

Lesson 9: Who Do You Love?

Intro:

BIG IDEA: Love her like you love yourself.

²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. **Ephesians 5**

Not More Important, Not Less Important

- Each person's _____, values and _____ matter.
- _____ & _____ tip the balance so we think one of us is more important.
- The prideful person exaggerates their _____, usually at the expense of others'.
- God sees the pride that fills our _____ and He _____ us in our pride.

- _____, from trauma or abuse, makes some people think they are less _____.
- They have a _____. Like pride, it has no basis in fact.
- The shame-filled person exaggerates their own _____.

- Greco-Roman World: wives were for _____ & _____; mistresses were for _____.
- Paul calls them to have a self-sacrificing _____ to their wives' _____ - _____.

Bonded Together as One

- Paul reminds them that the Church is the _____ of Christ.
- The _____ unites us to Christ, & to one another. We can't prove it: matter of _____.
- In Genesis 2 we see that husbands and wives are united in a similar fashion by the Spirit.
- One of the great _____ in marriage is living as the other person _____.

Assume Responsibility for Your Body

- Unless we are _____ unhealthy, we take care of our bodies.
- Each "*nourishes and cherishes*" their own _____. We _____ & _____ ourselves.
- Husbands are to _____ & _____ their _____ as they would themselves.
- They also have _____ & _____ needs.
- When we don't nurture them they feel _____, become distant, _____ or addicted.
- Men love their wives by _____ in them: materially, emotionally, and spiritually.

“No man can love himself without loving his wife. Therefore, the man who does not love his wife is a monster.” **John Calvin**

What happens when a man doesn't?

- As we consider these commands we can't lose sight of God's _____ to us.
- He nourishes & cherishes the Body, which would include the _____.
- Men, Jesus nourishes you so you _____, in part, so you can _____ her!
- Jesus often uses means to do this for you, including church _____.
- Good leadership nourishes & cherishes the _____ under their care.
- Good _____ nourishes & cherishes the wife and children under your care.

Who do you love? You love the ones you take care of!

A Daily Dose of Love

- Love is not an _____, like a marriage ceremony. It is an on-going _____.
- When we don't regularly communicate love in a way they _____ it, they _____.
- None of us has an inexhaustible _____ to love others. We can't rely on one another.
- The Father _____ His love into our hearts thru the _____ as a spring of living water.
- **Tension:** Spirit => Wife <= Husband <= Spirit

“You will need new drafts of God's love every day to keep you satisfied.” **William Gurnall**

Put Her In Your Shoes

- Seek your _____ in _____ happiness upon her.
- Alleviate her _____, before she _____.
- _____ her _____ and _____ in your plans.
- Pay _____ to her!

“The rule of love so directly challenges the instinctive craving to get our own way.” **David Powlison**

Marriage: A Practical Theology

How the Gospel Helps

- A man's _____ takes place in the _____ of loving their wives.
- The Story of Christ's love for His people is _____ into your story & marriage.
- You will _____, often and sometimes in _____ fashion!
- The gospel frees us thinking we need to _____ ourselves, _____ or blame others.
- Self-_____ is selfish, and _____. Your wife doesn't need you to _____ or withdraw.
- She needs you to _____ up to your failures and seek _____.
- Seek the _____ of the Spirit to love her _____ than you have.

