

***Husbands, Love your Wives
as Christ Loved the Church***

Ephesians 5:22-33

November 2, 2008

Three Foundational Thoughts:

1. The main topic of Ephesians 5:22-6:9 is submission, submission is a vital part of worship, and therefore in the coming weeks we are still essentially talking about worship.
2. Jesus Christ is Lord over everything and everyone, and therefore all things are in fact submitted to him.
3. When God calls us to submit to one another or to lead for the good of others, he's not asking us to do something he himself has not done.

One More Thought:

4. In light of all I've just said, the calling of God upon Christian wives is to submit to their own husbands as to the Lord. All women are not being called to submit to all men, but every Christian wife is being called to submit to her own husband.

Ephesians 5:25

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

Four Words for Love:

1. ***Stergo***: general word for love;
2. ***Eros***: passionate love often, though not always, expressed by physical intimacy;
3. ***Philos***: to have fond affection for someone or to like them.
4. ***Agape***: to have fond affection for and unquestionable loyalty to someone.

Love & Feelings:

1. In our culture we're confused about love because we've put feelings at the center.
2. If feelings are not at the center of love, what is? Commitment? Self-Sacrifice?
3. At the heart of love is neither feelings nor commitment nor self-sacrifice but the love and worship of God.

The Conclusion for Husbands:

The calling on you is to love your wives because you first love Christ; it's to imitate your first love by sacrificing yourselves for your wives even as Christ sacrificed himself for the church.

Three Bits of Wisdom:

1. We must learn to draw near to God every day of our lives.
2. We must work with him to kill self-centeredness within us.
3. We must work with him to breed a God-centered, other-focused attitude within us.

For Next Week...

Please meditate on:

Ephesians 5:28-33

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Genesis 1-2