

MPVI Husband Love Your Wife
By Greg Rangel

As we have seen throughout this series, there are only two marriage principles that are given in Scripture through which a married couple can have a very successful, lifelong and very enjoyable marriage. The first principle that we have already dealt with extensively has been for husbands to love their wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it. The second is for wives to submit unto their husbands as unto the Lord (Ephesians 5:22, 25). Without these two principles the marriage will not last.

As previously mentioned, whenever I speak to a couple who is experiencing marital problems, I will usually try to make them see that every complaint that has been given against each other, regardless of what it might be, falls into one of these two principles. Either the husband has failed to love his wife as Christ has loved the church and gave Himself for it, or the wife has failed to submit unto her husband as unto the Lord.

Much complaining against each other is not good at all for the marriage. It is like complaining about all the dead and dry leaves on a tree but doing nothing about what is causing the problem. Whenever the leaves are getting dried the problem most likely is at the root of the tree. And within a marriage, the root of the tree are the two principles that are found in Scripture. It does not matter how much you might try to change the leaves on a tree, if either of the two principles are missing, the marriage will not last.

No one can fulfill your marriage principle but you, husband, or you, wife. The husband cannot force or even try to force his wife to keep her principle, even though many husbands have tried, which has been one of the major problems for divorce. The husband must focus on his principle and his principle alone. And on the same token, wives cannot force their husbands to love them the way Christ loved the church. True love is not forced, but given willingly. It also does not come overnight, but it grows through much patience, prayer, dedication, faithfulness and humility.

The love that husbands must have for their wives is the true Agape love that is found in Scripture, which is best described through the words of Jesus. Jesus said in John 15:13, *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”* Husbands must love their wives so much that they will be willing to give their own life in exchange for their wife’s.

When the husband loves his wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it, the wife will automatically submit to her husband. She will see him as the head of the home and begin to respect him and honor him in everything.

Unfortunately many husbands believe that they need to bring their wives into submission by force. It is for that reason that they begin to beat up their wives and treat them like punching bags. And because she no longer wants to get mistreated, the wife does not have much of a choice but to forcefully submit to her husband. She then becomes like a prisoner in her own home. And until she chooses to do otherwise, she will continuously

get disrespected by her husband. Others get so quickly tired of being mistreated and disrespected that they have no choice but to file for divorce. And unfortunately the pain of divorce begins, not only for her, but also for her entire family and sometimes her friends.

I am sure that many husbands by now have perhaps been wondering why I have spend so much time in writing about how husbands must love their wives as Christ loved the church. Well, the answer is very simple and in three parts. The first is because many husbands tend to be jerks with their wives and they don't even realize it. And if they do realize it, they don't want to change because of their manly ego. The second is because if they don't observe their principle most likely their marriage will not last. And the third is because husbands must realize that they have been called by God to be the spiritual leader of their home, and if they fail to lead their family, their family will not grow up with morals and values.