

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 54 (#912234)
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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare
TITLE: Program 54 – Husbands, Love Your Wives As Christ Loved
The Church**

THURSDAY

OPEN

I wonder what would happen in Christian homes around the world if the men really understood their role, if they really understood God’s precepts for life in respect to their love and treatment of their wife. I know this it would make submission a piece of cake for a woman if she had a husband that lived according to Ephesians chapter 5. We’re going to look at that today and I want you to know it can impact not only the home but the world.

PART ONE

O Beloved, you and I are studying the most defining passage in all the Word of God on the role of a husband and the role of a wife. It was a defining moment in New Testament history because what happens is this truth steps into the midst of a Roman Empire where women are treated in a sense like

chattels where women are seen as a man’s possession instead of a woman that a man is to honor and to love and to cherish as this passage says. When you and I can grasp this truth and we can live in the light of it, it can do the same thing that it did in the Roman Empire. It literally changed the image of marriage in the Roman Empire because Christians grasp these truths, they began to live by them and all of a sudden it elevated woman to a new status. In the days of the Roman Empire a woman was better off really and treated better if she was a mistress rather than if she was a wife and a mother. As a wife and a mother the way that she really defined herself was to have a male child. To have a female child was nothing. It was just an economic burden but to have a male child that was another thing. She stayed in the house and when the company came in she did not eat with them and she had to keep quiet. Whereas when the man stepped out in society he put his mistress on his arm and she was allowed to entertain and to talk and to enter in to the affairs of the evening whatever they were. And so to be a woman and to be a wife was not the best thing in the Roman Empire. You were not treated well but once Christianity came in with the truths that you and I are about to see it began to revolutionize society because it showed people the value that God places on a woman, a woman that He created, a woman that He designed for man. A woman that He took from man because He made Eve out of the side of Adam, a woman that He presented to man. A woman that he was to abandon all other relationships in a sense of priority and give himself to his wife. Oh boy, Ephesians 5 defines it well. We’ve looked at the role of a woman. We’ve looked at one of the things that a woman is to do and the Bible tells us that a woman is to be subject to her own husband as unto the Lord and then He tells us why. We’ve looked at that but now we come to the husband. Hang on, I mean the women are going to love it and I pray you men will be convicted or that you will be affirmed. Mostly that you’ll be affirmed because you already knew these truths and because you are already living accordingly. Let’s see what God says. He says,

“Husbands, love your wives....” (Ephesians 5:25a) Now every time I see “love” in the Bible I put a red heart over it. So every time I look down if “love” is on the page I can find it, and that’s because “love” is the definition of a child of God. If we are a true child of God, we are loved by God. If we are a true child of God we are going to love others and we are going to love God. So love defines us as a child of God. And he says, **“...Love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.” (Ephesians 5:25b)** Well let’s just stop there and let’s look at the word “love.” The word for love comes from the word agape. It is not Eros. You won’t find that word for love in the Bible but Eros is a Greek word that talks about a sexual love, that passionate love, that love of lust. It is not phileo, “p-h-i-l-e-t-o.” It is not that kind of love which is a family kind of love or a phileo kind of love. It’s a love where I like you. It’s a love where I enjoy you. It’s a love where you delight me and therefore it’s easy for me to love you because we so share in common. That word is a word of delight. This word is an unconditional love. It is a love that sees another person and desires their highest good and that other person does not have to be perfect. So he’s saying, **“Husbands...,”** this is my command to you. I’m commanding you to **“...love your [wife] just as....”(Ephesians 5:25a)** And there’s that “just as” again and we want to mark it because they give us examples. They tell us degrees. They give us a measure. Something to measure ourselves by. And this is what he’s saying to the husband. He’s saying, **“...Love your [wife,] just as Christ...loved the church and gave Himself up for her.” (Ephesians 5:25)** What is the role and the calling of a husband? It is to be, in a sense, the savior of the wife. It is to be in a sense the one that makes the sacrifice. If anybody’s going to sacrifice then it’s got to be the husband, and this is what he’s saying because he’s the head because he is like Christ. Remember, he stands there in the role of Christ. Let me back up and make sure that you see this and understand that. In verse 23 it says, **“For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the**

head of the church....” And then it’s not a dominating head but it defines this headship, **“...Being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.” (Ephesians 5:23-24)** The wife is to submissive to the husband. She’s to arrange herself under this husband but it ain’t hard, honey. It is easy if you have a husband that knows his role and is being obedient to God so that what that husband is going to do is love you just as Christ loved the church and Christ is the one that sacrificed Himself for the church. So he gave himself up for her. This is so neat because I just want to tell you a story on my husband. (LAUGHS) My husband is almost nine years older than I am. He is an illegitimate child. He was raised by his grandparents and Mom was a very, very strict old fashioned Nazarene, and she was very tough on Jack in the sense that she wanted him to be a man of God. But Jack worked outside the house. They were farmers, and so he would help Pop, and he would be the one that would sell the eggs and sell the sausage and plow the fields and plant the corn and do all the things that farmers do. He was allowed to go fishing. He absolutely loved his childhood and as far as I know, it did not affect him that he was raised by his grandparents instead of by his mother. Well as Jack grew up there was this very clear definition of duties. As I grew up there was a clear definition of duties. The woman’s domain was the home and the husband earned his living outside the home. The wife was the keeper of the home and the husband came home he would sit down and the wife would take care of him. Well this was Jack, and so when we got married I was so busy in ministry in the evening he would say to me, “Kay, you’ve got to take care of yourself. You’ve got to rest more.” And here I am trying to set the table, trying to get dinner on the table and working in the ministry, living on the property and he’s on my case all the time because what I’m doing is I am working, working, working, working trying to come home, take care of dinner and he’s sitting in the chair reading the newspaper or watching television telling me I should rest more. And

finally one day I had had it right up to here. And I remember I dried my hands on the towel. I walked down the two stairs into the living room and his chair is facing the TV and it's back to me and I come around that chair and I look at him and I say to him, "Jack, I want to tell you something. You keep telling me to rest. You keep telling me I have to take care of myself and I am in there trying to take care of you. Trying to be everything that I should be and I want you to know that I am really upset." I mean if he couldn't tell by my voice, he could tell by my telling him I am very upset. "And I am upset because you're sitting there telling me I should rest and you aren't getting up and helping me, and I need to have you help me. I know the kitchen is not your domain. I know that you don't like to be in the kitchen but if you really love me you need to get up and help me." And you know what? He really loved me and he got up and he helped me. I mean he helped me. He got out of the chair which in turn enabled me to be able every now and then to sit down in the chair and take a breather. I mean it was like he was blind. It was like he could not see it, and and he was telling me out of love that I needed to rest but he didn't get up to help me. Precious One, as you look at this defining passage on the role of a woman and the role of a man I want you to know that the man has the harder task than the woman. He is commanded just as the woman is commanded to be subject to her husband, he is commanded to love his wife as Christ loved the church and catch this and I would underline it. **"...Gave Himself up for her."**

(Ephesians 5:25c) If you want a good marriage, if you want a woman that will love you, that will adore you then give yourself up for her. When you see her have a need meet it and know this. You're being just like Jesus. We'll talk about it more cause there's much more to come right after this announcement.

PART TWO

O Beloved, isn't it good to see how we can go to the Word of God and just listen to God. God speaks in plain language so that you and I can know exactly what He wants, and in this passage in Ephesians chapter 5 when he says in verse 25, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her." I thought you know, it would be so good for you and I to take out that piece of paper that we keep and put this diagram on it and I would simply put "husband" and then under husband I would put "wife" because we know the husband is the head of the wife but this is what's going to make it all right. If I had a red pen I would take and put over the word "husband" a cross. This represents the way the husband is to relate to his wife. He relates to her in a sacrificial way. The cross is an instrument of death. It's an instrument of death to self, and what the husband is to do is to die to his own self and he is to give himself up for his wife. So it speaks of the cross, and when you see that beside the word "husband" write "Christ" because here he is as a model of Jesus Christ and beside the word "wife" write "church" and you write church because the wife is the picture of the body of Jesus Christ, the bride of Jesus Christ. So in this passage we're going to see in a deeper dimension Christ's love for the church. As a matter of fact later on in Ephesians chapter 5, he's going to talk about this beautiful mystery of Christ and the church. And this is what it ought to be. It ought to be a beautiful mystery to the world as they look at us and they see our marriages and they see a husband that is giving himself up for his wife rather than demeaning her, rather than calling her to be his slave and to wait on her and to kill herself especially in these days when many wives are working. If I had my way, you'd go home, honey, if I had my way, you would be a homemaker and your husband would be the bread winner but it's not my way, okay? I think it's a biblical way. I think it's a biblical model. I know it's not always ideal, and I know that in many incidents it is not practical and I know that many of you women are listening to me right

now and you are hurting to the core because you had a man that walked out on you and left you with those kids and only cared about himself, and I am so, so sorry and my heart breaks for you. My heart grieves for you and I want you to know just cling to Christ and don't marry any man unless he knows and understands what he is to be to you in the eyes of God. So just know this that God knows that situation and while your heart may be hurting here because you never had it or because you look at another Christian couple and they have this kind of marriage and you find yourself almost in a state of envy because you wish that you had that and you can't understand why you don't. And I can't understand why you don't either but God in His sovereignty is going to cause that to work together for your good. It doesn't look like it, it doesn't seem like it but according to the Word of God and what you do is you put your claws into that truth and you hangeth thou in there, O Baby. You just trust God. All right now, let's go back to Ephesians chapter 5. [Husbands are to love their wives just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 5:25) Now he's going to tell you a reason and this is wonderful because he's going to share with you why the husband is to live this way in respect to his wife. Listen to what he says, **"So that..." (Ephesians 5:26a)** it's a purpose clause. It has a goal. It's not just that you're to do this and it has no reason or it has no purpose. But this is what he says, **"So that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of [the] water [of] the word." (Ephesians 5:26)** You say, "But wait a minute. That's speaking about Jesus." You're right and I am so proud of you. It is speaking of Jesus but in speaking of Jesus it's giving you a picture as a husband of what you're going to do for your wife. But it also gives you an understanding of this relationship of Christ to the church which is His wife, which is his bride. The wedding is coming. Now listen to what it says and you've got to watch your pronouns here. This is why you mark every reference to the husband and you mark every reference to the wife but you just don't color every "he" that you see

thinking it’s the husband because it may be a reference to Christ. So let’s look. He’s going to tell the husband what to do and he’s going to tell him what Christ did and why Christ did it and seeing Christ’s example this is what you’re to do. So watch what it says. Verse 26, **“So that He [Jesus] might sanctify her...,”** her, the bride of Christ, her, the church, **“...having cleansed her...,”** the church, that’s you and me, **“...by the washing of water with the word, that He [Jesus] might present to Himself [to Jesus] the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself.”** (Ephesians 5:26-28) So what is he saying? What is the purpose of a man loving his wife as Christ loved the church? What is the purpose of a husband giving up himself for the wife? The purpose is so that he might help this woman to become everything that she ought to be. You say, “But why? What does it concern him?” And this is the beauty of it. This is the awesomeness of it. The beauty of it is because she is a reflection of him. It is because the two are one flesh and this is what you want to see. I mean this is absolutely important that you see this. So let me read the whole passage and then we’ll go back and we will look at it bit by bit, and it will not be all in this program. So it says, “[Husbands ought to love their own wives as Christ loved the church.]” (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 5:28) **“So husbands ought...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 [it] and cherishes it, just as Christ...does the church, because we are members of His body. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall [be] one flesh.”** (Ephesians 5:28-31) When you look at the way a man treats his wife, you’re looking at what he thinks of himself if you’re looking at it biblically. So, husbands, how are you doing in this area of loving your wife as Christ loved the church?