**September 9, 2018 “Husbands Love Your Wives” Ephesians 5:25-33**

When we started our study on this passage, I realized that we have to clear our minds and thinking about the issue of love. Love as is shown in the movies or described in many of the so-called “romance novels” is not a Biblical definition of love. Rather those definitions are primarily based on selfish motives which find their fulfillment in feelings.

If you will remember from our lesson last week, I referred to a movie which was wildly popular when Terry and I were young called “Love Story”. The most popular saying that came out of that movie was this one: “love means never having to say that you are sorry”. While that sounds so nice, it is not a practical application of Biblical love which in the truest sense should occur between the born-again husband and the born-again wife. Those two individuals find their fulfillment in marriage as both seek to serve Christ in their home and marriage.

Last week we noticed the warning given to men as they serve Christ in their relationship to their wives. Colossians 3:19; this warning is given to men because we have a tendency, if we adhere to our sinful nature, to become tyrants in our homes. This tendency can make it nearly impossible to live with us and it not only affects our relationship with our wife, it also affects our relationship with our children (note Ephesians 6:4).

Now please notice… men. The Word of God does not leave us hanging in the lurch but rather gives us a prime example on which to hang our hat. Note the example given to us in Ephesians 5:25… “as Christ loved the Church”. I could not think of a better example than that which is found in I Corinthians 1:22-31.

* We preach Christ crucified
  + Sacrificial Lamb of God (I Corinthians 1:23)
  + Stumbling block to all the world around us (I Corinthians 1:23
  + Note your standing in what made you qualified (I Corinthians 1:26-29)
    - Not mighty
    - Not noble
    - Not wise
    - Not exalted
* So, no one can boast before God… literally I’m better that you…

1. Note how that ties into…
   1. I Peter 1:22
      1. Fervently love
         1. Through self-sacrifice
         2. Is that not the exact opposite of what the world is looking for in what it calls love?
   2. II Timothy 3:1-5… is this not a description of our society?
      1. Note the listing…
      2. Disobedient to parents… warning to young men
         1. The way you treat your parents is same way you will treat your wife
   3. I Corinthians 13:1-8a
      1. Love “is”
         1. Action word
         2. Substitute the word “I” for love to get a personal meaning
            1. I am… (I Corinthians 13:4-7)
      2. Note especially I Corinthians 13:5
         1. Does not take into account a wrong suffered
         2. What does it mean to “keep an account”?
            1. “Keeping records of wrongs”
   4. Question…
      1. What is the number one destroyer of marriages or relationships within families?
         1. Unforgiveness… is the answer
         2. “It’s going to take me a long time to get over this one”
         3. Is that a Biblical mindset?
2. What is the Biblical model?
   1. Ephesians 5:18-21
      1. What do you mean?
         1. Galatians 5:22
   2. The only way you and I can live this Christian life is…
      1. Through the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives
      2. How can I have this power?
         1. Luke 9:18-25
            1. The issue is never our marriage
            2. The issue always is… who Christ is to you…

Is He your Lord?

Is He your Master?

Is He your example?

* + - 1. I Peter 2:21-23
         1. That sounds like a miserable life…
      2. I Timothy 1:12-16
      3. II Timothy 4:7-8

Keeping our eyes on the prize makes the race worth running. Remember men, God said it is not good for man to be alone. “I will make him a helper.” God has given those of us who are married a helper… to walk this Christian life. She is specially designed for you!!! Cherish the gift that God has given you.