

Husbands, Love Your Wives

by Wayne Goff

Tomorrow is **Valentine's Day 2022**. A lot of emphasis will be placed on flowers, candy, jewelry, cards, and for a few, poems! Husbands are taught to love their wives ~ *"just as Christ loved the church"* (**Eph. 5:25**), *"as their own bodies"* (**Eph. 5:28**), and *"do not be bitter against them"* (**Col. 3:19**). To be honest with you, I cannot recall any husband I have ever known who loved his wife to that degree! But it certainly is a lofty goal. So husbands, myself included, do not quit trying to love your wives like that!

One good reason for husbands to love their wives is that God gave men their wives to be equal companions in life (**Gen. 2:18, 21-24**). *"It is not good that man should be **alone**."* I witnessed the **dark loneliness** that haunted my father when he lost his second wife, Hattie. He was a wonderful husband and father. His personality was to make others around him better because of his love, caring and advice. When he was all alone in an empty house, it was most unbearable. So I have seen what God meant by the statement.

Secondly, husbands and wives should be *"heirs together of the grace of life"* (**1 Pet. 3:7**). For this to be done biblically and successfully, wives must **honor** their husbands with their voluntary submissiveness, and husbands are to **honor** their wives by dwelling with them with *"understanding."* (*"Understanding"* here means moral wisdom in dealing with others. The Greek word is always translated *"knowledge"* elsewhere in the NT. Husbands are to learn *the special nature of women* in order to live with them properly.) This is the Divine blueprint for a happy marriage, but it is nothing like the world's blueprint some try to follow today. But when the Christian man so follows God's instruction, then he *truly loves* his wife and God.

There is the **danger** of loving your wives too much! Jesus warned: *"If anyone comes to Me and does not **hate** his father and mother, **wife** and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple"* (**Lk. 14:26**). While this sounds horrible to the carnal ear, Jesus is simply saying that a man cannot love his wife more than he loves Jesus! Indeed, some husbands and wives have turned their backs on Jesus when they have chosen each other rather than Him! True believers must learn to love the Lord their God with all their hearts, souls, and minds! If not, they will not endure the test of discipleship. Just the same, some husbands will follow their wives into religious error, just as Solomon was led astray by his love for his many wives, or just as Jezebel led Ahab into idolatry.

The apostle Paul stated by inspiration that *"... he who is married cares about the things of the world — how he may please his wife"* (**1 Cor. 7:33**). And while this is as it should be, husbands must keep their priorities straight — **Jesus first**, family second, etc. The cares of this world can ensnare us, as the Parable of the Sower warns. So be careful that you do not please your wives over your Lord.

To *"love"* (**agapao**) your wife is to *nourish* and *cherish* her (**Eph. 5:29**). A simple way to explain this is that when you marry your wife, over time you will make her a better person for having been with you. You will *"nourish"* her, or **bring her up** to her best potential. You will *"cherish"* her, or *"warm her heart with your tender love"* for her. Husbands, read God's instructions for your conduct toward your wife, strive to your best to **be** that kind of husband, and that will be the **BEST Valentine's Day** present you could ever give her.

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