

Series on marriage and the family – sermon 6 - 9/05/10 (am)

Role of the Husband in Marriage

Ephesians 5:25-33

*Theme: Husbands are to love their
wives as Christ loved the Church.*

The Controlling Principle and the Exhortation to Husbands

The controlling principle of 5:22-33 is 5:20.

Each family member has his/her own form of *submission*.

It is the particular responsibility of the husband to *continually love* his wife.

What kind of love is a husband to have for his wife?

In this context we must ask this question.

In the Greek language there are three words which may be translated *love*.

Each word carries a different meaning.

1. *Eros*

- to do with attraction
- carnal, selfish love
- the weakest form of love
- It is often the ***starting point*** in a relationship.
- It is often where love starts and ends today!

2. *Phileo*

- means to be fond of
- stronger than *eros*
- It fuses with *eros* to form a stronger love.

3. Agapao

- the highest form of love
- characterised by **self-sacrifice**
- It is governed by the desire to give, not the desire to have.

**Which word does the Apostle use in
Ephesians 5:25?**

Agapao

This is the kind of love that God has for the world (*cf.* John 3:16) and that Jesus has for the Church.

Paul is not discounting *eros* and *phileo*

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they are a recipe for a good marriage
on the ***natural level***

- but *agapao* is the highest form of
love.

It is the kind of love **God expects** a Christian husband to have for his wife.

A husband should love his wife as Christ loved the Church.

Only a Christian husband is in a position to exercise this kind of love,
cf. Galatians 5:22.

*Christian husband, are all three types
of love present in your love for your
wife?*

*Your love for your wife is a reflection of
your spirituality.*

Non-Christian husband, if you do not have the Spirit of God you cannot love with agapao love. You need to have the love of God in you before you can give it. You need to become a Christian. Are you feeling drawn to have faith in Jesus? That is God speaking to you! Realise this and gladly go to Him!

Conclusion – A Safeguard

Ephesians 5:25 is given to husbands to prevent the abuse of their position of headship.

When a husband loves his wife with *agapao* love it is a safeguard against him abusing his role of leadership in marriage.

If a husband loves his wife in this manner she will have no difficulty submitting to him!

When a husband loves his wife in this way it is a powerful witness.

A Christian husband who only partially fulfils this ideal preaches the Gospel without even opening his lips, for people can see in him the quality of love which took Jesus Christ to His cross.

(Stott, Ephesians)