

Marriage Mandate for Husbands

Part I (Ephesians 5:25-33)

“At the time of Christ a Jewish woman was not a person but a thing. A woman had no legal rights whatever, and a wife could be dismissed at will. Rabbi Hillel’s interpretation of Deuteronomy 24:1 was the popular position of the day which said that anything displeasing to the husband was a basis of divorce, even spoiling his dinner. He could simply write her a ‘bill of divorcement’ and send her away. A woman had no right of divorce.”

- J. Boice

“If the state of marriage was on perilous ground in Judaism, it was on even worse ground in Greek and Roman cultures. Demosthenes had said, ‘We have courtesans for our pleasure, concubines for daily cohabitation, and wives for the purpose of having children legitimately and of having a faithful guardian for our household affairs.’ In Greece a married woman had no part in a man’s life. She was not even a true companion to her husband. She was to run his home and care for his children. A Greek husband was expected to find companionship elsewhere.”

- J. Boice

“It was against this background that Paul pens Ephesians 5:25-33. When the Holy Spirit guided Paul to write this he was not simply restating the view that every man held. He was calling men and women to a new fidelity and a new purity and a new fellowship in the married life.....It is impossible to exaggerate the cleansing effect that Christianity had on ordinary everyday life in the ancient world.”

- W. Barclay

Love Her:

I. Sacrificially.

I Peter 3:7

- ⁷ You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Love Her:

II. With a Sanctifying Love.

Isaiah 61:10a

10a I will rejoice greatly in the LORD,
my soul will exult in my God;
for He has clothed me with
garments of salvation, He has
wrapped me with a robe of
righteousness,

Titus 3:5

- ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

I Corinthians 6:11

¹¹ Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Love Her:

III. With TLC.

Love Her:

IV. Remembering you are
one flesh.

Proverbs 18:22

²² He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.