

## Men's Discipleship

# Husband - Save Your Wife!

## Ephesians 5:22-25

What do Homer Simpson (The Simpsons), Doug Heffernan (King of Queens), and Ray Barone (Everybody Loves Raymond) have in common? They all play the role of the “dumb husband” on TV.

Funny as they might be on TV, no real man would want to be like them. No actual woman would want to be married to them. Unless you've been living under a rock, you're probably aware the media has portrayed men as dumb and clueless; from being insensitive and violent to being emotionally expressive and highly feminine. The sad portrayal of men on television has deteriorated to the point that to not see men belittled or ridiculed would seem unreal. If a man asked his wife “honey, what area am I in charge of in this house”, no one would think anything of it. Almost everyone has been conditioned to accept this view of men (even men).

We will look into what God's word tells us about **husbands**; how husbands have a **role** and a **responsibility** that is completely contrary to the world's view of husbands. God's word tells us that you as a husband need to:

1. Know your role and responsibility as the leader in your marriage
2. Know God's purpose for your marriage
3. Know you are accountable for your wife
4. Be a savior to your wife
5. Rescue and protect your wife from the devil and the world with God's word and with prayer

### Ephesians 5:22-33 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup>**Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.** <sup>23</sup>**For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is Savior of the body.** <sup>24</sup>**Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.** <sup>25</sup>**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,** <sup>26</sup>*that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,* <sup>27</sup>*that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.* <sup>28</sup>*So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.* <sup>29</sup>*For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.* <sup>30</sup>*For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.* <sup>31</sup>*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* <sup>32</sup>*This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.* <sup>33</sup>*Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

## 1) Men, know your responsibility and role as the leader in your marriage

**Ephesians 5:22** (NKJV) *“Wives, **submit** to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”*

- Wives are to submit to their own husbands
- How? **As to the Lord**
- To wives it is an authoritative instruction or directive (Paul is direct and clear)
  - Wives have a responsibility here; to submit to their husbands as to the Lord
- Husbands also have a **responsibility**. Paul is showing that wives are to be in submission to their husbands. Thus, husbands are put into a leadership **role**. In any leadership role, **the leader is responsible for those who are put under their leadership**.

Just mention the word “submission,” and many women immediately become angry and even hostile. This anger stems from its association with suppression and abuse. Unfortunately, men have mistreated women in many ways; including Christian men. But what is Paul saying when he says, **“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord”**? He’s saying, as the church is to submit to Christ’s leadership and authority, so is the wife to submit to her husband’s leadership and authority.

Submit **“does not”** mean?

- **Submit does not mean** - women are inferior to men in some way.
- **Submit does not mean** - “blind obedience”.
- **Submit does not mean** - she can’t give input or question anything.
- **Submit does not mean** - stay obediently barefoot and pregnant in the kitchen.

## 2) Men, know God’s purpose for your marriage

**Ephesians 5:23** (NKJV) *“**For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is Savior of the body.**”*

- **The Husband is head of the wife as also Christ is head of the church**
- **“as also” or “even as”** = comparative adverbial phrase. It establishes a **comparison** of the **relationship** between a husband and wife to the **relationship** between Christ and the church
- It is a **resemblance** or **likeness** between husband and wife to Christ and the church
- **Gods primary purpose for marriage is to portray Christ and His church**
  - If the wife doesn’t resemble the church in obedience = Gods purpose for marriage is lost
  - If the husband doesn’t resemble Christ in His headship = Gods purpose for marriage is lost
  - When the world and everyone around you observes the way you relate and interact with your wife, they must see **Christ in you**. If not, the whole God-glorifying purpose of creating marriage to be a living resemblance of Christ in the church, is lost.

**Ephesians 5:24** (NKJV) *“Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.”*

- **Therefore** = transitional word connecting the “cause” and “effect”
- **cause** = v23 = husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church
- **effect** = v24 = just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything
- **“just as”** meaning “precisely” or “exactly”
- **Ezekiel 36:27** (NKJV) *“I will put My Spirit within you and **cause you** to walk in My statutes, and **you will keep My judgements and do them.**”*
- **The God factor** = God is going to **“cause you”** to walk in His statutes
- God is going to cause you to walk in His statutes
- God is going to cause your wife to walk in His statutes
- There is a God factor in your marriage; you are not alone in the work of achieving what God expects of you and your wife in your marriage.

**Ephesians 5:23-24** (NKJV) *“<sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is Savior of the body. <sup>24</sup>Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*

#### **Paul’s logic:**

1. Wives need to submit **because** the husband is the head
2. The husband is the head **because** he portrays Christ in the church
3. **Because** Christ is head of the church
4. **Therefore**, the man must be head of his wife
5. **Therefore**, the wife must submit to the husband

Marriage was created by God for what?

- **To constantly portray Christ and the Gospel message**
- Companionship? Sex? children? Obviously, God designed those in there as well, but they are not the primary purpose of marriage. The primary purpose is to portray Christ and His church.

#### **Men you are called to that headship**

- You are head of the family (namely your wife and children)
- You are called to that leadership role in the home
- You are to portray Christ in that leadership role

### 3) Men, you are accountable for your wife

**Hebrews 13:17** (NKJV) *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who **must give account**. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

- Those in leadership in Christ's kingdom, those who have others submitting to them = **THEY WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT**. This principal thread runs through the Bible for those who are in authority and leadership. They will give an account.
- You will give an account for how you lead your family. Just because you are in Christ does NOT mean you escape from giving an account.
- Eve was initially the one who fell into that sin in the garden. But who did God come looking for?

**Gen. 3:10** *"But the LORD God called to the **man** and said to him, "Where are you?"*

Who had some accounting to do? = **ADAM**

- Your leadership as the man in your family, just like the leaders in the church, your leadership as a husband, if it is not made up of that stuff which endures the fire, then it's going to be gone.
- **This is serious. It's not safe to live like it doesn't matter how you lead your wife.**

### 4) Men, be a savior to your wife

**Ephesians 5:23-24** (NKJV) *"<sup>23</sup>For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is **head** of the church; and He is **Savior** of the body. <sup>24</sup>Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*

- Why didn't Paul just stop at "Christ is head of the church"?
- Christ is not just head of the church, but in addition to that, He is it's **Savior**.
- **Because** Christ is head and Savior of His church
- **And because** the husband is to resemble Christ in His church
- **Then** the husband is to be **head** and **savior** of his wife!
- Paul is saying this is what husband headship looks like.
- **Ephesians 5:25** *"Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,**"*
- Objections? Only Christ can atone? Yes, husbands cannot atone for their wives.
- Paul is not talking about husbands replacing Christ, he's talking about husbands **portraying** Christ.
- Paul doesn't want us thinking that a husband should love his wife by atoning for her sins on a cross. But he does want us to see Christ's love and to imitate that love.
- Paul is taking the love of Christ, the love that took Him to the cross, and he's saying "men, behold your Savior going to appease Almighty God to save His bride." He's saying, son's of God, take that imagery there and let it impact you; see the sacrifice in it, see the love in it, and **see how it saved**.
- Men, you are called to save your wife!

To say that a husband should be the savior of his wife, even as Christ is the savior of His church, what is the biggest objection? **That only Christ can atone and save.**

### What did Christ do?

- He came to earth - Lived perfect life - He was made like us in every respect, yet without sin.
- He went to cross - He bore the wrath of God – Christ blood atoned!
- His blood actually removed my sin - He went to the cross - He died - He drank that cup of wrath.
- He satisfied the anger of God - He turned it away totally.
- He reconciled a people to God - He redeemed us - He paid the price we could not pay.
- He satisfied the law - He took upon Himself a curse.
- All manner of things we could not do.

Truthfully, we all understand what Christ did as a Savior is absolutely unique and right. It is no different, us being called saviors, than it is for us to be called to love in verse 25: **“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,”**.

If you say “it’s just not possible for us to be a savior because we could never do the things that Christ did, then the question must be asked; **Is it more possible for us to love our wives like Christ loved the church when He gave Himself up for the church?** The very love that is being expressed **IS LOVE AS A SAVIOR!** What is that a picture of if it’s not a picture of the cross? Giving Himself up!

The concept of saving, outside of the meaning of Christ’s atonement, is not unique in the bible. There are several instances where we are called to save.

**Obediah 1:21** *“Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion to judge the mountains of Esau, and the kingdom shall be the Lord’s.”*

**Nehemiah 9:27** *“...and according to Your abundant mercies You gave them deliverers who saved them From the hand of their enemies.”*

**Jude 1:23** *“but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.”*

**James 5:20** *“let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”*

**1 Timothy 4:16** *“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”*

**1 Corinthians 9:22** *“to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”*

This type of saving is in the sense that they are **portraying** Christ and leading others to Christ who is the One who saves by atonement. They are being a living example of Christ.

Even God Himself saves people outside of atonement.

**1 Timothy 4:10** (NKJV) *“For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.”*

- God is saving even unbelievers; even at this moment.
- Isn’t life and death in the hands of God? Yes it is!
- God is the savior of all men, at least temporarily.
- This concept of God’s people called to be saviors runs through the bible. Don’t be shocked when you see these verses.

## 5) Men, rescue and protect your wife

God is calling you to the responsibility of “**saving your wives**”

**How?** Concerning their spiritual salvation? getting to heaven? **YES! ABSOLUTELY!**

**Do women need protection?**

**1 Peter 3:7** (NKJV) *“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the **weaker vessel**, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”*

- The devil came to Eve, the weaker vessel, and deceived her.
- He did so when Adam was not there, at least spiritually. He did so on purpose.
- Men, women need protection, all of them.
- Women who have husbands; their husbands should be their protector.
- Young women not married; their fathers should be their protector.
- Women not married or without fathers; the men in the church should be their protectors.
- Ultimately, God is all our protector.

**Protect your wives by putting on the full armor of God**

- **Ephesians 6:10-18**
  - **Belt of Truth:** Standing firm on the truth of God's Word.
  - **Breastplate of Righteousness:** Protecting the heart from evil.
  - **Shoes of Peace:** Walking in the gospel of peace and sharing it with others.
  - **Shield of Faith:** Extinguishing the fiery darts of the evil one.
  - **Helmet of Salvation:** Protecting the mind from the thoughts of the evil one.
  - **Sword of the Spirit:** The Word of God
- Be husbands of confident assurance in your standing with God
- Be husbands of God's promises
- Be husbands of God's word
- Be husbands who live on that word
- Be husbands who believe that word
- Be husbands who seek to guide their families by that word
- Be husbands of prayer
- Be husbands who wield the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God

## Three ways to be saviors to our wives

### 1. We must protect our wives from the devil

#### a) Jesus is our example

- **Luke 11:21-22** (NKJV) *"<sup>21</sup>When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. <sup>22</sup>But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils."*

Jesus speaks about his ability to bind the strong man and take away what is his. Jesus is that strong man.

- Christ as a savior rescues men from the devil. Christ came to destroy the devil and his works.  
**1 John 3:8** (NKJV) *"... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might **destroy the works of the devil.**"*  
**Heb. 2:14** *".., that through death **He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,**"*
- He's called a murderer from the beginning.  
**John 8:44** (NKJV) *"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a **murderer** from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."*
- How he murders is through > lies.  
**Genesis 3:4** (NKJV) *'Then the serpent said to the woman, "You shall not surely die"*  
Do you realize the devil murdered Eve – through a lie "You shall not surely die"  
If there was a serial killer in Don Pedro and he was in your yard, what are you going to do?  
Are you going to roll over and go to sleep?

#### b) Husbands, you have authority, and you have power!

- **Romans 16:20** (NKJV) *"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."*
- **James 4:7** (NKJV) *"Resist the devil and he will flee from you"*

#### c) How do you protect your wife from the devil? Don't let the devil into your home!

- **Eph. 4:27** (NKJV) *"and give **no opportunity** to the devil."*
- **Eph. 4:26** (NKJV) *"Be angry and do not sin; **do not let the sun go down on your anger.**"*
- If you let that anger fester and simmer, then you are then giving opportunity to the devil to enter your home. If you are the leader and responsible for the protection of your home, you cannot allow anger to continue. You must quickly resolve it.

#### d) Paul telling us that we have the ability to not be outwitted the devil

- **2 Cor. 2:11** (NKJV) *"so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs."*
- The Scripture says we cannot be outwitted by the devil.

## Three ways to be saviors to our wives

### 2. You need to protect your wife and family from the world

#### a) Men it is your responsibility to say:

- This is the dress code in my family
- This is the type of music we allow in this house; this is the type of music we don't allow.
- These are the kind of movies we will watch in this house, and these are the kind of movies we won't watch.
- Whether cable is allowed in your house
- Whether computer movies are allowed your house
- Whether Facebook and other social media is allowed in your house

#### b) Men it's your place to be a savior and protector

- You are called to be the savior, to be the protector, to be the head.
- God designed women to be led
- God designed women to be protected
- God designed women to be saved

### 3. You need to lead your wife in the truth

**Hebrews 7:25** (NKJV) *“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make **intercession** for them.”*

Men, you are largely **responsible** for the **salvation for your wife**. In the same way Paul and others were saviors, you need to save your wife.

- **Seek to protect her** from the devil and his lies by setting spiritual truth on that table by reading God’s word.
  - **Hebrews 4:12** *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*
  
- **Keep them in the faith** and help them stay the course
- Men, you have a large part to play in your wife’s preservation and her making it to the end.
- You need to keep them protected from the devil and keep her from succumbing to the lie - Not like Adam did.
- Men, you have to **pray** for your wife and your family. You can’t do this on your own. You need God’s help!
  
- **Husband – Save Your Wife!**

## Praying Daily for Our Wives

### Sunday

1. **That she be faithful in public and private worship, delighting in God and His word.** (Ps. 1:2; 37:4; 119:24, 77, 92; Prov. 23:6; Song of Solomon 2:3)
2. **That she might grow in holiness, humble in prayer, mature in the Lord, ever growing in her knowledge of God.** (Eph. 3:16-19, 6:18; Col. 4:12; 1 Thes. 5:23; 2 Peter 3:18)

### Monday

1. **To take every thought captive, to not be conformed to the world's thinking, but to think Scripturally.** (Rom. 12:1,2; 2 Cor. 10:5)
2. **That she would not depend on things, people, or circumstances for happiness, but would depend on God alone-consistently feeding on God's word to nourish her soul.** (Jer. 15:16; Hab. 3:17-19)

### Tuesday

1. **That she might daily seek God with all her heart, walking worthy of the Lord, growing in her trust and obedience to Him.** (Ps. 27:4; 63:1,2; 119:2; Prov. 3:5-6; John 15:5)
2. **For increased strength in the midst of her busy schedule, that the Lord would infuse her with strength to labor faithfully in her area of service.** (Is. 30:31; Eph. 3:14-19; Phil. 4:13)

### Wednesday

1. **That God would enable fruitful and faithful, by precept and example, for building and strengthening God's kingdom.** (Eph. 4:1, 2; 1 Tim. 4:11, 12)
2. **That she would learn to love God and love others Biblically.** (Rom. 12:9-10; 1 Cor. 13:4-7)

### Thursday

1. **That the Lord would give her wisdom to serve as an effective helpmate to her family physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually; that she would lovingly give to her children by teaching, exhortation, encouragement, and discipline as needed.** (Eph. 1:17-19; 6:4)
2. **That the fruit of the Spirit might be exhibited more and more in her life.** (Gal. 5:22-23)

### Friday

1. **That she might not be deceived by sin, that she would be uncompromising with the world, the flesh, or the devil.** (Matt. 26:58-75; Gal. 6:7; Eph. 5:11)
2. **That she would continually be faithful to examine herself in light of Scripture; recognizing, confessing, and repenting of all inward and outward sins.** (Ps. 32:1-5; 51:10; 119:130; 1 John 1:9)

### Saturday

1. **That she would submit joyfully to the Lordship of Christ in her life.** (Eph. 1:1-11; Dan. 4:35)
2. **That God would give her favor with others, opening doors of opportunity to have a godly influence in the church and community.** (Ps. 133:1-3; Prov. 21:1)