

**Husbands LOVE Your Wives**

Ephesians 5:25-30
Pastor Scott Williams

Introduction: In this passage, *love* is used five times in order to express the husband's overarching duty in his role as the head of his wife. All Christians have the duty to love, having been first loved by Christ, but the husband has a unique responsibility to be an instrument of sacrificial care to his wife. This passage leaves each husband with the question: "How can I love my wife as Christ does, so that she becomes more like Him?"

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1. The defining characteristic of a husband's leadership in marriage is love. Describe some common misconceptions our culture gives in regard to love.
2. What are some practical ways a husband can lovingly sacrifice himself in order to help his wife grow as a Christian? In what ways will helping her grow cause him to suffer loss?
3. In verse 26, the cleansing power of the "word" is used as another way to describe the power of the gospel. In what ways can a husband bring the gospel to bear in the everyday circumstances, conflicts, disappointments, and even the joys of life?
4. Take some time to describe what it looks like for a husband to "nourish and cherish" his wife as he would his own body.
5. How would you encourage a man who is struggling with his role as the head of his wife, and who may feel overwhelmed with his responsibility to nurture and care for her spiritual life?
6. Husbands ask yourselves this: "What do I need to do right now to love my wife in a Christ-like way so that she becomes more like Him?"
7. Wives ask yourselves this: "How can I lovingly encourage my husband in his role as a loving leader that won't come across to him as demanding or critical?"