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BCDASoCal Fall Conference Weekend 2 Hour 8

### **Husbands Who Are Like Christ (Biblical Manhood) <sup>1</sup>**

“At the heart of mature masculinity is a sense of benevolent responsibility to lead, provide for and protect women in ways appropriate to a man’s differing relationships.” (John Piper – Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, pg. 36)

#### **A. A Christ-like husband is a LOVER**

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her” (Eph. 5:25ff)

##### 1. Love Defined

a) Popular views

b) Biblical view

##### 2. Love Described

a) As Christ loved the church

(1) In principle:

(a) Initiatory

“We love, because He first loved us.” *1 John 4:19*

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<sup>1</sup> Special thanks to Dr. Stuart Scott of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

(b) Sacrificial

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her” *Eph. 5:25*

(c) Humble

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interest but also for the interests of others.” *Phil. 2:3-4*

(d) Volitional

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.” *John 15:16*

(e) Contra-conditional

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” *Rom. 5:8*

(f) Eternal and Committed

“Nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” *Rom. 8:39*

(g) Forgiving

“Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.” *Col. 3:13*

(h) Purifying and Constructive  
“That He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.” *Eph. 5:26-27*

(i) Practical  
“Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.” *1 John 3:18*

(2) In actual practice: Christ loved us in ways we can understand

(a) Telling her (verbal & non-verbal)

(b) Appreciating her

i. Praising her generously

ii. For her character qualities as well as for what you receive from her

(c) Making time for her—requires scheduling

(d) Communicating

i. Listening to her to hear what she says

ii. Not assuming that she can read your mind

(e) Sharing

i. Share every area of your life with her

ii. Treat her as a complete partner

(f) Providing for her (*Eph. 5:29; 1 Tim. 5:8*)

- (g) Promoting her growth and development
- (h) Treating her as priority—Your love for her should supersede all other loves in your life (except love for God)
- (i) Initiating love—You don't wait, but take the lead  
“When there is not enough love in the marriage, one place for a husband to look—in the mirror.” – Wayne Mack
- (j) As you love yourself  
“So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church.” *Eph. 5:28-29*
- (k) Includes cherishing and nourishing

**B. A Christ-like husband is a LEARNER**

“You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.” *1 Pet. 3:7*

1. The Command—Our culture says you can't understand a woman. Yet God says not only that you can, but that you must.
  - a) Takes time—If God says to do it, you have the time; you must prioritize it
  - b) Takes effort
    - (1) Study godly women in the Bible

(2) Study your wife continuously

2. The Result

3. The Effect—Your wife's problem is your problem. If it's important to her it must be to you as well.

**C. A Christ-like husband is a SERVANT-LEADER**

1. What Godly Leadership is Not

a) A dictatorship—Matt.20:25 – Pagans exercise dominion and want to control

(Mark 10:45)

(1) He doesn't demand submission.

(2) His home is not his castle

(3) He doesn't expect his wife to serve him

(4) He doesn't force his wife to accept his opinion or preference

b) Making all the decisions

(1) Not enough time to make all of them

(2) Not his responsibility to make them alone—He's the team leader

(3) He needs her insights

(4) She will be his best counselor

(5) He will listen to his wife but check out what she says with the Word of God.

c) Following your wife

(1) 1 Cor. 11:3, 7-9—“But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of woman, and God is the head of Christ. For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; for indeed man was not created for the woman’s sake, but woman for the man’s sake.”

(2) Eph. 5:23—God did not intend for the husband to follow his wife’s lead, but vice-versa

2. What Godly Leadership Is

“Biblical headship is a divine calling of a husband to take primary responsibility for Christ-like servant leadership, protection, and provision in the home.”<sup>2</sup>

a) Christ’s example

(1) Husbands should want their wives to be excited about their plans.

(2) He doesn’t drive her (“Cowboy”), but leaders her (“Shepherd”).  
“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”  
*John 10:27*

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<sup>2</sup> John Piper, “A Vision of Biblical Complementarity: Manhood and Womanhood Defined According to the Bible,” in *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism*, eds. John Piper and Wayne Grudem (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1991), 52-53.

(3) Phil. 2:5-8

(4) John 4:34;6:38; 1 Cor. 11:3

(5) Luke 22:26

(6) John 13:5ff

b) Practically

(1) Other-oriented = his concern is for her needs and desires

(2) Goal-oriented = he knows where he is leading his wife and family

(3) Sets an example of control—Phil. 4:9; Prov. 23:36

(4) Solves problems biblically = solution-oriented

(5) Instructs not as her father but as a team leader

(6) Motivates—helps her grow in her walk with the Lord and in her God-given responsibilities

(7) Coaching—encouraging her as he comes alongside of her

(8) Managing—1 Tim. 3:4,5,12—sees his wife as his team mate

(9) Pleasantness—Eccles. 9:9—He lives joyfully with his wife, and he is fun to live with and have around

Recommended Resources:

- The Exemplary Husband – Stuart Scott
  
- The Complete Husband – Lou Priolo
  
- Rediscovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood – John Piper and Wayne Grudem
  
- A Man After God’s Own Heart – Jim George
  
- Disciplines of a Godly Man – R. Kent Hughes
  
- Homework Manual for Biblical Living – Wayne Mack
  
- Strengthening Your Marriage – Wayne Mack
  
- Your Family God’s Way – Wayne Mack