

Ephesians 5:25-28 Leadership Through Love

The Husband's Role

Transition:

The husband is called to lead his wife with sacrificial love, modeling Christ's love for the church. When Ephesians was originally scribed, it was written in Greek, and the Greek language had eight different words for love: Agape (unconditional), Eros (romantic), Philia (friendship), Storge (familial), Ludus (playful), Pragma (practical), Philautia (self), and Mania (obsessive). It wasn't a mistake that God, through the Apostle Paul, used the word ἀγαπάτε, or Agape in regards to a husband's love for his wife. Agape, or unconditional love, is just that... *UNCONDITIONAL!* No strings, no contractual obligations, no excuses! God calls us to love one another in this way, Unconditionally.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why would God need a command for a husband to love his wife unconditionally? What might be some things standing in the way of fulfilling this command?
2. Is it possible to experience Agape love without God's help? Why or why not?

Fundamental:

Marriage is a sacred and divine bond between a husband and wife and there is literally nothing like it on Earth. The bonds of marriage transcend all other earthly bonds, even parental ones. Old and New Testament alike demonstrate how “a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will be one flesh” (Gen 2:24, Mat 19:5, Mar 10:8, Eph 5:31). For a husband to truly love his wife, as Christ loves the Church, cleansing her and presenting her blameless and holy, he must sacrifice just as Christ did. What a husband is called to sacrifice, daily, is: pride, ego, selfish desires, and to lay all of these things on the alter without hesitation or reservation, even when Agape appears unreturned by the wife (Pro 10:12 & 17:19, Col 3:19). Husbands do this in reverent obedience to Christ (Pro 3:5-6).

Homework/Challenge:

1. Husbands- search your heart for a place you are lacking grace in your marriage. Privately, note it and pray over it, then commit to implementing it.
2. Wives – write a note to your husband, thanking them for the leadership they provide.
3. Read Ephesians 6 for next time

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help me to understand and demonstrate your unyielding and undying love. Equip me to be son/daughter that you have always intended for me to be and soften my heart so I may grow closer to you! – Amen.