

“Family Matters Part II - Husbands”

Col 3:19

Scripture Ref: Eph 5:25-37; 1 Peter 3:7; John 13:14-17; 1 Cor 13:4-7; 2 Cor 13:8

1. Last time we discussed how family’s are in crisis today:
2. We are now seeing the results of the breakdown of the family in our society - As goes the family – so goes the nation
 - a. Divorce
 - b. Couples living together – resulting in mixed families
 - c. 40% of children born out of wedlock
 - d. Teen suicide
 - e. Teen Homicide
3. Our question - Can we make a difference? YES! if “as the family goes, so goes the nation”, there is something we can do...
 - a. As Christians, we can do OUR PART by living in obedience to the Lord, to “go forth and multiply”, and raise our kids “in the fear and admonition of the Lord”
 - b. One of the greatest things we can do as Christians is the build healthy Christian marriages, healthy Christian kids, healthy Christian homes.
 - c. Raising up a generation that knows God, that loves God, that will obey God, and thus will change the world they live in for Christ!
 - d. We can make a difference – but it starts right here – in our own lives – living out our lives in accordance with God’s plan and God’s word
4. Today we look at the Christian husband – remember last session I told the men “don’t go home and say to your wives – you better submit”...
 - a. Like the guy that was reading the paper while his wife started diner, and she said “what would you like sweetie, tuna, chicken, beef??” – Taken aback be her sudden sweetness, he replied “beef would be nice”
 - i. To which she replied “I wasn’t talking to you, I was talking to the cat – your on your own”
 - b. Gents – last session God was not talking to YOU – He was talking to your wife!
 - c. If you want to hear from God - TODAY God IS talking to you!

Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

5. I believe that after his previous exhortation for wives to submit to their own husbands, Paul’s words here to husband’s safeguards his words to wives.

- a. IOW - Though wives are to submit to their husbands, God does not give permission for husbands to boss their wives around.
- b. Just the opposite, a husband must love his wife – but what is love?

What is Love??

- 6. TRUE LOVE – how many songs, plays, stories written about “true love”, but do we know what it is?
 - a. It has been romanticized as that feeling you get when you meet that perfect person – your heart flutters, your stomach knots up
 - b. And you just know – he/she is the one! (or it could be indigestion...)
 - c. The ancient Greeks called this Eros – the emotional and sensual aspect of a relationship
 - d. Many times we mistake Eros for TRUE LOVE
 - e. Now – romance is an integral and important part of the relationship.... Read through Song of Solomon as an example of eros...
 - f. But TRUE LOVE – or as the bible calls it – AGAPE LOVE – goes much deeper than eros – it is the love that is required to sustain a relationship through the ups and downs of life
 - g. Through the disappointments, the failures... Agape Love is the love for life that God intends for a marriage.

Agape Love

- 7. What is Agape Love? It is unconditional love
 - a. Agape love is expressed in Christ’s love for us, that we are to imitate

Eph 5:25-37

25 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.

- b. What does it look like in practice?

Agape Love Communicates

- 8. We spoke last time about how – for some reason – this is an issue for husbands.

- a. Never fails – when I counsel marriages – the one common complaint from wives “he doesn’t love me”
 - b. The guy might think “hey, I married you – I told you once I love you – if it changes, I’ll let you know”
 - c. BZZT – wrong answer!
9. Guys – listen – our wives need to know we love them – **ALL THE TIME**
- a. You need to tell them first thing in the morning – then during the day – then during the evening –
 - b. Then the last thing she should hear from you at night is “I love you”
10. Does not stop there...

Agape Love seeks to KNOW

- a. It is when a husband seeks to understand what his wife’s emotional needs are – and he seeks to meet those needs.

1 Peter 3:7

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

- b. How do you know?? You ASK. You LISTEN. You THINK!
 - c. When a husband seeks to uncover the deep river that runs in the heart of his wife, that area that is nearest and dearest to her...
 - d. That man will unlock the secret to her heart!
11. Does not stop there...

Agape Love Seeks to Serve

12. When Jesus decided to model His love to the disciples, He took off His towel and He washed their feet, which was a lowly task.
- a. For a husband to love his wife like Christ loves the church – that means he is willing to serve her – to set aside his pride and ego and position...
 - b. And serve her in ways that are **BELOW** the status of who he is.
13. WHY??? Well, why did Jesus take the lowly task of washing feet –

John 13:14-17

14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

- a. If the God of the universe would wash the nasty feet of the disciples, then say “I have given you an example”
 - b. Could that not be an example to us as husbands to be willing to wash dishes, or clean a bathroom, or whatever else might minister to our wives?
 - c. To me, taking out the trash is a better indicator of spiritual maturity than leading a bible study!
14. Same in the church – did you know that among our elders and board members – one serves as a greeter, another an usher, some have a children’s class during second service...
- a. That shows me that they have the right heart for a leader in the church – they are willing to serve in the small ways.
15. IOW – Love is WORK...

Apape Love is willing to WORK

16. Guys – it takes work to love your wife – you have to be willing to do things that are not convenient to you
- a. Things that will not benefit your work or your prestige or your hobby.
17. it takes work to understand your wife – this is not an easy task. WHY?
18. Reason #1 - In contrast to men – who are pretty simple - Women are complex creatures –
- a. the inner workings of their mind and emotions can be like a maze
 - b. and it will take time and focus to begin to unravel
19. Reason #2 – Women are protective, they fear being hurt or taken advantage of – mainly by YOU.
- a. You must work to build a level of trust and safety in her heart, so that she will open up to you
20. It takes work to prepare – we will prepare for many things – our hobby, work on our cars, our bikes, our golf game – do we prepare for being with our wives?

SUMMARY

- 21....is a love that loves without changing.
- a. Does not depend on how you feel that day (like identical twins married to the same woman, who did not know – it would drive her crazy!)
- 22.... is a love that gives without demanding or expecting re-payment.
- a. We don’t keep score of who did what when, or feel like one owes the other

- 23.... is love so great that it can be given to the unlovable or unappealing.
- a. There are times when all of us are unlovable – agape does not take this personal – it just keeps on loving
 - b. Paul said “do not be bitter toward them” – IOW sometimes your wife will make you mad. Here is a biblical exhortation: **GET THEE OVER IT!**
- 24.... is love that does not say “I told you so”
- a. When one fails, we don’t rub it in or make sure they know you were right...
 - b. It gives grace in all situations

1 Cor 13:4-7

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

25. This may sound difficult – it is! But the results are worth the effort.
- a. Secret of a joyful marriage - Guys – if you want a joyful, harmonious marriage, don’t wait for your wife to submit to you.
 - b. **YOU LEAD** – You obey God - You begin to love her – agape her -
26. A husband who loves his wife will find that she is able to submit to him without difficulty... because
- a. ...she knows that he seeks the very best for her
 - b. ...he desires to cover and protect her
 - c. ...he desires to server her (as Jesus modeled)
 - d. ... he is willing to sacrifice for her
 - e. ...he will love her regardless of how moody she was last week
 - f. ... he will love you regardless that she overdrew the checking account, or broke his favorite tool, or threw away his favorite magazine
 - g. **SHE is more important to him than all of those things!**
27. Will we do it perfect? **NO!** we are ‘being sanctified’

2 Cor 3:18

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- a. **But she will see where you are GOING –where your heart is!**
28. Guys, ladies – its your choice...

- a. Where there is sacrifice and submission, there will be happy home**
- b. Where there is selfishness and resistance, there will be conflict and division**
- c. What will we choose?**

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