



Husband's Responsibility in the Home – February 21, 2019
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Verses Covered

Ephesians 5:25 - 33

Alright boys. Slide over to Ephesians 5. We looked last week at the fact that if you are married or want to be married or may one day be married or aren't married and should be married, whatever it is. You marry a woman, even if you love Jesus and you believe the scripture, there are issues you have to deal with. You're a man. She's a woman. You've got personality differences. You've got love language differences. You've got what you want in a marriage versus what she wants in a marriage. So you have to address those things and the only way to do them, they're going to affect what you feel about your wife, so you have to choose to value her as God values her. So you have to start seeing her as God sees her from the scripture.

Now I want to walk you through what your responsibility is in the home. That's kind of how you react to her is what we looked at last week. Now I want to walk you through what your responsibility is. Now we'll look at hers next week. But I want you to start in Ephesians 5:25. It is interesting, though. In Ephesians 5:21 he says: submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. And then in verse 22: wives submit to your own husbands.

The verb submit is not in verse 22. It's only in verse 21. But it's assumed through that so there's kind of this underlying thing of a mutual submission. So he's going to say, submitting to one another. So you have to submit to your wife. She has to submit to you. But you're the head of the home. So how do you submit to your wife when you're the head of the home. And the head of the home means you do make the final decision. So walk with me and listen to what he says and then, again, we'll open it up for questions here in a while. Verse 25:

²⁵Husbands, you love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
²⁶that He might sanctify her having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
²⁷so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she might be holy without blemish. ²⁸In the same way, a husband should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself; ²⁹for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,

This is an aside, but the idea of self-esteem is the dumbest thing psychologists ever came up with. There is nobody that doesn't like himself. Nobody. The reason you put clothes on when it's cold is because you like yourself. The reason you eat when you're hungry is because you like yourself. Everybody likes themselves. It's where you get your value whether you get it from Him, or you get it by looking in the mirror. Because whatever you look at in the mirror is going to change in a few years and really not look good. So it's just where you get your value, but it's not the idea that you don't like yourself. Here's the worst thing we ever did. We gave psychologists a Bible. They found a verse or two and they've lost their minds. No one ever hates his own flesh. He cherishes it just as Christ does the church.

³⁰because we're members of His body. ³¹Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother, hold fast to his wife, the two shall become one flesh. ³²This mystery's profound, I'm saying that it refers to Christ in the church. ³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself and let the wife see to it that she respects her husband.

Now, let me share a couple things here. You are the head of the home. The final absolute decision rests with you. It does not rest with her. Now what that means is you're responsible for the attitude and direction of the home. Now here's the bad news for that. And let me just walk you through as best I can what I think scripture's going to say in here. You do have the final say, but it's going to be based on her heart, not your heart. He says you give yourself up for her. Which means it's what she wants. It's not what you want. Now if all things are equal, and my wife wants to live in the city and I want to live in the country, and everything's equal, we're going to live in the city. Because that's what it means. You don't get what you want. If you want to live and get what you want; stay single. When you marry, it's not about you anymore. It's about her. Now, obviously, you can compromise. If you can get her to compromise and she's good with that, it's fine. I wanted to live in the country. My wife wanted to live around some houses so we bought a lot and built out in a subdivision off 1179 where we have a little bit of room, she has some houses she can walk around. So we compromised. So there's nothing wrong with compromising. But at the end of the day, the final decision rests with you. But it's what she wants. Jesus died for you. You make the decisions for her. That's the end of it.

Now obviously there are a couple things that I think we need to understand that your choice is not her control. There are two times I think when you say no to her. There may be times when you need something she doesn't want you to do, but you need it. For example, I hunt, I golf, I do those things because they're my chance to get away and I need to get away. And there are times you need to get away and she may not want you to do that, but you've got to look at her and say, "Look, this is best for me." And you're going to have to do it. I don't know if I told you this story about my former secretary. She and her husband, they'd gone to marriage counseling. They were both second marriages. They'd gone to marriage counseling, pre-marital. The guy said, "Look when you guys marry, you need to breathe. You need to be together and apart. Together and apart." Which is, by the way, absolutely true. She needs friends; you need friends. But my former secretary, Rowena, real gregarious, out-going, he was real introverted. So they married. They're gone for two weeks on the honeymoon. They walk into the door and she told me, she said, "He put the luggage down and he looked at her and he said, 'I've got to breathe.'" So apparently she had worn him out over two weeks. So there's nothing wrong with at times you're going, "Baby, I

got to get out of here.” She needs to get out of there as well. There are times when you’ve got to say, “No” because there may be some things you need spiritually or emotionally as well.

Now there are going to be times you tell her, no, because it’s damaging to the family. You make \$42,000 a year and your wife wants a Lamborghini, you’re going to have to tell her no. She wants to live outside the income, you’re going to have to tell her no. So there are times you tell her no. But unless it’s something you absolutely need spiritually or it’s going to damage the family, and you can’t compromise, if you can’t settle on the issue, you make the final decision, but it’s what she wants. That’s the end of it.

Now you have to nourish and take care of her. He says, no one hated his own flesh. He nourishes it and cherishes it just as Christ does the church. Now there are a couple things that I want to walk you through in regard to that. Number one, you have a responsibility to protect her. There’s a guy, John Piper, who was just a Calvinist preacher to the young pastors. He’s been a guru to these guys. And Piper came out the other day and said, “If a man broke into his house and wanted to rape and kill his wife, he would allow that because it’s inside the sovereignty of God.” Let me tell you. I would never give my daughter to man who made that statement. You have a responsibility to protect your wife. And that includes you give up your life for her. If that’s what it takes, you give up your life. Now I’m telling you. I’m just, as a pastor, I carry a gun everywhere I go. Always carry one in here because we have deacons in here just in case I need it. If a guy comes into my house, nobody else is there but me and my wife, and I can get her into the bedroom, he can take the TV. I don’t care. I’m not going to kill him over a TV. But if he comes into the bedroom, I’m going to kill him. If I have other people in the house, particularly my grandchildren, and somebody breaks in, I’m going to kill him. I’m just laying that out. Not trying to be mean. I’m not trying to be a jerk. But I do think I have that responsibility. God put her in my life. I’m responsible for protecting her, my family, and in my eyes, anybody that’s in my house. I’m the head of that home. I have the responsibility to provide that protection. I’m not going to kill anybody over a car or a TV because the great thing if they steal the TV; some guys robbed our house a few years back and it was really great because I got better stuff when I called the insurance company. So I’ve got a sign now that says, “Will help load.” So I don’t have any problem at all with that. But I do think you’ve got to protect.

Now you’ve got to provide for your wife. Now one of the ways you’ve got to provide for her is spiritually. So let me give you a couple things to do here. Number one, and I’ll go over this in a second, particularly you’re going to do this on date night. I’m going to go over that in a second. But I want you to do, she’s going to want to do some Bible study with you. And let me just share with you a real simple way. I think I went through this earlier. But any kind of Bible is going to have sections. Pretty much easily see there’s a little space and another space. So you’ve got this section of scripture that fits together in and of itself. OK. Here’s what you want to do with your wife. You want to both read that scripture for week. You’re going to each ask three questions. You’re going to have her write these down. You’re going to write these down:

1. You’re going to ask what in there do I understand. What does it say I get?
2. What does it say I don’t understand?
3. What I do understand, how does that apply to my personal life and to our home.

You're going to ask those questions. She's going to do the same thing. So I'll get to date night in a second. But you're going to bring this into play on the night you date. But you ask those three questions. Anybody can do that. And this is difficult for a lot of guys because what I see with a lot of guys is the wife doesn't work outside the home. And she's up here in a Bible study Tuesday morning and another Bible study Thursday night. And she's reading stuff during the week, it's not long before she knows more Bible than you know. And pretty soon you can be a little intimidated by that and go, "You know, I don't know what she knows. What am I going to teach her?" You can easily do what I just said to do. You can read a passage and say, "Here's what I got in it. Here's how I think it applies to our marriage. Here's how it applies to my life and your life." And that way you're leading her in a Bible study even though it's simple and you don't know as much as she knows, you can still lead her there.

Number two, you need to pray for and with her. I'm not real good at praying with my wife. I'm a terrible introvert and I've got to confess that. But I do deeply pray for her and I think that's part of my responsibility as the husband. Particularly if my wife is struggling with something spiritually. I think my responsibility and we talked about this about praying God's will. But if my wife's struggling with something spiritually, God put me in her life to walk her through that. And one of the things I try to do is I say, "God look, she's under my authority. She's under my home. I'm asking You to do this in her life." And so I think my prayers as her husband have more impact than anybody else in the world because she's been given to me for direction and guidance. So I think you do that.

I think the third thing you do is you show God's character in your home. Now none of us is going to do that perfectly. You're going to have some crap days. She's going to have some crap days. You're not going to do that well. But there's a difference between perfection and a consistent direction. If you're consistently honoring Christ in your home, she will see that and it will overwhelm your failures. So you have to provide for her spiritually.

Now you've got to provide for her physically. I do think you're responsible for being the bread winner. And you do the best you can. You bring the money home. You guide that. You guard that. You do everything you can. Now you're responsible for providing for her emotionally. Now let me give you three things to do. And let me just tell you. If you do what I tell you to do today, your wife will do whatever you want. You can read all the marriage books you want. You can read them all and that's fine. Nothing wrong with that. But let me tell you what your wife craves from you. She craves connection. That's what she craves. She wants to know that there's no one more important in her life than she is. A lot of times if she struggles with you going off with the guys golfing or hunting, it's because she doesn't believe that. And she thinks they mean more to you than she does. Which is why she struggles with you going off. She has to feel..... Now that's important. You hear that. I don't care what you think. It's what she thinks. She has to feel that no one is more important to you than she is.

Now let me give you three ways to do that. Number one, you're going to take a date night. You're going to take a night once a week and get her out of the house. If you're married, particularly to a wife who is melancholy who folds the towels a certain way who has some clothes set up a certain way, then you better get her out of the house. Because she's going to see all sorts of dishes to do. It's not going to be much of a date. And let me be clear on something. That doesn't mean you

have to go to Christopher's. You can be a cheap date. Your wife really doesn't care whether or not you go to Christopher's. You can get some Kentucky Fried Chicken and sit out here by one of our ponds. She doesn't care. She just wants to be alone with you out of the house. Let me tell you something about date night. No friends. No children. Just you and her out of the house somewhere. Now on that date night, gentlemen, this is when you're going to pull in the Bible study. I don't want you to think you've got to do that every day, because what happens to most couples, they try to do this, they start on Monday, they do Monday, Tuesday, miss Wednesday, maybe Thursday, skip Friday and Saturday. Pretty soon they're beat up and they're not doing it. Once a week on date night, you're going to sit down with your wife and say, you're the head of the home, you're the big guy, so you're the one that's going to start the conversation. You're going to look at her and say, "We were supposed to read Philippians 1:3 – 11. Let me tell you what I found in the scripture. Let me tell you what I found about my life. Let me tell you what I found in how I think this applies to us." And then she's going to respond to you. But you're the one that's going to take that lead. And that way you know, for example, Thursday's coming. So by Wednesday if you haven't read this, you're going to have to do something. You're going to have to be ready. But you're going to do that on date night. You're going to walk her through those questions.

Now, number two. You're going to give her 30 minutes to an hour every night. My brother-in-law interviewed Billy Graham back in the days when he was at the top of his ministry. He was interviewing him for the Templeton Award and so he was sitting in the room with Billy Graham. And he said, "What are your priorities in life?" What's Billy Graham going to say? What's his number one priority? What's his number two? OK. What's the number three? Church. Ministry, right. I wouldn't have asked this of Billy Graham. I would have just been drooling at his feet but my brother-in-law, Christian, Harvard educated, looked at Billy Graham and he said, "Well you've just been in Indonesia for 8 weeks." And you've got to remember in these days, there's no internet, no cell phones, no sat phones, no texting, no e-mail. He said, "You haven't talked to her for 8 weeks. So how can you say that your family is more important than your ministry?" Graham had an interesting response. He told my brother-in-law, he said, "Look, you're right. So here's what I do when we're home. Ruth and I sit on the couch, we face each other, we hold hands, we talk for an hour. We don't play with the kids. We don't do correspondence. We don't watch TV. We don't listen to the radio." In your day, we don't text, we don't e-mail, we don't Instagram, we don't snapchat; turn it all off. You're not going to listen to your wife if you've got your phone on. You turn it all off. There's nobody in this room, unless you are a doctor on-call that needs a phone on 24/7. Turn that off. And you're going to give your wife your full attention.

Now most guys are terrified of this because they think if I ask my wife, "Baby what are you thinking about?" You're going to be there for like three days. And I understand that. But they really will stop at some point. And you have a better day than I had because you have a DVR on the TV. She comes in in the middle of the game and wants to talk, you can turn that football game and stop it. In my day, my wife, I remember one time she came in, kind of tearing up, "I need to talk." And the Cowboys are playing the Cardinals. It's fourth quarter, there's three minutes left, we're down by four and Staubach's driving it, and I'm like, "Yeah, baby, what's going on?" I mean you can go, "Oh, yeah, baby. I care." So you can fake it. So at any rate, if you will give her that time and say to her, "Look, we've got the kids down, I want to sit down on the couch with you." And you don't have to necessarily hold hands and face each other, but you need to let her

know, "I want to spend at least 30 minutes with you a night." And you give her at least 30 minutes a night. And really, honestly, the fact that she took your name and gave up her name and gave up her family for you, that's really not that big a sacrifice. You can give her 30 minutes a night and you're going to let her know that.

Thirdly, it's what I make my premaritals do. I make them fill out a sheet of paper that says, "Body, soul, and spirit." Now we talked about this a little bit last week. That's physical, emotional, and spiritual. I make them write down what they want from each other. I make her write down, what do you want from your husband physically. Do you want him to kiss you before he goes to work? Do you want him to hold hands with you in public? I want all those details, well not all those details. What do you want from him emotionally? Do you want him to text you during the day? Do you want him to call you? Do you want flowers? What do you want him to do emotionally for you? And then what do you want him to do spiritually. I make them write down as many things as they can think of. Oddly enough, this is generally going to be the smaller list. It's going to be pray together, go to church and do ministry together. This is going to be your smaller list. This one should be the biggest. And I tell them when they finish this, they're going to do two things with this list. They change the list out. Number one, I want him and her to get up every morning, one thing on the list to do. One thing. Because what I want them to begin to do is to focus on the idea that my job is to make my wife happy. It's not her job to make me happy. I don't look at her to make me happy. My whole focus is her, not her blessing me. So my focus is to bless her. And so what I want them to do is to begin to focus on doing at least one thing out of these each day so they begin to think about my job is to make my wife happy.

Now the other thing I make them do is three times a year, is they go off for the weekend. Make them go off on a Friday night. They stay at least through Saturday at noon. Just the two of them. No friends, no family, no dogs, no pets, no children. I make them go in an order that Friday night they go out to supper. They come back and make love. And then he has her list. You're the head of the home, but you're going to do this. You look at her and you ask her two questions. Is there anything on this list I'm not doing well? Number two, is there anything on this list you want to add to and change? Because the problem in marriage is, what you want when you're first married is going to change when that first kid comes. It's going to change when empty nest comes. It's going to change when they hit teenage years. So if you do this, you're basically marriage counseling yourself, but you're doing it when you're not mad at each other. We tend to tell the other one what we want when we're mad. You want to do it in a calm, loving, experience. And so I make them do this three times in a year. However you do it, you want to figure out because remember, you are stupid. You have no idea what she wants. Because she's not a man. So you've got to ask her what she wants. Now they don't like that. They think you should know, but you don't because you're stupid. I had a lady in my office the other day that said, "I can't believe you called my husband stupid." I said, "Honey you haven't been married long enough. Give him some time and he'll reveal himself." So you need to ask her what she wants. Now I don't care if you do exactly what I'm telling you to do. But you need to ask her what she wants physically, emotionally, and spiritually. And then you need to do everything you can to place that in there.

Now you're going to do three things. If you go home tonight and for the next one month, next four weeks, you spend 30 minutes with your wife a night where she knows that's intentional on your heart. You take her out one night a week and you take her off somewhere on the weekends,

you will have her eating out of your hand. Because number one, that's assuming she doesn't have a heart attack after all this. Fainting at the shock that you're actually doing what you're supposed to do. But if you begin to emotionally connect with her, it will change your entire marriage.

So the atmosphere in the home is on you. It's your responsibility. You say, "Well what about her responsibility?" We're going to look at that next week. But I want to be clear about something. I don't want to ever hear out of your mouth, her responsibility. That's not your concern, is it. It's her responsibility. Let me tell you something. I have never seen a godly woman ever, never have I ever seen a godly woman that if she knew her husband valued her and walked well with Jesus, ever had trouble submitting. Women I see having trouble submitting, don't trust the godliness of their husband, and he's not connected to her. For example, seriously, she'll submit to you. If you want to deer hunt, if she knows the guys you are deer hunting with are not as important as she is. So you're never going to focus on her. You're going to focus on your own responsibility in the home.

Now one way you're going to do that and I'm telling you, I face this all the time. I don't know how many times I've had men and women in my office in a marriage, counseled them, sent them home, they'll come back and she will look at me and say that at some point he said to her, "You know Brother Chris said you should do....." You are not responsible for her. So get off her back. You worry about yourself. Let me tell you the way you're going to know this. You're going to watch this emotion in your life. Anger. If you're mad at her because she didn't give you enough sex this week, you're looking at her to fill your heart instead of you filling her heart. If you're angry at yourself because you failed her in some way, now you're living correctly. So you're going to make sure your job is to bless her and you don't worry about her response or her responsibility. You worry about yourself.

Now, again, I think the whole thing is on you. I'm telling you, your wife craves connection. And if you'll do what I'm telling you to do, within one month, it will alter the atmosphere in your home. Now it's hard to stay with it. But staying with it is not on her. The staying with it is on you. You took on the responsibility. You're the head of the home. You make the final decision. But it's based on her heart unless a couple of issues are there. And you do everything you can to make her feel connected to you spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Your job, gentlemen, is to make sure that there's no way another man could ever come into your wife's life because you love her enough that no other man would she need. If she needs anything other than you, you have failed as a husband. And I'm just telling you out of my own pure heart, I am sick and tired of dealing with crappy men who can't love their wives. Who are angry with their wives, they don't get enough sex. They don't get this. They don't get that. I don't care about that. Don't come in my office and tell me I don't love my wife. I'm going to look at you and say, "Yes, you do. In Jesus Christ you absolutely can value her. I don't care what you feel about her. I care whether or not you value her." And if she doesn't feel connected to you, buddy, that's not on her. That's on you. And if she's looking at another man, that's not on her, that's on you. You are the head of the home. You want that responsibility? Then you live it out.