

# A Husband's Goal

"How do we improve as husbands?" Already you think highly of this husband, don't you?

He cares.

This is a big question. There are several husbands throughout the Bible. I assume we don't know how most of them were as husbands. Then you have glimpses of good guys and bad guys. I'm a fan of specifics. I like the practical. However, I still find myself returning to the key passages instructing husbands because it addresses the principles most men forget when struggling with their roles. For the next few minutes, we'll primarily focus on two passages: Does anyone want to take a guess? They are Ephesians 5:25-33 and 1 Peter 3:7

## **Ephesians 5:25–33**

**25** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

- What are we considering? Sacrificial love.
- We are called to live for them most of the time.
- What's our aim? What was Jesus' aim?

**26** that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27** so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

- 2 Corinthians 11:1–3 1 I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
- What does Paul mean?
- Jesus saves and continues to sanctify. Husbands can't save their wives, but we help them with the process of sanctification. How do we do that?
- We need to create opportunities for our wives to grow.
  - Does she need time in the word? If she can't find consistent time, we need to make that available. Be ready to sacrifice.
  - Does she have the needed resources? Obviously, a good Bible, but perhaps other tools will help.
  - Does she have the opportunity to utilize all her abilities?
  - Does she have well-rounded support? Women need other women.
- Let's create family practices/traditions that reinforce who we belong to and what we're about.
  - Hearing about different practices other families have to encourage their trust in the Lord is always encouraging. They don't look the same, and that's what's so beautiful!

**28** In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29** For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, **30** because we are members of his body. **31** "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." **32** This mystery is

profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. **33** However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- How do we nourish and cherish our own bodies?
- Doesn't Christ satisfy our hunger and thirst?
- Brothers, encouraging sanctification for our wives doesn't make sense when we aren't part of the process.
- What happened with Adam and Eve in the garden? Where did Adam lack, and how did Eve overstep? How does God's curse correlate?
- Again, what is our primary goal as men? Provide financially? While I agree that seems to be one correct aspect of men (Adam's focus was on working the garden while Eve's was her children, and women are encouraged to work at home - though passages such as Proverbs 31 show she did contribute), our primary goal is to lead spiritually.
- Not only would Jesus provide an opportunity for His disciples to rest and pray, but He also required time alone with the Father.
- We know what it is to hunger and thirst. We also know that sometimes we don't reach out for the spiritual bread and drink that Jesus offers. We reach out for what is not beneficial or even dangerous. Well, this happens to our wives as well. We need to help one another reach out to Jesus, who supplies what is truly satisfying. Especially when the flesh is tired and weak. And brothers, we're not the only ones who get weary. Our wives and mommas know something about that as well. This leads us to our following passage.

**1 Peter 3:7 (ESV) — 7** Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

- We should know our wives, brothers.
  - What are her strengths and weaknesses?
  - What are insecurities she may struggle with (we all have them)?
  - What encourages her?
  - What discourages her? Remember what Paul wrote in Colossians 3:19, "Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them."
  - What's her story? Brethren, we need to understand as best we can what makes her tick or why she functions the way she does. Know her history.
  - Don't try to fix what you don't understand.
  - Don't try to fix it in a way she's telling you won't work.
  - We cannot assume. Ask her what she needs; if you listen, she'll tell you. Then you can act!
  - We need to work together - don't play games. Someone pointed out some specific tendencies we all have. The "quiet game." The "Okay, whatever you think is best/woe is me" game. The "eye for an eye" game or the "everything is fine" game.
- We should invite her feedback even if it hurts.
  - I need my wife's honest feedback. It helps me. She needs to feel like it's okay to (respectfully) challenge my way of thinking.
  - Our wives have everyone's best interest at heart, so being challenged is okay. It helps us grow. Now, if our wives desire what is not helpful, that's another thing. This is why we need to help one another spiritually to think spiritually and make spiritually driven decisions.