

“Husbands, love your wives the way Christ loves the Church (us)” Eph 5:25-32

JESUS’ LOVE IN PRACTICAL TERMS

25) **“gave Himself up for her...”** (sacrifice)

- be interruptible
 - be there for her & listen when she is hurting & lonely (if she is hurting, it’s not silly)
 - be attentive without distraction
 - be a servant (help to clean house, run errands, etc...)
 - be patient when she is slow* to learn or understand *(compared to you)
(vs. verbal abuse & scolding: because people process things in different ways & at different speeds)
 - forgive hurtful words or actions----immediately (because your posture toward her is always forgiving)
 - humble yourself to ASK for forgiveness for your hurtful words or actions (vs. the “guy way”)
- NOTE: Women need to hear the words of apology spoken....it makes you a safe person

26)-27) **“making her holy....purifying her....washing with the Word...”**

- faithfully pray FOR her & WITH her: for her life in Jesus to flourish
- study God’s Word so that you can live it out as an example
NOTE: This is NOT the same as lecturing her...if it’s not lived-out, your lectures will be ignored, eventually
- encourage her and reassure her in her growth-----(use WORDS....often!)
NOTE: FAILURE is a part of learning, so never condemn her for failing...but, don’t ignore it, either.
Like Jesus, “speak the Truth in LOVE” and give lots of GRACE and MERCY
- keep your motives pure: never use manipulation or coercion (which is demeaning & disrespectful)
- speak God’s Word into her life....regularly

28)-30) **“....caring for her (cherishing her) as his own body....”**

Dictionary synonyms for “cherishing” someone:

- to view with a heightened feeling of pleasure
- to hold in high esteem
- to provide shelter or refuge
- to have a lover’s passion, devotion, and tenderness
- to promote growth, progress, and development
- to honor and admire respectfully
- to take responsibility for
- look out for her wellbeing as you do for your own
NOTE: The primary source of “nagging” is when a woman feels that her husband cannot be trusted to notice and care for her needs. [Jesus “cares for you watchfully & attentively” 1Peter 5:7]

31) **“...leave...and cleave...united, the two become one flesh...”**

- necessary to put behind parents’ influence (past & present) in favor of the new bond
- in God’s eyes: like a metal alloy....(**united** means “glued together”)
- ”oneness” is a lifelong process that begins with an unconditional commitment to each other;
(it improves with usage....it withers & dies with neglect)