

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 55 (#912235)
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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 55 – Husbands Need To Nourish And Cherish Their Wives

FRIDAY

OPEN

Marriage, what has it done for you as a woman? I mean has it left you frazzled and worn out and frayed around the edges? Or do you look at your marriage and say you know, “I’m a better woman because I’ve been married to this man”? This is the way it’s supposed to be according to the Word of God and that’s what we’re going to see today: the role of a husband in making his wife the woman she ought to be.

PART ONE

One of the things that distresses me, Beloved, is to see all the unhappy marriages. Marriages that are breaking up, marriages that are destroying people, marriages that are leaving men and women in just fragments of what they were. Not marriages that have built them up and not marriages that

have made them a better person, but marriages that have destroyed them. Why is that happening? I believe that’s happening because we do not know God’s Precepts for Life, or else we know them and we ignore them. Or else we’re hearing about the role of a wife in relationship to her husband that she’s to submit to her husband and the husband assumes the role of a dictator because he doesn’t hear the rest of Ephesians chapter 5 verses 25 through verses 33. What I want us to do is I want us to read those verses together. I want us to see what is God’s Word say because this is God’s Word. God is the one that designed marriage. God is the one that instituted marriage, and God is the one that has the formula for a good marriage. And if you and I are going to join ourselves to another, then it ought to be a union that benefits both. It ought to be a union that you look back at and say you know I am so much better off than I would be if I had been single. If this man had not been in my life, or if this woman had not been in my life. What do you like to hear? You like to hear about wonderful marriages. You don’t like to hear about damaging marriages. But you love to hear the story. You love to hear a man say, “Oh, I’m a better man because of this woman.” And you love to have her turn and look at him adoringly and say, “you know, I would have missed it if you hadn’t been my husband.” Now how do you get that kind of marriage? How do you accomplish this? Well I want us to look at Ephesians chapter 5 because Ephesians 5:25 through 33 holds the key. In Ephesians chapter 5, verse 25 it says, **“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself up for her.” (Ephesians 5:25)** Now what we were doing is we were using a piece of paper and putting a visual diagram before ourselves so that we could get the picture. Because many times when you do that, when you write something out or when you diagram it then you remember because you have another learning tool. And so we wrote on a piece of paper, “husband” and then under husband we wrote the “wife,” because the husband is the head of the wife. And the wife is to be submissive to her husband. But then what we did is

over the word “husband” we put a cross because God is telling the husband he is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. And how did Christ love the church? Christ gave himself up for the church? So what we did was we put a cross over the word “husband”. And this is the key to having a marriage that makes you a better person, a better wife, watch what he says and I’m sorry but the responsibility really falls on the man’s shoulders. And it’s all right because the man is there as a representative of Christ, because the man is there as the head, the protector of his wife. So the responsibility falls on his shoulders. But usually a man’s shoulders are broader than a woman’s shoulders and they’re meant to carry this load, because God made a man to be that way. Now it says, you are to, “**...Love your [wife] as Christ...loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her...,**” and he’s talking about Christ and the church, “**...Having cleansed her by washing of water with the word.**” (Ephesians 5:25-26) In other words you get this wife and the church is not everything that she ought to be. I mean there is some taint on her from the world. And so what Christ does is he takes the Word of God and he just showers it over us. He uses it as a cleaning agent in order to wash us, in order to cleanse us, in order to help us be better than we were. Now when you see this example you’ve got to apply it to a marriage. Because this is what the husband is to do. The husband is to care for his wife. And he is to make her a better person by loving her as Christ loved the church. So it goes on to say, “**That he...,**” that Christ, “**...might present to Himself the church in all her glory...**” (5:27a) And the word “glory” means “to give a correct opinion, a correct estimate”. Listen the church is whom God loves. You’re a part of the church. And God loves you and he wants to present you to Christ as a bride in all of her glory. And it goes on to say, “**...having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she [should] be holy and blameless.**” (Ephesians 5:27b) Now when you see that term, holy and blameless you need to go back to Ephesians chapter 1 verse 4. In Ephesians chapter 1 verse 4 it’s talking about

us. And it says, “**Just as he chose us...**” the church, his bride, “**...in Him...**” in Christ “**...before the foundation of the world, that we would be...**” not that we are but, “**...that we would be holy and blameless before Him...**” (1:4) Husband, you can measure your efficiency, as a husband, by looking at your wife. Is she becoming more and more like Jesus? Is she becoming more and more secure in love? Because once you’re secure in love it is a healing to you because you know that no matter what you’re always loved by one person, you’re always valued by one person, this one person that would literally lay down his life for you. Here’s the example that Christ gives to the husband. Here’s Christ’s example to the church, the husband is to put his eyes on Christ, he is to look at Christ and Christ is to be his model in the way that Jesus ministers to the church. Now go back to Ephesians chapter 5 and listen to what it says, “**So husbands ought also to love their own wives....**” (5:28) This is what the husband is to do. Number 1, the husband is to give himself up for the wife. So we have the cross there, but the husband is not only to give himself up for his wife but the husband is to love his wife as he loves himself. So put a heart over “husband” next to that cross and then put a heart over “wife” and what he’s saying is the husband is to love the wife as the husband loves himself, as the husband desires the highest good for himself as a man, so he is to desire the highest good for his wife as a wife. She is to be his focus and when you look at this woman and you see what she’s like and you see the way that she looks at herself and you see the way that she behaves and you see the way the she matures, you can tell a lot about the way her husband treats her. Let’s look at it. It says, “**...Husbands ought...to love their own wives....**” verse 28, “**...as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife....**” (Ephesians 5:28) And what he’s doing, he’s making a distinction. You’re not to love any other woman this way. You are to love your own wife this way. And it’s saying his own wife because in the society in which this was written, remember this was written Ephesus. This was written to a

city that lived in darkness, that lived in debauchery, that lived in idolatry, that lived in immorality ‘cause their idolatry involved their immorality. And all of a sudden Christianity’s coming along and Christianity’s saying, one man, one woman for life. And that is it. And so he’s saying his own wife, not any other woman. Not a mistress on your arm. Not a courtesan down the streets. It’s one man and one woman for life and it is a full time job for a man to love that woman as he ought to. So it says, **“For no one ever hated his own flesh....” (5:29a)** And you will see that people don’t hate their own rather their out to protect their own flesh. It says, **“...but [he] nourishes and cherishes it...,”** he nourishes and cherishes his flesh, **“...just as Christ also does the church.” (5:29b)** Now nourishes and cherishes is in the present tense. And what he’s saying is a man nourishes and he cherishes his flesh. He’s to nourish and he’s to cherish his wife in the same way as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. And so what he’s saying, here’s the man, he’s the head and the body represents the wife. So here’s the head over the wife, they are connected. And so what you want to do is you want to make sure that the head treats the wife, that the husband treats the wife the way he would treat his own body, because this is the mystery. **“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and...cleave to his [own] wife...,”** and that word “cleave” means “to glue together” so they **“...become one flesh.” (Ephesians 5:31, ASB)** If your wife is not becoming a better woman by being married to you, a woman that feels nourished, a woman that feels cherished, a woman that feels protected, then, Beloved Husband, you are not doing your job or your wife is just a tough cookie. But if you’re trying to love her and she’s resisting then that’s her fault. But if you’re loving her as you should, then watch out, what a woman you’re going to have. We’ll talk about it more right after this announcement.

PART TWO

If you happen to be listening to this program together as a husband and wife, listening to these truths, maybe you're in the car together or maybe one of you is cooking dinner and the other one's sitting in the living room and you're hearing these truths and it causes you to feel warm toward one another and it gives you confirmation. I want to say congratulations and especially to the husband. You say but I'm listening and I want you to know that my wife will not respond. I am so sorry. And I want you to know the problem is hers. There's something going on inside of her or her heart is being enticed by another man or it's being enticed by thoughts that are not from God. And all I can say to you is fervently pray. All I can say is fast on her behalf. All I can say to you is keep on keeping on, as the scripture says, don't **"...be weary in well doing: for in due season [you] will reap if [you] faint not."** (Galatians 6:9, KJV) Don't faint. Because even if you don't see a change, when you stand before God you're not going to have any regrets because you were the man that you ought to be. But what if you're listening to this and you're saying, "Look, I'm a man, tell me how." Well God tells you how. And this is what he say in verse 29, **"...No one ever hated his own flesh....,"** you're to love your wife as your own flesh. **"...but [he] nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church."** (Ephesians 5:29b) Now what does it mean to nourish and cherish your flesh, and consequently nourish and cherish your wife? Well the word for "nourish" means "to rear", it means "to feed", it means "to bring to maturity". So if you're helping your wife come to maturity, you're helping her develop her gifts. You're not squelching her, you're not just making her your servant or your slave or the keeper at home but you look at her gifts and you enable her to use those. That's what God has given me in Jack. Jack has always told me, "Honey, I don't want to stand in God's way because I know that God has gifted you as a teacher and I know that he wants to use

you.” And so Jack comes along to help me. Now that is not just to my praise but that is more to Jack’s praise. You have to give your woman an opportunity to discover what her spiritual gifts are, to develop her talents. It’s not to take her out of the home when she needs to be in the home. But it is to allow her to blossom as a woman, to bring her to maturity. And it’s not by correcting her all the time, rather it is to bring her to maturity, now listen, by cherishing her. You nourish her. You bring her to maturity by cherishing her. And the word “cherish” means “to make warm”. It means “to heat”, it means “tender love and affection”. It is used of a mother hen tucking her chicks under her arm so that she can warm them up, so that she can heat them, so that she can have affection. Now women many times think that the only reason a man is going to be affectionate to his wife is because he wants to sleep with her. So you guys have to learn how to give her affection, how to give her love and then not expect her to get in bed or drop everything and go to the bedroom or wherever and have relations with you. I mean the woman needs to learn how to do that, but it can’t be all the time. She’s got to know that she is not just there to satisfy your physical sexual needs. It’s not just an “eros” love that he says that the husband is to have for the wife, he is to love her with an “agape” kind of love. “To desire her highest good.” So if you will learn to be tender, if you will learn to be affectionate. When the man reaches over and takes a hold of the wife’s hand. It speaks volumes to a woman. Now I have to teach my husband how to do that. My husband is not physical in those ways. So many times I’m the one in church that reaches over and takes a hold of his hand. I’m the one when we’re out to dinner that may reach over, but you know it feels good when his hand is not just like a dead fish, but when it wraps itself around me and when he squeezes me. Or when we get ready to pray his hand is out on the table first waiting for my hand. Affection needs to be felt, it needs to be seen, it needs to be known as affection. That’s what it means to cherish. And so God says nourish her, bring her to maturity as you bring her to maturity and the way that you do

that is you do it by warming her up (*Kay laughs*) by cherishing her, by protecting her, by tucking her under your wing. You know some woman are so strong that when a man opens the door for them, just being a gentleman, they get mad at ‘em and say, “Do you think I’m incapable of opening that door myself?” I want to tell you something, if you’re like that and you just think men ought to get out of the way and you’re just as good as any other man, you deserve to be single honey. You deserve to be single. Because let me tell you what God tells the wife to do, so hang on. He goes on to say, [We are to nourish and cherish him because Christ does that to us and we’re members of his body and the husband, is to love his wife as himself.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 5:28-30) Why? [For this reason shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall be joined to his wife and the two shall be one flesh.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 5:29) Now listen to me very carefully Mister. If you have a Mrs., then she is your top priority, not your mother, not your mother. She is not to be you mother, but she is not to be in competition to your mother. And many times a husband’s weak relationship to his mother causes pain to his wife and that’s not to be. And I will tell you why, because the Bible tells us in Genesis chapter 2 that when [“a man leaves His father and mother, and cleaves to his wife and it means to glue together, the two become one flesh.”] (Paraphrase, Genesis 2:24) And when he’s talking about one flesh according to 1 Corinthians chapter 6, he is talking about the physical union. And when you just look at the anatomy of a man and woman and when they come together in the sexual act, which is something that they are to know with no other human being. It is to be confined to marriage. But when you look at that you see that they literally become one flesh and this is the beautiful picture of marriage, which means that you are one flesh with that woman. She is one flesh with you and not one flesh with anyone else. That’s why God hates adultery because it breaks this picture. But then he goes on to say, **“This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.”** (Ephesians 5:32)

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And when you go back and you look Ephesians and you mark “one body” and you mark “the church” you see that glorious mystery of Christ as the head and us a members of his body. Not to be divided. Well there’s one more important truth and it’s directed to the woman and I will tell you, dear, that it will make the difference in the kind of husband that you have, you say, “What is it? Tell me.” Well I can’t tell you in this program so I’ll tell you in the next. But what is God’s word for you today? God’s word for you today as a man is to love your wife. Give yourself up for her and nourish her and cherish her as your own flesh. And if you do then through the years you’re going to have more of a woman than you would ever thought you would have and it’s all because you loved her like Christ told you to.