

Relational Renovation

Beauty out of Brokenness (Isaiah 61:1-3; Eph. 5:21-33)

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, March 8th

We've been examining the various roles in our Marriage relationships.

God's Role: Designer (*Gen 2:18; Mal. 2:15*); Developer (*Ro. 8:28,29*); Defender (*Col. 1:16,17*)

Wife's Role: Companion (*Mal. 2:15*) involves her affections, actions & attitude. (*Titus 2:4,5*)

This morning we're going to shift our focus to the Role Of The Husband:

"Husbands, Love your wives as Christ loves the church. . ." Eph. 5:25

How does Jesus Love the Church?

1. UNCONDITIONALLY: *"as Christ loved the church"* (Eph. 5:25-32)

A. "Love" here is agapa'ō (Not "philos" as is used in Titus 2:5)

- 1) Translated love 135X; and Beloved 7X From agan: "much" or "Greatly"
- 2) This goes beyond "affection" and includes a deep "Dedication".
- 3) It's the root word for agape meaning: "benevolence or charity."
 - a) It's an act of the will, not just the emotions.
 - b) It's independent of behavior. (The very meaning and nature of Charity!)

2. SACRIFICIALLY: *"and gave himself for it..."* Vs 25

Gave: Paradid'ōmi: surrender, yield, transmit

A. Sacrificial love involves:

- 1) Surrendering our "rights" without sacrificing our Responsibilities.
- 2) Yielding our Will to God thereby receiving His Grace. (2 Cor. 12:9; James 4:6,7)
- 3) Transmitting God's love and Grace to our wives. (Col. 3:19; 1 Peter 3:7; 4:10)

3. INTELLIGENTLY. Eph. 5:29 *"nourish and cherish"*

A. Provide the right (safe) environment to encourage Growth & Fruit! Vs 29

- 1) Nourish (ektreph'o) to bring to maturity, train.
- 2) Cherish (thal'po) warm so as to foster growth

The Goal is to encourage Growth! (Jn 15:16; Eph. 6:4)

1 Pt. 3:7 *"dwell with your wives according to Knowledge* (Gnōsis: knowledge, understanding)
Giving honor unto them (Timē': value, esteem, precious) *as unto the weaker* (vulnerable)
vessel, being heirs together of the Grace of life."

4. INTENTIONALLY (purposefully) Eph. 5:26 *"that he might sanctify and cleanse it"*

A. The Problem: We all come into marriage with "Spots and wrinkles" vs 27

- 1) We work hard (before marriage) to cover or hide our selfish stains.
- 2) Marriage has a way of exposing them.

B. The Solution: Not to selfishly condemn but to "sanctify and cleanse" vs 26

- 1) Sanctify (hagiaz'ō) To purify, make holy.
- 2) Cleanse (kathariz'ō) to cleanse and purge.

C. The Process. *“with the washing ... by the word” vs 26*

➤ This is a **mutual** process. Eph. 5:21 *“Submitting yourselves one to another In the fear of God!”*

➤ This is a **messy** process involving:

1) A **Humbling** revelation. 1 Jn. 1:5,6 *“God is light, in him is no darkness ... If we say we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, WE LIE”*

2) **Loving** Confrontation. Eph. 4:15 *“speaking the truth in love, We may grow up into Him”*

a) Agape love isn't blind to our faults, it's bound to helping us with our faults.

b) Light exposes (1 Jn 1:5), not to shame us, but to facilitate cleansing.(1 Jn 1:6,7)

God loves us as we are, But He loves us too much to leave us as we are! (2 Cor 3:18)

3) **Genuine** Confession. 1 John 1:8-9; Pr 28:13 *“He that covers his sins shall not prosper; (ṣālah: move forward) What does confession move us toward?”*

4) **Cleansing** Restoration. 1 Jn 1:9 *“he is faithful and just to forgive us, (Aphiemi: to send it {our sin} away (see Ps. 103:12) And cleanse us “*

Eph. 5:25-26 *“Husbands love your wives...”*

(Unconditionally, Sacrificially, Intelligently, and Intentionally)

Conclusion: What's the Point of such love?

Eph. 5:27 *“That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle...; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”*

Vs 28 *“So ought men to love their wives!”*

This is a reference to Rev. 19:7 when the church (the bride) will be presented to Christ. *“Rejoice, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.” Prepared! 1 Jn. 2:28-3:3*



Application:

God wants to use our spouses to help us prepare for that day when

“We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.” (2 Cor 5:10)

The husbands are to lovingly lead their families. Heb. 13:17 says we're to:

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, As they that must give an account!”

Genuinely loving your wives is the best thing you can do for yourself! (Eph. 5:27,28)

Investing in your marriage is an investment in yourself. (She's part of you!)

To neglect your wife is to neglect your own best interests.

In which area does your love life need some renovation?

1. Unconditionally “as Christ Loved”

2. Sacrificially “gave himself for it.”

3. Intelligently. “according to knowledge”

4. Intentionally “sanctify and cleanse”

Why not ask your wife for her perspective and help?

Why not ask God for His?

James 4:5-8 *“He given more grace... God resists the proud, but gives Grace to the humble...”*

Conclusion: In Decision, Joni Eareckson Tada writes:

Honesty is always the best policy, but especially when you're surrounded by a crowd of women in a restroom during a break at a Christian women's conference. One woman, putting on lipstick, said, "Oh, Joni, you always look so together, so happy in your wheelchair. I wish that I had your joy!" Several women around her nodded. "How do you do it?" she asked as she capped her lipstick.

"I don't do it," I said. "In fact, may I tell you honestly how I woke up this morning?"

"This is an average day," I breathed deeply. "After my husband, Ken, leaves for work at 6:00 A.M., I'm alone until I hear the front door open at 7:00 A.M. That's when a friend arrives to get me up.

"While I listen to her make coffee, I pray, 'Oh, Lord, my friend will soon give me a bath, get me dressed, sit me up in my chair, brush my hair and teeth, and send me out the door. I don't have the strength to face this routine one more time. I have no resources. I don't have a smile to take into the day. But you do. May I have yours? God, I need you desperately.'"

"So, what happens when your friend comes through the bedroom door?" one of them asked.

"I turn my head toward her and give her a smile sent straight from heaven. It's not mine. It's God's. And so," I said, gesturing to my paralyzed legs, "whatever joy you see today was hard won this morning."

I have learned that the weaker we are, the more we need to lean on God; and the more we lean on God, the stronger we discover him to be.

by Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.
I love thee to the level of everyday's
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.
I love thee with a passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints, --- I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life! --- and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.