

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 10-12-14 PM NOTES
"SHOW YOURSELF A MAN"
EPHESIANS 5:23, 25-33
23 in Series, "The Wealth, Walk, and Warfare of a Christian"

1 Kings 2:1-2 (NIV) ¹When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. ²'I am about to go the way of all the earth,' he said. 'So be strong, show yourself a man'

"If ever there was a time we needed men to know their purpose and to be men again, it's now. Our world is filled with great uncertainty and instability and leaders are hard to find. We need men who aren't pre-occupied with their amusements or appearance, but instead are willing and able to take on manly challenges. But it is not enough for men to take up manly activities here and there. Men abound who can do manly stuff (like shave with a straight razor, build fires without matches, and deep fry turkeys) while still being disengaged where their leadership is needed most. Every day, men hide behind computer screens or pleasure pursuits instead of engaging. We need men with consistent character: integrity, courage, perseverance and a willingness to sacrifice and lead for the greater good. We need Men of God."
—Randy Stinson and Dan Dumas

"I am convinced that the primary cause of this national crisis is the feminization of the American male. When I say 'feminized' I am not talking about sexual preference. I'm trying to describe a misunderstanding of manhood that has produced a nation of 'sissified' men who abdicate their role as leaders, thus forcing women to fill the vacuum."
—Dr. Tony Evans

"Years ago manhood was an opportunity for achievement and now it is a problem to overcome."
—Garrison Keillor

I. The Position of the Husband Who Shows Himself a Man (v. 23)

1 Corinthians 11:3 (NIV) "Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."

Genesis 3:16b (HCSB) "Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will dominate you."

Genesis 4:7b (HCSB) "...sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Luke 22:25 (NKJV) "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.'"

Luke 22:26-27 (NKJV) ²⁶But not so *among* you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. ²⁷For who *is* greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? *Is* it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves."

Matthew 20:28 (NKJV) "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

II. The Pattern of the Husband Who Shows Himself to be a Man (vv. 25-31)

A. He Loves With a Sacrificial Love (v. 25)

"First he must choose his love, and then he must love his choice."

—Henry Smith

B. He Loves With a Sanctifying Love (vv. 26-27)

C. He Loves Her With a Satisfying Love (vv. 28-29)

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III. The Picture of the Husband Who Shows Himself a Man (vv. 32-33)

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“SHOW YOURSELF A MAN”
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23 in Series, “The Wealth, Walk, and Warfare of a Christian”

It should come as a surprise to no one that there is a crisis of genuine manhood in America. On the one extreme is the view that a real man controls women – especially his wife – with whatever means are necessary. This warped view sees even physical violence as a legitimate method of bringing a wife or girlfriend under control. On the other extreme is the “sissified” male who has more traditional feminine qualities than many women. With homosexuality being normalized in America, the trend is toward the sissified extreme. As with every issue, we must go to the Scriptures to find out what true manhood looks like. Once we see what the Scripture says, we must allow the Holy Spirit to conform us to that standard and teach that biblical view to our sons. One of my favorite lines in Scripture is the line that King David spoke to his son Solomon as David was dying and Solomon was about to become King. We read that line in **1 Kings 2:1-2 (NIV)** ¹ When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. ² ‘I am about to go the way of all the earth,’ he said. ‘So be strong, show yourself a man’. I love that last line! In this message, we are going to look at what a real man looks like in the marriage relationship. Next week we will see what a real man looks like as a father. There are other passages that show what a godly man looks like in other arenas of life. Parents, teach your boys how to show himself a man. A great resource to help you with that is the little book by Randy Stinson (who was our main speaker in March in the parenting conference and then preached on Sunday morning) and Dan Dumas entitled *A Biblical Guide to Manhood*. Let me give you a quote from the Introduction to the book. “If ever there was a time we needed men to know their purpose and to be men again, it’s now. Our world is filled with great uncertainty and instability and leaders are hard to find. We need men who aren’t pre-occupied with their amusements or appearance, but instead are willing and able to take on manly challenges. But it is not enough for men to take up manly activities here and there. Men abound who can do manly stuff (like shave with a straight razor, build fires without matches, and deep fry turkeys) while still being disengaged where their leadership is needed most. Every day, men hide behind computer screens or pleasure pursuits instead of engaging. We need men with consistent character: integrity, courage, perseverance and a willingness to sacrifice and lead for the greater good. We need Men of God” [Page 4]. I say “amen to that”.

Dr. Tony Evans is a straight shooter when it comes to the general failure of men to “show themselves a man”. He said: “I am convinced that the primary cause of this national crisis is the feminization of the American male. When I say ‘feminized’ I am not talking about sexual preference. I’m trying to describe a misunderstanding of manhood that has produced a nation of ‘sissified’ men who abdicate their role as leaders, thus forcing women to fill the vacuum.” [Brochure, “Portrait of a Real Man” P 1]. Parents of young boys, your boys are growing up in a feminized world and you must be proactive in training them to be godly men. Garrison Keillor summarized the genuine manhood crisis this way: “Years ago manhood was an opportunity for achievement and now it is a problem to overcome.”

In this message, we are going to focus on the role of men (husbands specifically) in the marriage relationship. Allow me to warn you that culture has gone so far from the Scriptures, that if you are not a student of the Scriptures, this message will seem rather strange. God’s standards, roles and commands do not change with changing times. Anywhere our views disagree with the Bible, we need to change our views.

Because these verses are so countercultural, I want to give you a biblical truth that you need to hear and apply before we see what God has to say to men. Everything about marriage that is taught in the Bible requires grace to obey. We are so programmed by the world and pulled by sin that the grace of God is not just helpful; it is essential to obey God’s guidelines for the family – especially for the husband.

I. The Position of the Husband Who Shows Himself a Man (V23)

We dealt with this verse in the last message, but we approached it primarily from the wife’s perspective. In this message we will see it from the husband’s perspective. This same truth is taught in **1 Corinthians 11:3 (NIV)** “Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man,

and the head of Christ is God.” It is always interesting the lengths that some go to try to convince others that this isn’t really saying what it seems to be saying. For instance, there is the argument that this is simply Paul reflecting the culture of that day. That makes no sense. Why would Paul command the husbands to do what they were already doing if it was true that this was the view of culture? Why would he reinforce what was already common practice? The fact is that the husband as the head was not common practice. The fact is that the family was in shambles at this time in the Roman Empire. Divorce and adultery was running rampant. Marriage was suffering a complete breakdown. In Ephesus they worshipped a female deity. Paul’s words seemed ludicrous to the culture of the time. What Paul was commanding here was as countercultural then if not more so than it is today. In Ephesus, the men didn’t want to be leaders and the women didn’t want to be led.

What does this headship under Christ look like for a Christian husband? Let’s look first at headship apart from Christ. When God was announcing the curse of sin upon man in Genesis, He described the way that the curse affected marriage in **Genesis 3:16b (HCSB)** “Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will dominate you.” Here is why supernatural grace is required in marriage. The curse that came because of sin sets the natural relationship between a husband and wife being the wife having desire for her husband and the husband desiring to dominate his wife. The Hebrew word translated “desire” speaks of the desire to control. The same Hebrew word is used in **Genesis 4:7b (HCSB)** “...sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must master it.” “Desire” here is the sense of desiring to master or control. Here is the prime reason that most marriages have so much conflict. The wife desires to control her husband. Since the husband is typically physically stronger than the wife, she uses manipulation to exercise the control she desires. The husband, being the stronger physically seeks to dominate her physically. Physical abuse in a marriage is without excuse, and some women do nothing to stir up his anger; they are just married to a cowardly bullies who are stronger than they are. But typically what is the physical abusers excuse? She knows how to push my buttons”. No amount of button pushing excuses physical abuse, but see that scenario in light of the curse of sin. Her desire is to control her husband and his desire is to dominate his wife. That’s got conflict written all over it! The question comes then, “Doesn’t giving the husband the role as head simply facilitate the husband’s desire to dominate his wife?” Remember that this headship is under Christ. A Christian man surrendered to Christ and filled with His Spirit approaches headship not with arrogant pride but with humility. Listen to what Jesus told His disciples in **Luke 22:25 (NKJV)** “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.'” A benefactor is one who receives the benefits. In other words, those who do not know the Lord see their authority as a way to get benefits for themselves – to get what they want at the expense of those they are head over. Look what Jesus says about His disciples in **Luke 22:26-27 (NKJV)** “²⁶ But not so *among* you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you [in authority], let him be as the younger, and he who governs [in authority] as he who serves. ²⁷ For who *is* greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? *Is* it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.” Matthew records the same thing and Jesus says in **Matthew 20:28 (NKJV)** “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” For a man in Christ, to be the head is to be the servant of those under your authority. The words “servant” and “head” or “leader” are not contradictory; in Christ they are complimentary. Just as Christ in love heads the church, the husband in love and servant hood heads the wife. The husband does lead, but his motive is always doing what is best for his wife. It is much easier to submit to that kind of authority or headship.

II. The Pattern of the Husband Who Shows Himself a Man (V25-31)

What does this servant headship look like?

A. He Loves with a Sacrificial Love (V25)

We don’t think of love as something that can be commanded, but the Bible does command it. The very Greek word translated love (“agape”) carries the idea of sacrificing for another. It is not primarily an emotion though it usually, eventually involves the emotions. It comes through a Spirit empowered choice. Emotions do not lead the way for love; emotions follow this kind of love (usually). The Puritan Henry Smith speaking of a man and his wife said, “First, he must choose his love, and then he must love his choice”. The reason I

said earlier that this love is “Spirit empowered” is that it goes against the flesh and natural tendencies of man. We were all born little self-centered demanding sinners. Apart from being born again and becoming new creations in Christ we grow up being big self-centered demanding sinners. At salvation, we are made new but we still have the self-centered programming of the old man in Adam (flesh). We now have the Spirit of Christ dwelling in us to enable us to walk in victory over the flesh and thus to love our wives in a special way, but also to have a life where every relationship is centered on this kind of love.

The description of this love a husband is responsible to lavish on his wife is really intimidating and can even become discouraging. The husband is to love his wife “as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her”. He left the splendor and worship he received in heaven and came to a fallen earth. He was rejected, abused, humiliated, and took our sins and drank the cup of God’s wrath for those sins because He loved His church (the redeemed who would become a part of His body because of His sacrifice). That’s how He loved His church that is called in the Scriptures “the Bride of Christ”. I remember one Hollywood couple who were divorcing and the man said that the problem was that he loved his wife too much. What an ignorant thing to say. Is it possible based on this God given responsibility to love your wife too much? No, because we could never love her more than Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her. This love is a choice to sacrificially put the needs of your wife above your own needs and certainly wants. It is a love that serves her. I emphasize over and over that this love is a choice; it is not some uncontrollable mysterious blend of the right two people. Have you ever heard someone justify a divorce by saying, “We were just not right for each other”? What does that mean? Likely it means that one or both are self-centered and the emotional attraction has waned or died out completely. Often (not always) it means that he / she has his /her eye on someone else who is “right” for him / her. Someone said, “Most all marriage problems flow out of the cesspool [sewage] of self-centeredness.” I would agree.

B. He Loves with a Sanctifying Love (V26-27)

The word “sanctify” is the same root as the word holy. The Lord desires and works in the lives of those in His church that they may be set apart and holy, not conformed to the world but transformed by the renewing of their mind. The husband ought to desire and do all possible to facilitate and encourage her holiness and purity. He should encourage her to be in the word so it can wash her and cleanse her. If there are young children in the home, he gives his time to care for the children while she has time with God in a daily quiet time. He lovingly protects her from things that the enemy might use to pull her down. He doesn’t expose her to or let her participate in anything that would bring impurity into her life. He doesn’t entice her to sin by initiating an argument about something he knows is sensitive to her. He doesn’t do any thing that would entice her to worry about his faithfulness to her. Her spiritual growth and maturity becomes his concern and he gives of himself and his time that she might grow in holiness. The husband is to live for the spiritual welfare of his wife. Remember, this is not controlling her; it is lovingly leading her.

C. He Loves Her with a Satisfying Love (V28-29)

When we have a need in our own human flesh, we try to meet it. The average man spends 240 hours a year showering and grooming and 540 hours feeding himself. When we get hungry, we look for something to eat. When we get sleepy, we want to take a nap or go to bed for the night. Only demented, mentally unbalanced people harm their own bodies (their own flesh). A husband is to love his wife by sacrificing to meet her genuine needs just as we do whatever is in our power to meet our own needs. In other words, the husband desires to be the willing channel through which his wife’s needs may be satisfied.

The word “nourishes” in verse 29 means to mature or feed. The husband is to be alert to whatever is needed for his wife’s spiritual growth and maturity. The word “cherishes” literally means to warm with body heat. It was used of a bird that sits on the nest. It is saying that the husband is to provide a warm and secure atmosphere for her that fosters her maturity. The husband is to provide for and protect his wife in both the physical and in the spiritual realm. Most husbands do a lot better in the physical realm than in the spiritual realm, but the spiritual is actually more important.

D. He Loves Her with a Supreme Love (V30-31)

Just as the church is Christ’s body and therefore Christ provides for His church, even so the husband and wife are one flesh and to care for ones wife is caring for one’s self. Above every earthly relationship is the relationship between husband and wife. Only our love for and relationship with the Lord is higher. This is

why the husband loves his wife with supreme love. It is supreme over parental love as we see in verse 31 (from Genesis 2:24). The word “leave” is intensive. We are to really leave. We are to honor and respect our parents and care for them as they age and are incapable of caring for themselves, but the love for our spouse takes precedence over parents. The word “joined” means to be glued or cemented together. This new relationship is held by a bond that is stronger than any other earthly bond. The result of this leaving and cleaving or joining, is that the two become one flesh. It is interesting that in creation God made two from the one as he took Eve from Adam’s side. In marriage the two become one. This oneness speaks primarily of the permanence and unity of marriage. This oneness is as we will see in a moment a picture of the oneness with Christ as we become His body.

III. The Picture of the Husband Who Shows Himself a Man (V32-33)

We covered this point in the last message, but I don’t believe we can say it too often. The picture is what the whole concept of marriage is all about. As I said in the last message, the relationship between Christ and His church is not a picture, a model of marriage; marriage is a picture, a model, an illustration of the love and commitment and covenant between Christ and His church – the body of Christ. Salvation is when we leave our old life of self righteousness and sin (repentance) and cleave to Christ alone, trusting only in Him. When that happens we are one with Him – members of His body, the church. It is marriage that pictures that. Marriage exists ultimately to display the covenant keeping love between Christ and His church. Every Christian married couple is a walking talking illustration to the world of our God and His covenant keeping love toward those who come to Him through Christ. It is in light of that truth that we must obey verse 33. Husbands, as you love your wife as yourself, you demonstrate the love of God. Wife, as you respect (“reverence”, KJV) your husband, you demonstrate the church, the saved in their relationship with the Father.