

IDENTITY CRISIS
FINDING YOUR TRUE IDENTITY IN CHRIST
I AM LOVED
Ephesians 5:22-33

LESSON AIM-To educate believers on the love of Christ and how it should be reflected in our relationships.

LOVE="unconditional, selfless, irrevocable"

SCRIPTURES OF CHRIST LOVE-John 15:13, John 3:16, Rom 5:8, 1 John 4:9-10

FIVE WAYS CHRIST LOVES THE CHURCH

- **AS HEAD**-Jesus took the sin that was our fault and made it his responsibility. By dying in our place for our sins, Jesus took our punishment. The price for our sin was paid once and for all!
- **AS SAVIOR**-As savior, Jesus delivers us from countless miseries and tragedies that our sin would cause us and for others.
- **AS GIVER**-Jesus gave himself for his bride. In humility, he set aside his rights and life in service to his bride.
- **AS SANCTIFIER**-Jesus is patient with us, never gives up on us, and always seeks to make us more holy.
- **AS NOURISHER**-Jesus loves you and continues to reveal through his Word how he wants you to change and grow.

HOW CHRIST LOVE SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN MARRIAGE

THE WIFE vv. 22-24

- ✓ God calls wives to submit to their husbands.

SUBMISSION- "The Greek term for *submission* has military origins, emphasizing being under the authority of another. Thus, Paul says that wives should voluntarily place themselves under the authority of their husbands." A wife submits to her husband when she voluntarily "organizes" herself so she can complete her husband. Submission is essential for achieving oneness in marriage.

WHAT SUBMISSION IS NOT

- Inferiority
- Blind Obedience
- Allowing Verbal or Physical Abuse
- Being Used

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUBMISSION

- **ATTITUDE**-The wife must have the attitude of entrusting oneself to Christ. The focus of life must be on Jesus Christ. The ability to submit comes from Him.
- **RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR**-This rules out belittling, ungodly language, and disrespectful actions.
- **DEVELOPING GODLY CHARACTER**-Continued spiritual growth is needed to be a godly wife.
- **DOING WHAT'S RIGHT**- Submission should not extend to participating in conduct that is contrary to Scripture.

WHAT IF THE HUSBAND IS UNSAVED OR NOT WALKING WITH GOD?-1 PETER 3:1-3

THE HUSBAND vv. 25-33

- ✓ God calls husbands to love their wives.

GODLY HUSBAND'S LOVE- The word he used for "love" (*agapate*) means much more than sexual passion (*eros*), or even family affection (*philia*). It means seeking the highest good for another person. Husbands are to love their wives in the same way that Christ loves the church.

"Love" requires an attitude of unconditional acceptance of an imperfect person, not based on her performance, but on her intrinsic worth as God's gift to her husband.

FOUR QUALITIES OF A GODLY HUSBAND'S LOVE

SACRIFICIAL LOVE v. 25-The world's love is object-oriented (physical attractiveness, wit, prestige etc). A husband is not commanded to love his wife because of what she is or is not. He is commanded to love her because it is God's will for him to love her.

PURIFYING LOVE vv. 26-27-For husbands to love their wives as Christ loves His church is to love them with a purifying love. Divine love does not simply condemn wrong in those loved but seeks to cleanse them from it.

CARING LOVE vv. 28-30- The truth that no normal person "ever hated his own body (flesh)" is clear, because everyone who is of sound mind maintains his physical body. The obvious implication is that husbands should, like Christ, care for their wives—since the wife is a "member" of his own body. They need to feel wanted, to have their husbands acknowledge their equality, to feel secure, and to feel fulfilled.

"Nourishing" involves providing security.

"Cherishing" involves protecting by watching out for and caring for.

UNBREAKABLE LOVE v. 31-For a husband to love his wife as Christ loves His church he must love her with an unbreakable love.

LEAVE-Husbands and wives are to leave their parents.

CLEAVE-Literally it means to be glued or cemented together.