

101 - Nourishes and Cherishes - Ephesians 5:28-30 - 2016-07-17

Call to Worship: Is 40:1-5

Scripture Reading: Gen 45:3-20

Sermon: "Nourishes and Cherishes" Ephesians 5:28-30

Benediction: Is 40:10-11

INTRODUCTION

Men, you have heard that the Great Man, the God Man, the Lord Jesus Christ is addressing you, and commanding you what you must do---that you must love.

You have heard whom He is commanding you to love---the dear woman whom God has given to you as your wife.

You have heard from Him what kind of love You are to have for your wife---the kind that gives to her for her good, rather than taking from her for your own good.

You have heard who you are to look to for the example of how to love like that---to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, to how He loved the church when it was unlovely, and gave Himself for her.

Last time we considered that a husband ought to love his wife as his own body, as his own flesh; that to love his wife is to love himself. Having looked at that in principle, today we consider it in the more specific terms that the apostle used:

Husband, you ought to love your own wife as you love your own body, and as Christ loves the church, in that you ought to nourish her and cherish her.

TEXT

Ephesians 5:28-31 So husbands ought to love their own 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 the Lord does the church. (30) For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. (31) "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH."

BODY

Husband, you ought to love your own wife as you love your own body, and as Christ loves the church, in that you ought to nourish her and cherish her.

- I. A Man Does Two Kinds of Things In Love For His Own Body: he nourishes it and cherishes it
 - A. The two considered together: he nourishes and cherishes: these two words form a unit, to describe in just two words all the caring that a person does for his own body; this two-word list sums up the two kinds of basic things we need to do for our bodies
 1. think what those two basic things are
 - a) we provide to our body what it needs to live
 - (1) water
 - (2) food
 - (3) (air, also, of course, but that is so automatic that we don't think about it much or need to do much about it)
 - b) we protect the body from having what it needs taken away from it, so that it will not die
 - (1) by clothing
 - (2) by shelter
 2. hear those two basic things described in the scriptures
 - a) Deuteronomy 10:18 He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him **food and clothing**.
 - b) 1 Timothy 6:6-10 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. (7) For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. (8) And having **food and clothing**, with these we shall be content. (9) But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. (10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
 - B. The two considered individually
 1. He nourishes his body
 - a) Greek word *ektrepho*
 - (1) it is used in the bible to mean something general, or something more specific within that general meaning
 - (a) generally, to raise up, as raising up children
 - (b) specifically within that general raising up of children, to feed them, to give them their food and water, to provide them what they need
 - (2) it has the connotation of being done gently, tenderly, as in dealing with small children
 - b) so, to provide his body with what it needs, especially its food and water

- c) note that although to some extent we supply to our body what feels good at the moment, we temper that with the consideration of what is for the body's long-term good
- 2. He cherishes his body; he cares for it
 - a) Greek word *thallo*
 - (1) literally "to warm"
 - (2) to brood, as a hen over her chicks
 - (3) to wrap up and hold close, as a mother does her baby
 - (4) here refers to all such things as keep the body from losing what is provided to it through its food
 - b) to be very careful that the body does not suffer loss (in two phases)
 - (1) to protect from suffering loss it in the first place
 - (a) you shelter the body in a house
 - (b) you cover it with clothing and blankets
 - (2) to comfort it if it suffers loss, so that it will not suffer more loss
 - (a) this would include such things as first aid or more advanced medical care
 - (b) medication to cure
 - (c) medication to relieve suffering
 - c) even more than the first term, this second one has the connotation of being done gently and tenderly

A Man Does Two Kinds of Things In Love For His Own Body: He Nourishes It and Cherishes It

- II. In Love, the Lord Nourishes and Cherishes the Church, Which Is His Own Body
 - A. He nourishes the church, giving it what it needs for eternal life
 - 1. He feeds it with Himself, the bread and water of life John 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.
 - 2. He feeds the church with the hearing of the Gospel. so that they may believe, which is what it means to have Christ as the bread of life
 - 3. He provides it with the Holy Spirit, rivers of living water John 7:37-39a On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. (38) He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (39) But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive
 - B. He cherishes the church, saving it from having its life taken away from it, so that it will not die
 - 1. He saved and is saving and will save the church
 - 2. He comforts the church all the way to the end

3. John 10:27-30 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (28) And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. (29) My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. (30) I and My Father are one."
- C. He tells us this by the figure of a shepherd, as in Psalm 23
 1. the shepherd makes sure that the sheep are not in want
 2. he takes them to green pastures and still waters
 3. he also makes sure, by his staff and by his sling, that no evil will befall them
 4. so Christ provides all the church needs for life and godliness, and keeps the church until the day of Christ
- D. He tells us this by the figure of Joseph
 1. despite being despised and rejected by His brothers at first
 2. he fed them in the famine
 3. and protected them in the land of Goshen
- E. He tells us this by the figure of Israel in the wilderness
 1. bread from heaven and water out of the rock
 - a) He is the bread from heaven
 - b) He is the rock out of which the water flowed
 2. destruction of Pharaoh's army
- F. The Lord Jesus provides all that the church needs for salvation
- G. Ellicott:
 1. He rears up His church from weak infancy to full maturity in heaven, and all the while cherishes it as a nurse cherisheth her children, carrying it in his bosom, comforting and cheering its childlike weakness

A Man Does Two Kinds of Things In Love For His Own Body: He Nourishes It and Cherishes It
In Love, the Lord Nourishes and Cherishes the Church, Which Is His Own Body

- III. The Husband Ought to Do Those Things in Love for His Wife, Who Is His Own Body
 - A. He ought to nourish and cherish his wife
 1. see that she is provided with what is good for her, while also seeing that she is protected from what is not good for her
 2. give her what is needed as to inner supply, and give her what is needed as to outward protection
 3. understand that this includes her children and others of her family, such as her aged parents if necessary
 4. consider the words of our Lord Jesus Luke 22:36-37 Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one. (37) For I say to you that this which is written must still be

accomplished in Me: 'AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH THE TRANSGRESSORS.' For the things concerning Me have an end."

- a) note that He teaches us to provide food, and money with which to buy what else is needed
 - b) then He also teaches us to arm ourselves against our being harmed, and those things being stolen from us
5. intellectually, also
- a) distilling for her the best of what he has learned and is learning, so she may know it
 - b) protecting her from false notions that may keep her from understanding things rightly
 - c) which is to be done gently, tenderly
6. morally, also
- a) to provide her what is needed
 - (1) instruction from the scriptures
 - (2) a good example set
 - b) to protect her from what would steal that away
 - (1) bad company
 - (2) imorality in media: books, movies, etc.
 - c) which is to be done gently, tenderly
7. spiritually, also
- a) Ferguson: A husband's care ought to extend itself, not only to nourish and cherish his wife in things temporal, and which concern her body only, but also in things spiritual, and which concern her soul
 - b) to provide her what, if believed, will eternal life for her
 - c) to protect her from what, if believed, will be loss to her
- B. He ought to nourish his wife: to provide what she needs
- 1. most basically food and water
 - a) including for her children
 - b) including for other members of her family who may need it
 - 2. also what she needs to educate the children
 - 3. note that although to some extent she is to be supplied with what feels good at the moment, we temper that with the consideration of what is for her long-term and overall good
 - 4. this would not rightly be understood that he should wait on her hand and foot;
 - a) she is to take what he provides and work hard with it for the good of the whole household
 - b) if he hands her the paycheck or the grocery money or the clothing money, and she spends it all on a few expensive things, he is not at fault for not providing for her needs

5. although if she needs to be waited on hand and foot, the husband ought to be willing to, and even glad to
 - a) when she has had a baby
 - b) when she is sick or if she gets hurt
 - c) when she gets old
- C. He ought to cherish his wife: see that she is protected, so
1. from physical danger by some disaster, like storm or shipwreck or car accident
 2. from violence by criminals
 3. from violence by the government
 - a) by submitting to it, so the sword does not come to your house unnecessarily
 - b) by providing for new government when necessary in extreme cases
 - (1) Texas Declaration of Independence: if the government becomes so perverted that instead of protecting the people's rights, the government itself steals from and murders the people; or if the government becomes so perverted that it will not keep the people safe from criminal violence, they have the right to throw off such government and form a new one; in extreme cases it becomes even an obligation to them for the sake of their children
 - (2) in the English civil war, and in the American and Texan wars for independence, many women and children suffered terribly and many died; therefore such an action as civil war or declaration of independence is not to be entered into except in the extreme, and when there is reasonable prospect of success
 4. from preventable or curable illness
 5. from preventable injury
 - a) by your negligence
 6. from your own passions
 - a) here is where temperance as to use of alcohol comes in
 - b) here is where it should be mentioned that use of force against the wife is not allowed in Christ's kingdom
 7. from her own passions
 - a) sinful, self-destructive tendencies
 - b) unbridled desire to help others
 - c) unbridled desire to have a good home
 8. from the wiles of the devil
 9. Pattison: His physical strength and manliness of intellect qualify him to provide for her support, and to surround her as a wall of defense. In

Christian countries, and in times of peace, this necessity is not so obvious as in savage warfare; but can never whole cease to be indispensable.

CONCLUSION

A Man Does Two Kinds of Things In Love For His Own Body: He Nourishes It and Cherishes It
In Love, the Lord Nourishes and Cherishes the Church, Which Is His Own Body
The Husband Ought to Do Those Things in Love for His Wife, Who Is His Own Body

Ephesians 5:25-29 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, (26) that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, (27) that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (28) So husbands ought to love their own 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 the Lord does the church.

nourishes and cherishes

Pattison:

His physical strength and manliness of intellect qualify him to provide for her support, and to surround her as a wall of defense. In Christian countries, and in times of peace, this necessity is not so obvious as in savage warfare; but can never whole cease to be indispensable.

Ellicott:

There are two parts of the natural care for our own bodies: first, to nourish, then to cherish

Barnes:

The two expressions denote that he provides food and raiment for the body. So he is to do for his wife.

Henry, Gill, Wesley:

that is, feeds and clothes it

Exodus 21:10 If he takes another wife, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, and her marriage rights.

Deuteronomy 10:18 He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing.

1 Timothy 6:8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

JRY:

see that she is provided with what is good for her
see that she is protect from what is not good for her

nourishes G1625 *ektrephe* NIV feeds HCSB provides for

JRY:

to give what is needed as to inner supply
note that although to some extent we supply to our body what feels good at the moment, we temper that with the consideration of what is for the body's long-term good

RWP:

old compound with perfective sense of ek (to nourish up to maturity and on)

Strong:

to rear up to maturity; that is (generally) to cherish or train; bring up, nourish

Bengel:

nourishes it within

Hodge:

properly "to nourish up," to train up by nurture, as a parent a child

JFB (as Poole, Wesley):

refers to food and internal sustenance

Barnes:

The sense here is, that he provides for it, and guards it from exposure and want.

cherishes G2282 *thalpo* NIV, HCSB cares for

JRY:

to give what is needed as to outward protection
and to comfort when there is fright or infury or illness

RWP:

primarily it means to warm, then to foster with tender care as here
1 Thessalonians 27

Strong:

akin to *thallo* (to warm); to brood; that is (figuratively) to foster; cherish

Bengel:

cherishes it without

Hodge (as Ellicott):

to warm, to cherish as a mother does an infant in her bosom

JFB (as Poole, Wesley):

refers to clothing and external fostering

Barnes:

may mean here that he defends it from cold by clothing

as the Lord the church [ESV, NIV “as Christ does the church”]

Poole:

with all things needful to salvation

Henry:

the Lord nourishes and cherishes the church, which he furnishes with all things that he sees needful or good for her, with whatever conduces to her everlasting happiness and welfare

Gill:

he nourishes them, as a father his child, and as an husband his wife
he feeds them with tht which is nourishing, and with himself the bread of life, with his covenant and promises, with the Gospel and the doctrines of it, and with his love and grace
and by his Spirit, ministers, word, and ordinances

he cherishes them, he grants them near and intimate communion with himself, than which nothing is more desirable by them, or joyful to them
nor is there anything that more revives and encourages faith, hope, and love
he clothes them suitable to their dignity and character, as his spouse and bride, and with which they are well contented, and in which they look exceeding comely in his sight

these phrases are expressive of the whole care Christ takes of his church, in furnishing her with everything pertaining to life and godliness, for her comfort and happiness in this world, and that to come

Ellicott:

He rears up His church from weak infancy to full maturity in heaven, and all the while cherishes it as a nurse cherisheth her children, carrying it in his bosom, comforting and cheering its childlike weakness

Barnes:

in like manner the Lord Jesus regards the church, and ministers to its spiritual necessities. But this should not be spiritualized too far. The general idea is all that we want - that Christ has a tender concern for the needs of the church, as a man has for his own body, and that the husband should show a similar regard for his wife.

Exodus 21:10-11 If he takes another wife, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, and her marriage rights. (11) And if he does not do these three for her, then she shall go out free, without paying money.

Prelude: 281 "For All the Saints"

Anna - Piano

Noah - Trumpet

Hymn 148 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Noah - Trumpet

Anna - Piano

Hymn 27 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Noah - Trumpet

Anna - Piano

Hymn 579 "Be Still, My Soul"

Noah - Trumpet

Anna - Piano

Closing Hymn "Before the Throne of God Above"

Noah - Sing

Anna - Piano