

Marriage: "I Love You"

Text: Ephesians 5:22-33

Marriage — Christ and the Church (cf. Col 3:18,19)

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Introduction:

1. Someone said, "Love is a blind." To which someone else replied, "Yes, but marriage is an eye opener."
2. We want to have good marriages.
3. We want to approach our marriages with our eyes wide open.
4. Socrates: *"By all means marry; if you get a good wife, twice blessed you will be; if you get a bad wife, you will become a philosopher."*
5. Jesus is the foundation upon which marriage should be built.
6. And the basis of that marriage must be love.
7. Not social status, economic status, rebellion at home, loneliness, nor pregnancy.
8. Love, whether used of God or man, *is an earnest and anxious desire for and an active and beneficent interest in the well-being of another.* (from International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)
9. There are 4 kinds of love that must permeate our marriages.
 - a) Storge,
 - b) Eros,
 - c) Phileo,
 - d) Agape.

I. STORGE (FAMILY LOVE).

A. Being a devoted spouse (Results in my family is of vital importance to me).

1. Belonging (Gen 2:24).
2. Oneness (Gen 2:24).
3. Loyalty.
4. Trust.
5. Support: *"Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how*

can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken” (Eccl 4:9-12).

6. Familiarity Malachi 2:13-15 *“Yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant.”*
- B. Results in one being a dedicated parent (Proverbs 22:6; 1Timothy 5:8 *“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever”).*
- C. Results in being a delightful partner (Proverbs 31:10 *Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.*)

II. EROS (SENSUAL LOVE). One flesh Genesis 2:24-25

- A. An exclusive love (Is initially the result of physical attraction).
 1. **Private** (Genesis 24:67) Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.
 2. **Personal** (Genesis 4:1) *Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."*
 3. **Pure** (Hebrews 13:4) *Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*
- B. An expressive love (1 Corinthians 7:3-5) *“Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”*
- C. An emotional love (Eph 5:22, 25).

III. PHILEO (FRIENDSHIP LOVE).

- A. Companionship (Results in liking one another).
 1. Love of best friends (1 Samuel 18:1 The soul of Jonathon was knit to the soul of David and Jonathon loved him as his own soul)
 2. John 16:27 *“The Father Himself loves you because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from God.”*
 - a. We spend time together.
 - b. We have fun together.
 - c. We share activities and interests.
 - d. We know and like each other.
 - e. We talk things over.
 - f. We confide in each other.
 - g. We call on each other for help.
 - h. We count on each other's loyalty.
- B. We strive to communicate.
 1. Conversation is not always a critique of one another.
 2. Promote not provoke.
 3. Positive not pessimist.
 4. Agreeable not argumentative (Eph 4:25-32).

C. Cooperative

- 1) Acts 18:1-3, 26 Aquila and Priscilla
- 2) 1 Peter 3:7 The husband/wife relationship can help or hinder one's prayer life.

IV. AGAPE (SACRIFICIAL LOVE).

A. Sacrificial love (Motivates me to want to be good to you).

1. Will (John 3:16).
2. Emotions (Matthew 22:37-39; Mark 12:30) heart, soul, mind and strength
3. Includes: Action, Involvement, Unconditional love, Permanent commitment, Consistency of behavior.

B. Selfless love (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

1. Patient Love suffers Long
2. Kind Love is kind
3. Generous Love does not envy
4. Humble Love does not parade itself, is not puffed up
5. Courteous Love does not behave rudely
6. Unselfish Love does not seek its own
7. Guileless Love thinks no evil
8. Sincere Love rejoices in truth.

C. Saving love.

1. It saves marriages, keeps them together when they would otherwise fail (Titus 2:4 *that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children*).
2. It saves souls (1 Peter 3:1-2) *Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.*

Conclusion:

- A. There is no other relationship like marriage.
- B. One's spouse should be his closest kin & best friend; the receiver of his devotion and lover of his life.