit-controlled person will be *submitting to others out of reverence for Christ*.

In other words, walking in submission to God's Spirit transforms all of our relationships with others. The fear of the Lord, or wisdom,² will always cause us to accept the roles and responsibilities that God Himself assigns us in our relationships with others.

In **verses 22-33**, Spirit-controlled wives and husbands will *hupotasso*, or "line-up-under," or accept their God-appointed positions within the marriage relationship. In **verses 1-4 of chapter 6**, Paul describes the effects of being Spirit-controlled for children and parents. Then in **verses 5-9**, the effects of being Spirit-controlled for employees and employers.

² Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 9:10, 15:33

So I know I'm taking some extra time this morning to set the table...but I really don't want us to miss the importance of the context as we dive in today. God's children wisely imitate God's love whenever we submit to God's roles and responsibilities in all our relationships.

God's Joyful Wisdom for Marriage			
	Role	Responsibility	
Husband	<u>Head</u>	<u>Love</u>	
Wife	<u>Helper</u>	<u>Submit</u>	

Two weeks ago we saw God's joyful wisdom for marriage. The husband is the head, and the wife is the helper. That's their job titles, per se. But we talked last time how wisdom always focuses more on our responsibility than our role. Because how well you fulfill the responsibility is what determines the role's success.

Verses 22-24 explained the helper's responsibility to *submit*. And we spent significant time explaining what it means for a wife to voluntarily invest herself in making her husband more successful to God.

Today, **verses 25-33** explain the head's responsibility to *love* his wife like Christ loved the church. This is a marvelous paragraph that calls husbands to a level of joyful self-denial that is only possible for those living under the Holy Spirit's control.

And according to **verse 32**, God joyfully gives these marital roles and responsibilities a Gospel-centered purpose – to reflect Christ's covenant-faithful relationship with His church.

God's Joyful Wisdom for Marriage			Sin's Curse
	Role	Responsibility	Genesis 3:16
Husband	<u>Head</u>	<u>Love</u>	<i>Control</i>
Wife	<u>Helper</u>	<u>Submit</u>	<i>Compete</i>

But, unfortunately, sin always perverts and ruins God's joyful design for marriage. Ever since sin entered the world in **Genesis 3**, husbands sinfully focus more on controlling their wives, instead of loving them. And wives sinfully try to compete with their husbands, instead of submitting to them.

Sin so distorts our experiences with marriage that it can make it challenging at times to truly hear God's joyful design for biblical marriage.

So no matter if you're single, married, or no longer married today...we all need to approach this text with humility and faith today.



Ephesians 5:25-33 reveals God's joyful wisdom for **Spirit-controlled husbands**, which is so different from the passive buffoons or controlling pigs that our world so often portrays husbands to be.

So if you are able, please stand in honor of the public reading of God's Word, as I read from the ESV translation in **Ephesians chapter 5**, starting in **verse 25**:

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and

the two shall become one flesh." 32 *This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

This is the reading of God's Word. You may be seated.

Let's Pray.

In ancient Greek history, there's a story about Cyrus the ruler of Persia.³ Cyrus was a powerful world ruler, and he had many generals. On one occasion, the wife of one of Cyrus' generals was accused of treachery and condemned to die.

At first her husband did not know what was taking place, but as soon as he heard about it he rushed to the palace and burst into the throne room. He threw himself on the floor before King Cyrus and cried out, "O my Lord Cyrus, take my life instead of hers. Let me die in her place."

Cyrus was touched so he replied, "Love like that must not be spoiled by death." And Cyrus let the wife go free and gave her back to the husband!

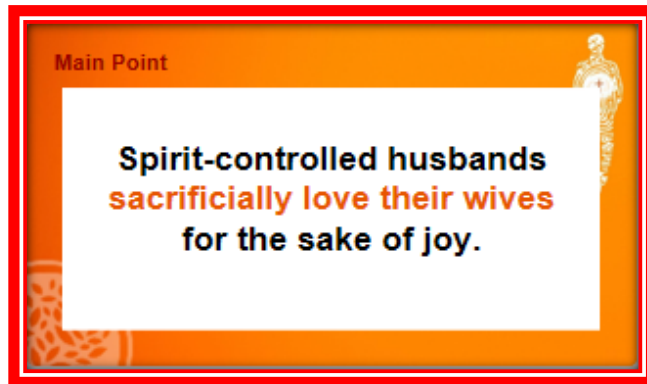
As they walked away in ecstatic joy, the husband said to his wife, "Did you notice how kindly the king looked at us when he gave you the pardon?"

³ Boice, James Montgomery. Ephesians: An Expositional Commentary.

Grand Rapids, MI: Ministry Resources Library, 1988; 200.

And the wife replied, “I had no eyes for the king. I saw only the man who was willing to die in my place.”

This is the powerful picture painted for us in **Ephesians 5:25-33** today.



Spirit-controlled husbands sacrificially love their wives for the sake of joy. There is no approach to marriage that creates more joy for both husband and wife than God's good design found in **Ephesians 5**.

So if you are a young person who hopes to be married someday – listen carefully so that you will not be fooled by our world's mocking counterfeits. A Spirit-controlled marriage is the most joyful marriage.

If you are currently married...may **Ephesians 5** renew your thinking and remotivate your desire to submit to God's delightful pattern. Let joy motivate you to reengage in the supernatural submission to God's Spirit.

⁴ Genesis 1:27; 5:2; c.f. Matthew 19:4

And if you are no longer married...still delight in God's wisdom for husbands. Urge younger men to embrace and submit to God's design. And carefully consider how these Scriptures help us better understand Jesus, who Himself is our loving eternal husband.

So to begin, let's first answer the all-important question:



What is God's design for Spirit-controlled men? After all, our culture is very confused right now about biblical masculinity. And if you start with the wrong understanding of God's plan for men, you'll never understand God's joyful pattern for husbands.

Remember from the very beginning God created people either as male or female.⁴ Contrary to our world's confusion, there's only two human genders in the world. Regardless of how a particular culture may define masculinity, every person is either a man or a woman biologically. You are a male if God created you with male

reproductive parts, and you are a female if God created you with female reproductive parts.

But what does it mean to act like a man, or be masculine, from God's perspective?

Does biblical masculinity look like John Wayne or Mr. T, or does it look like Homer Simpson or Dwight from The Office sitcom?

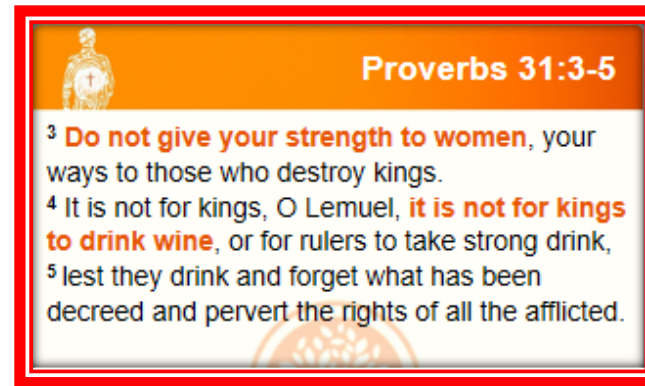
Obviously Jesus Himself is the definition of biblical masculinity, for He shows us what human maleness looks like without any of sin's corruption.

But if you were explain God's design for biblical manhood from Scripture, where would you begin?

I'd like to suggest **Proverbs chapter 31**. Yes...

Proverbs 31! The Proverbs 31 woman is known for teaching on biblical womanhood. But what many forget is that the first 9 verses of **Proverbs 31** are wise instructions to the king about what it means to be a godly man.⁵

Look at **verses 3-5 of Proverbs 31** now:⁶



Do not give your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings. It's not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to take strong drink, lest they drink and forget what has been decreed and pervert the rights of all the afflicted.

So notice, God wants men to be disciplined in their relationships, and men should be disciplined in their influences. In other words,

⁵ I'm indebted to Pastor Josh Beakley at Bethany Baptist Church in Peoria IL for first teaching me this.

⁶ Proverbs 31:1-2 begins with a King Lemuel's mother asking her son to consider how he is living, in three repeated questions – all which

progressively get more intimate: asking from the perspective of a parent, asking from the perspective of a mom, asking from the perspective of a spiritual mentor.

What is God's design for Spirit-controlled men?

- To responsibly control himself (Prov. 31:3-5)

God calls every man to **responsibly control himself**. Self-control is a huge part of what it means to be a godly man. **Titus chapter 2** puts this same emphasis on self-control for both older men and younger men.⁷ Spirit-controlled men should be known for their self-control.⁸

But then keep reading in **Proverbs 31**, starting in **verse 6**:

Proverbs 31:6-9

⁶ Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress; ⁷ **let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more.** ⁸ Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. ⁹ Open your mouth, judge righteously, **defend the rights of the poor and needy.**

Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress; let them drink and forget their

⁷ Titus 2:2, 6

poverty and remember their misery no more. Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Here men are commanded to empathize with the distressed, and to advocate on behalf of the poor.

In other words,

What is God's design for Spirit-controlled men?

- To responsibly control himself (Prov. 31:3-5)
- To compassionately care for others (Prov. 31:6-9)

God designs men to compassionately care for others. And in this way, the opening verses of **Proverbs 31** teach us that the essence of biblical manhood is “controlling myself to care for others.”

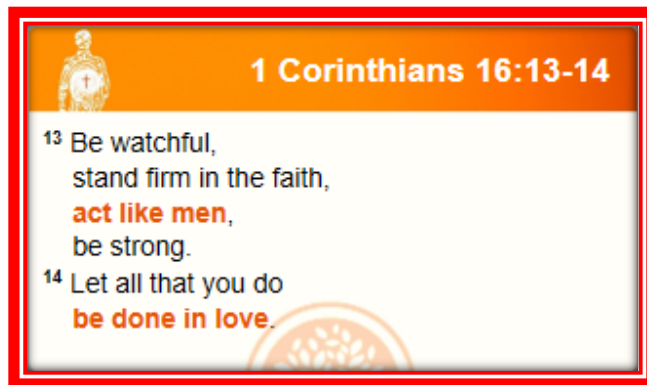
If you ask God what it means to act like a man, I believe He would say, exercise self-control so that you are best able to care for others. This is so opposite from how men are portrayed by Hollywood and sports celebrities today.

⁸ Galatians 5:23

But biblically speaking, God calls Spirit-controlled men to act like Jesus – the only sinless man – by responsibly controlling themselves to care for the needs of others.

Now... you might ask, don't these verses concern a ruler? How do we know they apply to all men?

Well, since **verse 10 of Proverbs 31** transitions to describing a godly wife, it implies the previous verses apply more broadly than to just kings.⁹ And also, we see the same principles applied to all men in general in **1 Corinthians 16:13-14**:



Where Paul writes,

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

So notice ... what does it mean to “act like a man” here?

⁹ Also, we see these same biblical principles of self-control applied to all

It means to be alert, stand firm in what you believe, be strong, and do everything out of love for others.

In other words,



God's design for men is for them to display their strength through faith and love.

This is the “manly man” according to God's wisdom. Men who are living under the control of God's Spirit are not known for their anger, or their competitiveness, or their muscles, or their corporate power. Godly men are known for self-control, compassionate care for others, and a strong faith and love.

A biblical man controls himself to care for others out of love. This is the definition of biblical masculinity.

So now that we understand that God has specifically created all men to be self-controlled caring lovers,

men generically in Titus 2:2, 6.

What is Spirit-controlled love
from husbands?

What does Spirit-controlled love from husbands look like in marriage? What does it actually mean for married men, or husbands, to love their wives?

After all, **Ephesians 5 verse 25** very clearly commands:

Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.

The husband's primary responsibility is to love his wife. Husbands, act like the man God created you to be, and be self-controlled so you can care for your wife and love her sacrificially just like Jesus did with His church.

So let's be clear first that this kind of love is,

What is Spirit-controlled love
from husbands?

- NOT: conditional, manipulative, or sappy

NOT: conditional, manipulative, or sappy.

Agape love, like how Jesus loved the church, is not conditional, or tit-for-tat, or something the wife must earn.

O husbands... don't race past this point. Jesus gave Himself up for the church....that means Jesus died for His bride before she ever loved Jesus, or did anything pleasing for Jesus.¹⁰

Worldly love is object-oriented and man-centered; Christ-like love is need-oriented and God-centered. Worldly love is based on a person's attractiveness, or personality, or something that the loved one provides to the lover. Worldly love is conditional.

But Christ-like love is motivated by God's command and the need of the loved one... and is not justified in any way by whether the wife deserves such love.

¹⁰ Romans 5:8

So husbands... have you allowed the disappointments or unmet expectations or even sins of your wife to justify your withdraw? Have you stopped trying to meet the legitimate needs of your wife because of how your wife acts, or because of how you've been hurt?

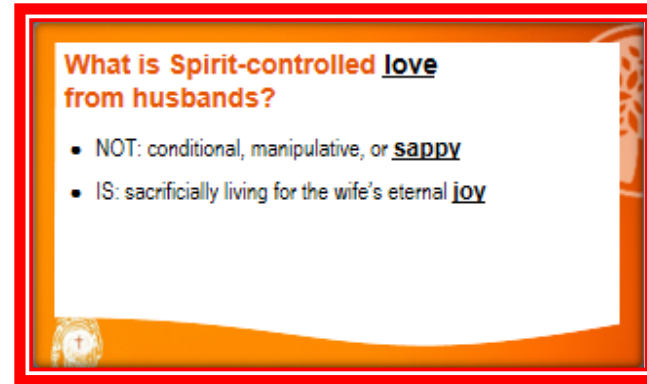
O this is so convicting for me. Spirit-controlled husbands die to themselves in order to serve the wife, and it's not conditioned at all on who the wife is, or how she acts.

Spirit-controlled love is not giving to get. It's not manipulation. Like I'll do the yardwork so that you take care of the kids.

And Christ-like love is not sappy.... Meaning it's not touchy-feely, romantic, or fluffy. While there's certainly room for sappy love in a marriage relationship¹¹...that's not the *agape* love commanded here.

Jesus lovingly died for sinners who were mistreating him, taking advantage of him, and spitting in his face. Husbands, this isn't sappy, but supernatural love!

Spirit-controlled love,



IS: sacrificially living for the wife's eternal joy. Just like Christ loved the church. Voluntarily dying to self for the sake of my wife's eternal joy.

So ask yourself, husbands, what does my love actually cost me? Cheap love is not Christ-like love. If my love towards my wife isn't costing me anything, then it isn't really Christ-like love.

Husbands, ask yourself: are my words or actions towards my wife more aimed at my joy, or my wife's joy?

Am I,

¹¹ C.f. The Song of Solomon for some godly examples of "sappy" love

within a Christ-honoring marriage.

What is Spirit-controlled love from husbands?

- NOT: conditional, manipulative, or sappy
- IS: sacrificially living for the wife's eternal joy
- IS: voluntarily dying to self to meet the wife's needs

voluntarily dying to self to meet my wife's needs, or do I only go far enough to keep her off my case and get my own desires met?

Spirit-controlled love is voluntarily dying to self to meet your wife's needs. Where there's a need, love acts – without consideration of whether she deserves it or not.

Just like Jesus loved us. While we were spiritually dead and convinced sin would make us happy... Jesus loved us by dying in our place. Jesus paid for our sins through His death on the cross ...because He loved us, **verse 2** says.

Friends, no husband can love his wife this way until he is born again. This kind of sacrificial love only comes from God's Spirit. It is a result of being Spirit-filled.¹²

So husband, if you're not living in daily submission to Christ's Lordship and you've not surrendered your life to the Holy Spirit's control, then you will never get beyond

¹² Galatians 5:22; 1 John 3:16

conditional, manipulative, and sappy love towards your wife. Your marriage is spiritually constipated.

Ephesians 5 is calling Christians to live in a manner worthy of our calling! Believe in Jesus' death and resurrection for your own life...and then you will be spiritually enabled to view your marriage as a ministry, and daily lay down your life for your wife's eternal joy.

After all, **verses 26-33** go on now to teach,

What motivates a husband's Spirit-controlled love?

What motivates a husband to love like Christ. And this is glorious!!

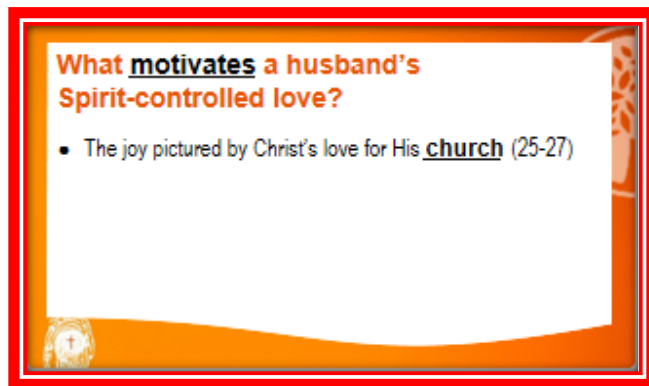
As I pondered this passage this week, I became more convinced that a Spirit-controlled love in marriage is motivated by joy... even though the word "joy" is not explicitly mentioned.

So follow along, and see if this makes sense. After husbands are command to love their wives in **verse 25**,

Paul gives two illustrations, both set off by the word “as” in the ESV.

The first illustration is found in **verses 25-27**, “as Christ loved the church.” The second is found in **verses 28-30**, “as their own bodies.” And I believe both of these illustrations aim to motivate the husband’s love with joy.

So first, a Holy Spirit-filled husband is motivated to love His wife by,



The joy pictured by Christ’s love for His church.

Look again at **verses 25-27** and notice that Paul uses the word “that” 3 different times. You might underline every time “that” appears in **verses 26 and 27**, because it explains what motivated Christ’s love for His church.

Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

That’s how Christ loved the church. He gave Himself. He died to self. The path of self-denial and sacrifice is the godly husband’s path.

But notice now the 3 goals of Christ’s love:

That He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of the water with the word,

So That He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,

That she might be holy and without blemish.

All three of these goals are one. Basically Christ loved His Bride the church so that she would become holy.

The word “sanctify” in **verse 26** is the verb form of the word “holy.” It means “to make holy.” The end of **verse 27** also says that *she might be holy and without blemish*.

Without blemish means blameless, or perfect. So Christ died to set the church apart from sin. Then Jesus gave His Spirit to keep the church holy through the cleansing ministry of His Word at work in their lives,¹³ all so that someday in the future, at His second coming, He might present the church to Himself in holy splendor, without any sin at all.

The glorious doctrines of justification, sanctification, and glorification at all present in **verses 25-27**. But we must

¹³ C.f. John 13:10; 15:3; 17:17

ask ... why is Paul using this illustration from salvation to motivate the husband's love?

After all, a husband is never the wife's spiritual Savior. Contrary to some misguided teaching in Christian circles... the husband is never the wife's high priest. The husband has no ability to sanctify his wife or make her holy in any way. So what's Paul's point here?

And I think Paul is aiming at the end result of Christ's sacrificial love. Joy! Jesus gave Himself up for the church so that He might save her...all so that in eternity future He could have a beautiful and holy bride! The joy of an eternally radiant bride motivated Jesus' loving sacrifice on our behalf.

Hebrews 12 says Jesus endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him!¹⁴ And there's no greater joy than holiness.

Loved ones... some of us have a wrong view of holiness. We wrongly believe that holiness is boring, or restrictive, or that anything that is holy is somber and formal.

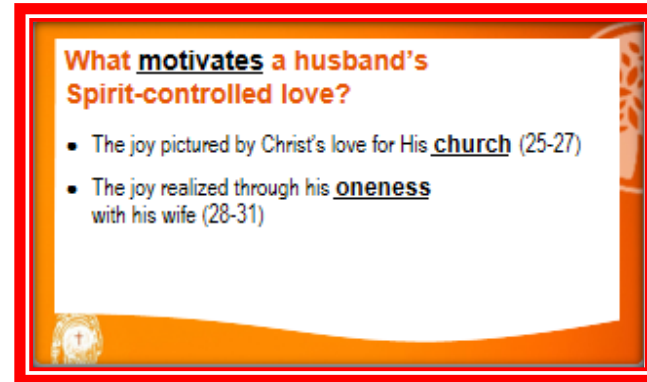
This could not be farther from reality! Holiness is the highest expression of joy! Can you see the joy in **verse 27**?

O husbands. The costly sacrifices of love for your wife should be motivated by the same joy that motivated Christ to die for His bride. It's the joy of living and serving another's eternal holiness. It's the joy of a truly happy

¹⁴ Hebrews 12:2

wife...for there's no happier and more beautiful wife than the glorified bride of Christ!

In the same way, **verse 28** says, a husband's love for his wife should be motivated by,

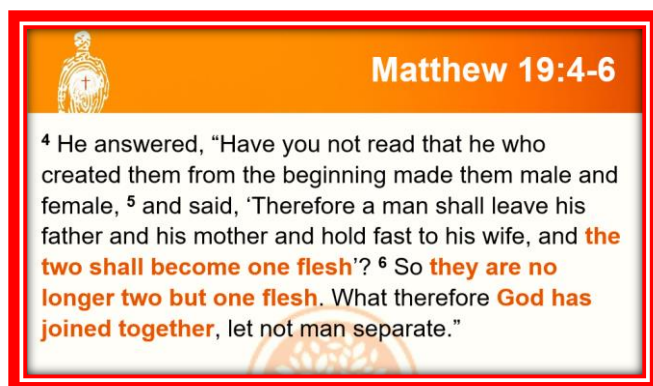


The joy realized through his oneness with his wife

Look at **verse 28**:

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.

Now take a deep breath. Do you remember what Jesus told the religious rulers who were trying to justify divorce in **Matthew chapter 19**?



In **Matthew 19:6**, Jesus said,

So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.

So pay attention. Marital oneness is something that God creates. It's not a sexual act between a man and a woman. Marital oneness is a mysterious union that God Himself joins together...so that now the husband and the wife are no longer two, but one flesh.

So then back in **Ephesians 5, verse 28** Paul can say,

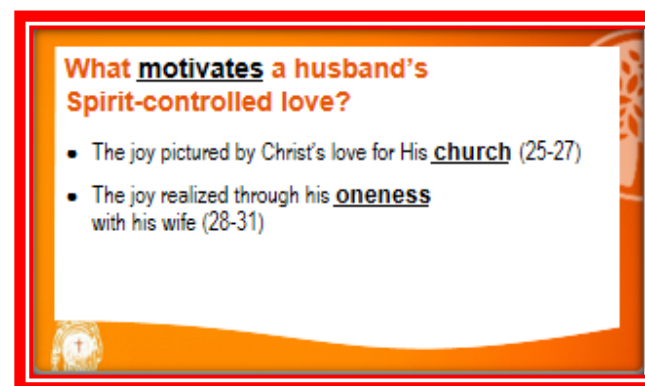
He who loves his wife loves himself.

Because God made them one when they got married.¹⁵

Therefore, Paul continues in **verse 29**,

¹⁵ I believe this happens at the very moment when God's delegated authority pronounces them to be husband and wife.

For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of His body.



So here's the argument:

When a husband pursues his wife's joy, it only multiplies his own joy.¹⁶ After all they are one flesh together! So her joy is also my joy!

Neglecting my wife, or trying to control my wife and rule over her, or harming my wife in any way only sabotages my own joy! For she is one with me, and I am one with her.

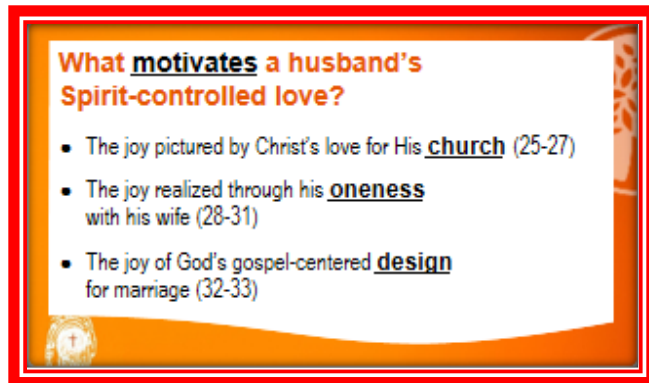
Therefore, Paul says in **verse 31**,

A man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This

¹⁶ I'm thankful to pastor John Piper for helping me see this truth in his excellent Look at the Book studies on this text.

mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

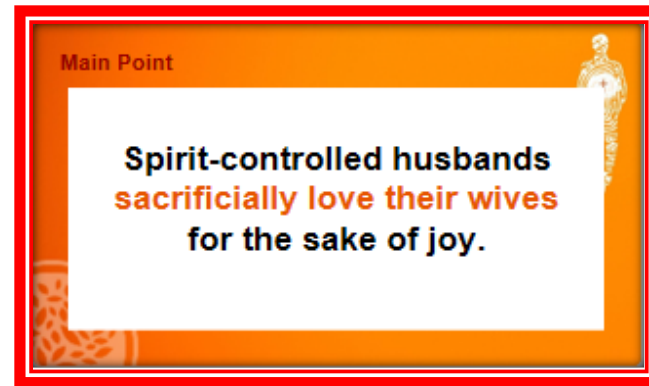
Translation?



The joy of God's gospel-centered design for marriage should motivate a husband's supernatural love for his wife.

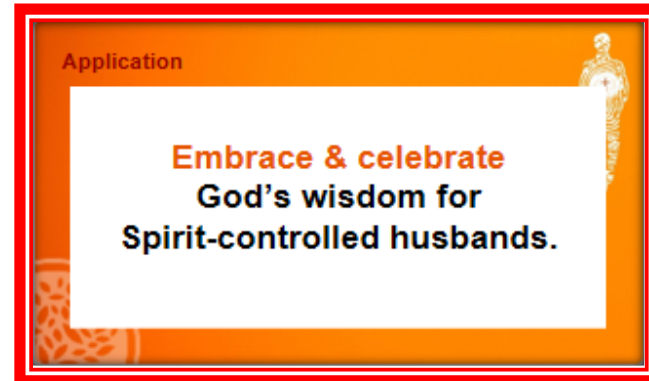
Because when he leaves and cleaves, God unites them both as one flesh. And God's ultimate purpose for marital oneness has always been to show the world a living picture of Christ's oneness with His redeemed.

So husband... for the joy that is set before you, lay down your own preferences, and your own demands, and your own selfishness for the sake of your wife's eternal joy! This is your God-given responsibility as her head.



Spirit-controlled husbands sacrificially love their wives for the sake of joy. Just like Christ's joy motivated him to die for the church, in the same way a husband's joy should motivate him to sacrificially love his wife for the sake of her greater joy.

So now let me quickly ask, what is your response to God's design for Spirit-controlled marriage?



Church, I want to urge each of us to embrace and celebrate God's wisdom for Spirit-controlled husbands.

If you are single, then press deeper into the joyful understanding of biblical masculinity. Ladies reject the poor role models of men who throw tantrums or taunt others, but instead celebrate young men who are self-controlled for the purposes of caring for others in love.

Wives, remember the role and responsibility that God has given to you in your marriage. Nagging deflates a husband's joy. So ask God's Spirit to help you spend yourself joyfully helping your husband please the Lord. Woo your husband towards God's joyful design with your prayerful walk more than your scornful talk.

Husbands... you must first submit to God's Holy Spirit before you will ever find joy in your self-denial in marriage. But please don't miss out on Christ-like joy.

Remember, the joy of Christ-likeness is the joy of eternal beauty and sinlessness. So brothers... pursue joy by voluntarily dying to self to meet your wife's needs.

Sometimes husbands like to think that we'd act like Cyrus' general, and quickly give our own life in exchange for saving our wife. And if we're ever called upon in this way, may God help us to do so.

But more often than not, we struggle with the daily sacrifices of getting up in the middle of the night to quiet the crying child, or drying the dishes, or picking up the house without being asked. For the joy of our wife, and the joy of our Gospel witness, yes and even for our own eternal joy... may we sacrificially give ourselves up for our wives.

And husbands... if we have allowed bitterness or unmet expectations to justify our failure to love, then let's repent. Let's confess our pride and selfishness, and ask God and our wives to forgive us. Let's humbly ask our wives and others to pray for us, that we might not miss out on God's joyful and beautiful design.

May all of us celebrate God's wisdom for husbands as we cherish Christ Himself as our eternal husband.



After all, God's design for Spirit-controlled husbands is modeled after Christ Himself. And there is no greater joy than to be in wedded bliss forever with Jesus.

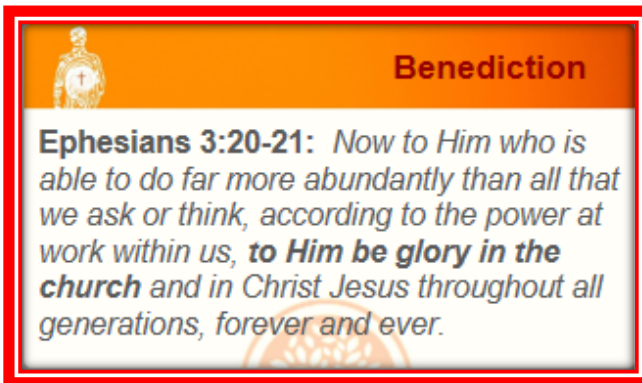
Let's pray.

<<Take My Life and Let It Be>>



<<Ukrainian Resettlement Exit Offering>>

<<Congregational Meeting today at 9:30am>>



Let's pray aloud our benediction from **Ephesians 3:20-21**.

Recommended Resources on Ephesians 5:25-33:

- Genesis 2:18-25; 3:16
- Malachi 2:14-16
- Matthew 19:1-12, 22:30
- Mark 8:34-35; 10:2-12
- John 15:12
- Romans 7:2-3
- 1 Corinthians 6:15-17; 11:2-16
- Ephesians 4:25; 5:2
- Colossians 3:18-19
- Titus 2:2, 6-7
- 1 Peter 3:7
- Hebrews 13:4
- Revelation 19:9, 21:2-4

- <https://mynCBC.org/media/christ-centered-marriage/>
- <https://mynCBC.org/media/evangelistic-wives/>
- <https://mynCBC.org/media/spirit-controlled-wives/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/christ-loved-himself-in-loving-the-church>
- <https://sethlewis.ie/2022/11/09/love-is-a-skill/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/how-great-is-the-mystery-of-marriage>

- The Exemplary Husband by Stuart Scott
- The Meaning of Marriage by Tim & Kathy Keller
- Marry Wisely, Marry Well, by Ernie Baker
- Designed for Joy, by Parnell & Strachan

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Review Ephesians 5:25. How can a husband love his wife with Christ's kind of love? What makes this supernatural love possible? (c.f. 5:1-2, 18)
2. Review Ephesians 5:26-27, noting the three purposes for Christ's sacrificial love that are marked by the word "that." How would you summarize the goal of Christ's sacrificial love for the church?
3. Review Ephesians 5:27. What is your understanding of holiness? Explain how true holiness is equivalent to joy and lasting satisfaction. Husbands – what are some practical ways you could serve your wife's holiness or lasting joy?
4. Review Ephesians 5:28-32. How does a husband's pursuit of his wife's joy maximize his own joy?
5. Read Matthew 19:4-6. Who makes a husband and wife one? According to Ephesians 5:32, what does this great mystery of marital oneness represent?
6. How has Ephesians 5 challenged or convicted your current understanding or practice of God-honoring marriage? What has been most helpful to you? How can we pray for each other to submit more to God's Spirit in this?

“Spirit-Controlled Husbands”
Ephesians 5:25-33 - *Pastor Kevin Sauder*

Main Point: **Spirit-controlled husbands sacrificially love their wives for the sake of joy.**

- What is God's design for Spirit-controlled _____?
 - To responsibly _____ himself (Prov 31:3-5)
 - To compassionately _____ for others (Prov 31:6-9)
 - To display strength through faith and _____ (1 Cor 16:13-14)

- What is Spirit-controlled _____ from husbands?
 - NOT: conditional, manipulative, or _____
 - IS: sacrificially living for the wife's eternal _____
 - IS: voluntarily dying to self to meet the wife's _____

- What _____ a husband's Spirit-controlled love?
 - The joy pictured by Christ's love for His _____ (25-27)
 - The joy realized through his _____ with his wife (28-31)
 - The joy of God's gospel-centered _____ for marriage (32-33)

Application: **Embrace and celebrate God's wisdom for Spirit-controlled husbands.**

Your responsibility by God's enabling is to consistently apply the divine principles and truth you've heard (Phil. 2:12-20, 1 Tim. 4:7-9, James 1:22-27).

As you meditate on this message, ask yourself:

- How does God want my beliefs/actions to change?
- How can I accomplish this change?
- What is the first step toward bringing about this change?

Recommended Resources on Ephesians 5:25-33:

- Genesis 2:18-25; 3:16
- Malachi 2:14-16
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