

- I. Introduction: Husbands love your wives in a Christlike way – give her TULIPS.
- II. Totally commit yourself to loving her. v. 25a
 - A. The world has cheapened the meaning of “love”. 2 Sam. 13:4,14-15
 - B. Jesus loved you when you were unworthy of His love. Eph. 2:1-3 Ro. 5:8,10
1 Jo. 4:10 John 3:16
 - C. Christlike love is a commitment to the good of the other person whether or not you think they deserve it. Ro. 2:4
 - D. Strive to reflect Jesus’ love for you. 1 Co. 13:4-7
 - E. Just as God (for Jesus’ sake) looks upon you as if you are perfect, treat her (for Jesus’ sake) as if she is perfect wife. Phil. 3:9
 - F. God has made you to initiate in love so that she can respond. v. 22 1 Jo. 4:19
 - G. Love her from the heart. Heb. 12:2
- III. Unconditionally sacrifice your own interests meet her needs. v. 25b
 - A. Jesus’ costly love is demonstrated on the cross. 5:2 Gal. 2:20 1 Pe. 1:19
 - B. Sacrifice your rights and interests for her good. Phil. 2:3-8
 - C. Authority is given by God to serve. John 13:3ff Matt. 20:20-28 Mark 10:45
 - D. Do more than your share.
 - E. Such love may be used by God to help her to respond with much greater love and respect towards you.
- IV. Limit your love to her alone. v. 25
 - A. Jesus has a special love for His bride, the church. v. 25a John 10:11
 - B. A husband must remain faithful to his wife. 2 Tim. 2:22 Job 31:1
 - 1. His body, including his eyes.
 - 2. His affections.
 - 3. His attention/devotion.
- V. Irresistibly draw her with a love which purifies. Eph. 5:26-27
 - A. Jesus powerfully drew you to Himself. Eph. 2:4-8 John 6:44,37
 - B. Jesus is committed to making you holy. Eph. 1:4 Ro. 8:29 Phil. 1:6 Titus 2:14

- C. This is how you are called to change your wife.
- D. Are you actively pursuing her spiritual growth?
- E. Do you have the courage to make biblical decisions which go against her preferences?
Gen. 3:6 16:2 Pr. 29:25

VI. Persevere in providing for her every need. Eph. 5:28-30

- A. The church is Jesus' beloved body. 5:23 3:6 4:12
- B. Love your wife as you love your own body. Gen. 2:23
- C. Jesus generously provides for His bride, the church. Eph. 1:7,9 2:5-6 3:6,12 4:11
- D. Nourish your wife – generously provide for her needs. Gen. 3:17ff 1 Tim. 5:8
Ex. 21:10 Titus 2:3ff 1 Co. 7:3-5 1 Tim. 2:15 5:14 Ex. 21:10
- E. Cherish her.
 1. Understand her. 1 Pet. 3:7
 2. Be patient and gentle with her. 1 Pet. 3:7 Col. 3:19
 3. Treat her with respect. Pr. 31:11,26 1 Pe. 3:7
 4. Be affectionate with her.
 5. Express appreciation to her. Pr. 31:28b-29
- F. If you mistreat her, your relationship with God will be affected. 1 Pet. 3:7b

VII. Steadfastly endure when marriage is difficult.

- A. What if your wife is hard to love? 1 Jo. 4:19 Ro. 2:4
- B. What if you don't have loving feelings towards your wife? Eph. 5:1-2,25 3:14-21
- C. What if your wife won't follow your leadership?

VIII. Concluding applications.

Discussion questions

1. What is the difference between what the world calls love and biblical love?
2. What does 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 teach us about love?
3. In what ways should the love of a husband resemble the love of Christ?
4. How can a husband's love purify his wife?
5. How should a husband show love to a wife who is hard to love?
6. What should a husband do if his wife won't follow his leadership?
Can he force her to obey him? Explain your answer.
7. What should a husband do if he doesn't feel love towards his wife?