

Extreme Makeover – Family Edition

Part Eight

February 21, 2010

In our continuing series on the home and family, we began last Sunday a study of Ephesians 5:22-33, the most comprehensive passage in the Bible on the relationship between husbands and wives. Last week we looked at the husband's responsibility toward his wife. This week we want to turn our attention to the wives. It is said: "A man marries a woman, hoping she will always _____ just as she is. But a woman marries a man, hoping she can _____ him."

II. The Wife's _____ to Her Husband – vs. 22-24, 33

Let's take a look at two more important distinctions between men and women: First, women tend to like _____, whereas men tend to _____ change and to prefer the status quo. Second, most men don't really like to _____ when there is a _____. Women, on the other hand, sense when there is a conflict and they have an overriding burden to _____ the problem. They have no trouble _____. How does this difference tend to cause problems in a marriage relationship?

Most sermons on this passage of Scripture focus on verses 22-24, but today we want to focus on verse 33: "*Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.*" What are the basic needs of husbands and wives?

What happens when a husband or wife feels that their spouse is not meeting their basic need?

Let's look at this verse and ask a few questions about this supposed need that men have for respect:

A. Is Being _____ Really a Man's Most Basic Need?

B. How Can I Respect a Man Who Doesn't _____ My Respect?

Everyone agrees that when God tells men, "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church...*" He is talking about 'agape' love, and 'agape' love is _____. But when this matter of a wife respecting her husband comes up, most women will generally respond with one of the following statements: "I'll respect my husband just as soon as he starts to _____ me as he should." Or, "Everyone knows that respect must be _____." Let's note I Peter 3:1,2. Peter says, "*In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.*" What do we know about these husbands?

C. How Do We _____ This Cycle of Madness?

- Buy and read the book *Love and Respect*, by Emerson Eggerichs
- Recognize the distinct _____ between men and women in this crucial area. In most cases, a husband and wife do not _____ to hurt and deprive their spouse of that which they so desperately need. They just simply don't understand how their words and actions are being _____ by their spouse.
- Understand that God is not asking you to _____ your feelings and perceptiveness as a woman.
- Respect is the key to _____ a husband.