

God's Plan for Oneness in Marriage

Ephesians 5:28-33

- I. Since the two become one, everything a husband does that affects his wife also affects him (Ephesians 5:28-31).
- A. Love your wife because she is part of you (5:28).
 - Motivation: Because marriage truly unites, when husbands love sacrificially, they are actually loving themselves!
 - B. Care for your wife because she is part of you (5:29-30).
 - 1. Husbands should care for and cherish their wives like they naturally take care of their own body (29a).
 - Hate – To despise, treat harshly, reject
 - Nourish – To care for, benefit, build up.
 - Cherish – Be gentle, compassionate (1 Pet. 3:7).
 - 2. Husbands must care for wives like Christ cares for His body, the church (29b-30).
 - C. Marriage must take priority over any other relationship because the two become one (5:31; Genesis 2:24).
 - 1. Unity – Spiritual, emotional, physical unity
 - 2. Exclusivity – One man, one woman, morally exclusive
 - 3. Priority – Marriage over other family relationships
- II. Husbands must love unconditionally; wives must respect unconditionally (Ephesians 5:32-33)
- A. Paul's focused on the unity of Christ and the church, but it makes a profound analogy to the oneness of marriage (32).
 - B. The bottom line of marriage is love and respect (33).
 - 1. Love - How have I made her feel unloved? What can I do to express unconditional love? (See back page)
 - 2. Respect – How have I made him feel disrespected? What can I do to express unconditional respect? (See back page)