

1. Note the command: *“Husbands, love your wives.”*
 2. What is the standard of how much a husband is supposed to love his wife? *“Christ!”*
 3. Specifically *“just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,”*
 4. Christ’s giving Himself for the sake of the church is a sacrificial love.
 5. Thus husbands ought to love their wives in the same manner!
- f. Point 2: We need to have sacrificial love in our lives whether married or unmarried
- i. Characteristic 1: Sacrificial love means putting others first before one’s preferences
 1. Remember love *“does not seek its own”* (1 Corinthians 13:5a)
 2. That means it is not about your own pleasure and desire first.
 3. Negative Example: It ought not to be a husband get upset with his wife over a meal when he doesn’t get what he wanted.
 4. Example: If a husband were to serve his family food the husband would give the best and the larger portion of food for his wife and he has the bowl with less.
 - ii. Characteristic 2: Sacrificial love means we think honorably of others: *“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor”* (Romans 12:10)
 1. The first half tells us that we are to love one another: *“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love”*
 2. The second half of the verse tells us the manner we are to do that: *“give preference to one another in honor”* → Notice we are to think of one another with *“honor.”*
 3. Example: When a wife honors her husband she is willing to serve him and the family sacrificially.
 - iii. Characteristic 3: Sacrificial love means it is an enduring love.
 1. If we are sacrificially serving others sometimes people is not always easy.
 2. But remember love *“bears all things...endures all things.”* (1 Corinthians 13:7 first clause and last clause)
 3. We continue to serve even when it is not easy!
 4. Example: Serving the church prepared me to love my wife. As a single guy I use to pick up special needs and its not always easy. But that endurance developed character!
 - iv. Characteristic 4: Sacrificial love means forgiving others.
 1. If we are sacrificially serving others sometimes people can hurt us.
 2. But remember love *“does not take into account a wrong suffered”* (1 Corinthians 13:5b)
 3. That means forgiving them and not bringing up again and again a wrong by the other spouse.
 4. By the way the bitterness of storing a grudge in which you keep remember a wrong suffered will hinder you from sacrificially loving your spouse.
 5. Example: Think of how powerful a testimony that is for a Christian spouse who is married to a difficult person. Forgiving is a testimony of God’s working in the Christian through his or her sacrificial love.
 - v. How do you know you are not practicing sacrificial love?
 1. Characteristic 1: When you start bragging about how loving you are
 - a. Remember *“love does not brag”* (1 Corinthians 13:4b)
 - b. Negative Example: A spouse who loves to tell everyone how he or she is more loving compared to his or her spouse.
 2. Characteristic 2: When you start gossiping about your spouse

- a. Remember love “*does not rejoice in unrighteousness,*” (1 **Corinthians 13:6a**)
 - b. Negative Example: A spouse who gossip and speak badly about the other spouse. She might think she is sacrificially serving her husband and family but she does her act more out of self-pity and self-righteousness than out of true sacrificial love.
- g. Point 3: We need to learn how to cultivate sacrificial love
- i. Help 1: Meditate frequently on verses about Christ’s sacrificial love: “*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,*” (**Ephesians 5:25**)
 - 1. Remember this verse shows the connection of marriage’s sacrificial love and that of the work of Christ!
 - 2. The more we think and are consume by the truth that Christ died for us the more we become more sacrificial ourselves.
 - 3. Other verses to meditate on: **John 15:13, Romans 5:8, John 3:16.**
 - ii. Help 2: Meditate on truth that God first loved us: “*We love, because He first loved us.*” (1 **John 4:19**)
 - 1. The problem: We can grumble “Why is it that I’m always the first to have to sacrificially serve first?” or “Why is it that I’m always the first to ask for forgiveness, etc?”
 - 2. Yet consider this: Christ loved us first! Meditate on that!
 - iii. Help 3: Meditate on truth that God loved us sacrificially when we were enemies: “*For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*” (**Romans 5:10**)
 - 1. The problem: We can struggle with sacrificially loving someone when we don’t see them love us first or love us back at all in the same way.
 - 2. We see in this verse Christ’s sacrificial love mentioned: “*through the death of His Son*”
 - 3. His death was to reconcile us with God.
 - 4. Yet when did Christ die for sinners? “*while we were enemies!*”
 - 5. Meditate on this truth to move you to sacrificially love even if others don’t treat you well!
 - iv. What happen if you don’t have sacrificial love at all in your life? Sometimes if you don’t have any fruit of sacrificial love at all first check to see if you are saved: “*The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*” (1 **John 4:8**)→Turn to God and place your trust in Jesus!