

The Unshakeable Love of a Godly Husband

What would life be like if Christ loved you only when it was convenient?

What kind of relationship would you have if He loved based on attraction?

We know what it is to be loved imperfectly.

If we're honest, we have loved someone else imperfectly.

Aren't you glad that God's love for you isn't conditional?

God loved us even while we rejected Him.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

In the midst of our rebellion God's love for us never wavered.

"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins. ... Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:1-6)

Paul never spoke of God's love in vague terms.

Moments later, in Ephesians 5, he instructed husbands to love their wives.

That love was to look exactly like Jesus' love.

There was nothing vague or vogue about God's love.

Those who read Paul's letter had absolute clarity about God's love.

And that love was transported into the home.

So Mothers, Happy Mother's Day.

I am going to remind your men how happiness can be a reality for you.

A Happy Mother's Day is totally dependent on the husband.

And it has absolutely nothing to do with how you feel.

It is not based on how we might "feel" about the one you love.

Paul describes love in 5 different but intertwined ways.

1. Sacrificial Love

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

Husbands, to truly love your wife is sacrifice.

Who here today would admit you treat your wife like a servant?

That thought is repulsive.

Yet some men look on their family from the perspective of dominance.

They feel their position is sovereign headship over the family.

That shows ignorance of the biblical pattern for marriage.

Selfish husbands cannot have a fulfilled marriage and family.

Ephesians 5:25 demands that a husband dies to himself.

In effect, he is called to crucify himself for the sake of his wife.

This isn't some petty sacrifice like helping with the dishes now and then.

It means the husband must devote his entire life for the good of his wife.

He quite literally is willing to die for the good of his wife.

Genuine love "does not seek its own" (1 Corinthians 13:5).

If the focus is getting, seeds of destruction are being sown.

Christ's love for the church was preoccupied with her welfare.

You can't love someone and be preoccupied with yourself.

Love your wife as Christ loved the church.

Be preoccupied with what you can do for her, not vice versa.
Christ loves us not for selfish gain.
Don't love your wife only when you think she deserves it.
Love is not given only when you feel like it.
Biblical love is a willful commitment to self-sacrifice.
God is a gracious Lord who delights to bestow His favor on us.
Find that delight by loving through sacrifice.

2. Protective Love

Christ's sacrifice for the church had one ultimate object in mind.
Christ safeguarded the purity of the Church.
"to sanctify and cleanse her ... that she would be holy and blameless"
(Ephesians 5:26-27)
The love of a godly man for his wife is not only sacrificial.
The love of a godly man also safeguards her purity.
The Church's purity was Jesus' primary concern.
The same is true in marriage.
It is every husband's solemn duty to guard his wife's purity.
No one would ever deliberately defile someone they really love.
Protective love never delights in something that compromises the
purity of the one loved.
The husband who loves his wife follows the pattern of Christ.
Christ's love for the church naturally *hates* anything that defiles her.
Husband, allow nothing and do nothing to dishonor her.
Allow nothing and do nothing to degrade or demean her.
Protect her against any threat to her virtue.
Don't deliberately provoke or exasperate her to anger.
We can do that easily enough without trying or intending to.
Be an example yourself of purity.
Whatever defiles you will ultimately defile her too.
Notice the primary way Christ maintains the purity of the church.
"having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word" (Ephesians 5:26).
A godly husband embraces the cleansing effect of the Word of God.
A happy mother's day begins in Scripture.
The godly husband knows there is protection in God's word.
It is duty and delight to put the Word of God at the centre of the home.
To be the protective head of the home you need to be devoted to the Word.

3. Caring Love

"Husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies" (Eph. 5:28)
Genuine love involves tender care.
We take care of our bodies constantly.
We can't ignore food, clothing, comfort, recreation, or rest.
We're attentive to our own bodies, concerned with their needs.
If we aren't they will start screaming at us.
Don't make your wife scream at you from neglect.
We are also aware of legitimate and healthy desires.
Pay attention to your wife's legitimate and healthy desires.
Caring love is what Paul commanded husbands to show their wives.
Scripture is not describing love only as an emotion.
This sort of love is active, voluntary, and dynamic.
This love is something we will do, not something we passively "feel."
A man is called to love his wife the way he loves his own body.
That isn't weird in marriage.
"the two ... become one flesh" (Ephesians 5:31).
That is the way God designed marriage.
Paul was actually quoting from Genesis 2:24.

That is where God first ordained marriage describing it as one flesh.
It applies universally and it has been true from the beginning.
Husband love your wife as you care for your own body.
You are, after all, one flesh.

4. Enduring Love

"A man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife."

(Ephesians 5:31)

"What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate" (Matthew 19:6)

God designed marriage to be a *permanent* union, unbroken and uncorrupted.

Christ's love for the church outlasts every trial.

His love for the church overcomes every obstacle.

The husband's love for his wife captures what Jesus pictured for marriage.

Every marriage is consummated in an earthly sense by a *physical* union.

But marriage also involves a *spiritual* union.

God is the one who joins husband and wife together.

Marriage is the union of two souls knitted together in every aspect of life.

Their emotions, intellects, personalities, desires and life goals are bonded together.

Ephesians 5:31 stresses the permanence of the marriage union.

"Be joined to" literally speaks of gluing something together.

It describes a permanent, unbreakable bond.

It isn't bondage, it is bonding.

It's a union glued together by lasting love.

It is a love that absolutely refuses to let go.

5. Christlike Love

"This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church." (Ephesians 5:32)

God's plan for the family begins with life-long monogamous marriage.

God's plan is marriage which is grounded in sacrificial love.

The husband's love for his wife is a sacred duty.

That love illustrates Christ.

Jesus is the heavenly Bridegroom, and the church is His bride (Revelation 19:7-8; 21:9).

Marriage cloaks that spiritual union in physical reality.

The godly husband must be Christ-like in his love for his wife.

The godly wife must be submissive to his headship.

That is the recipe for a Happy Mother's Day.

Anything less, and the relationship distorts God's will.

What higher motive could there be for a husband to love his wife?

By loving her as Christ loved the church, he honors Christ in the most direct and graphic way.

He becomes the embodiment of Christ's love to his own wife.

He is a living example to the rest of his family.

He is a conduit of blessing to his entire household.

He is a powerful testimony to a watching world.

He experiences and displays the Great Steadfast Love of the Lord.

He enables His wife to be the beautiful creature God intended.

Husbands, you are the key to a Happy Mother's Day and to happy days for mom.

Put yourself into God's hands and enjoy what He will do.

Love your wife as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for her.

This sermon is indebted to John MacArthur Copyright 2011, Grace to You. This article originally appeared April 24, 2015 at Grace to You.

Closing Song How Great Is the Love