

“Husband, Sanctify Your Wife!”

Ephesians 5:26-27

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²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her; ²⁶**that He might sanctify her** [*‘to make her holy’ NIV*], **having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word,** ²⁷**that He might present to Himself** [*‘as a radiant church’ NIV; ‘a glorious church’ KJV*] **the Church in all her glory** [*‘in splendor’ ESV*], **having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless”**

In Ephesians 5:25-33 Paul commands husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church. In 5:26-27 Paul reminds the husband that one key responsibility of true love expressed toward his wife is by insuring, safeguarding and furthering her sanctification. Husbands are to be proactive, consistent, systematic and deliberate in helping their wives grow spiritually in holiness—in other words, the man is to be the spiritual leader of the home!

1) The definition: “sanctify” — the process of making holy in a practical way; growing in holiness; becoming more Christ-like in attitudes, actions and words; refraining from sin and worldliness; living in a ‘set-apart’ and distinct manner.

2) Husbands are to be the spiritual leaders in the home.

“the husband is the head of the wife” (Ephesians 5:23)

“the man is the head of a woman” (1 Corinthians 11:3)

“sanctify her” (Ephesians 5:26)

*“he must be one who manages his own household”
(1 Timothy 3:4)*

3) Husbands and wives are a team.

“grant her honor as a fellow heir” (1 Peter 3:7)

“the two shall become one” (Ephesians 5:31)

*“male [and] female...are all one in Christ Jesus”
(Galatians 3:28)*

*“Priscilla and Aquila...took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately” (Acts 18:26;
cf. 18:2, 18)*

“Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus” (Romans 16:3)

4) The wife has a need for the husband’s spiritual leadership.

A. She was created to be the follower.

*“I will make him a helper...“She shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man”
(Genesis 2:18, 23)*

“For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; for indeed man was not created for the woman’s sake, but woman for the man’s sake. Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head” (1 Corinthians 11:8-10)

“I want the men [andras] in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands...Let a woman quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve” (1 Timothy 2:8, 11-13)

“Let the women keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but let them subject themselves, just as the Law also says. And if they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church” (1 Corinthians 14:34-35)

B. She is the weaker vessel.

“You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman” (1 Peter 3:7a)

“do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. For...it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being quite deceived, fell into transgression” (1 Timothy 2:12, 14)

5) Husbands are to lead spiritually with the Word.

“sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word” (Ephesians 5:26)

6) God will bless a husband’s faithful spiritual leadership.

“How blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways. When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands, you will be happy and it will be well with you. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, your children like olive plants around your table” (Psalm 128:1-3)

7) God will hold husband’s accountable for their spiritual leadership.

“act like men” (1 Corinthians 16:13)

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7)

“we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or worthless” (2 Corinthians 5:10)