

WHEN A MAN LOVES A WOMAN

August 26, 2012 Ephesians 5:25–27 by Bob Branch
Living Out Our Inheritance In Christ, Part 26

MAIN IDEA: What the Bible says about a husband's role in marriage, and how this works God's transforming power into the family.

1. Marriage is God's invitation into His **SELF-GIVING LOVE**.

Many kinds of love:

Storge (Family affection)

Philia (brother, friendship)

Eros (romance, sexual)

Agape (giving, serving)

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 NLT

2. Love is **PERSONIFIED** and **MODELED** by Jesus Himself.

JESUS as Bridegroom.

He *loved* you

Gave Himself up for you (cross, *died*)

Sanctified you (set apart as valuable-His)

Cleansed you (completely clean)

To **present you to himself** glorious. (future vision)

This is the love role-model for Husbands.

Personal... you give yourself. Engage. Time.

Sacrificial... you give up yourself for the other.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Giving... always looking to give

Visionary... all for her/their best (highest, best)

Verbal... affirmation, creative, building (cleanse, transform)

Transforming... radiant, glorious, splendor

Faithful... does not give up.

Spiritually uplifting... husband's primary responsibility

3. Putting their **BEST INTEREST AHEAD** of your own is key to **EVERYTHING!**

You put their needs ahead of your own.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. **Philippians 2:3-4**

Keller: ...you only discover your own happiness after each of you has put the happiness of your spouse ahead of your own, in a sustained way, in response to what Jesus has done for you.

"If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever." **1 Kings 12:7** ESV

4. Therefore, we must challenge our own **SELF-CENTEREDNESS!**

Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. **Matthew 10:38–39** (Luke 9:23–25)

Keller: He is saying, "If you seek happiness more than you seek me, you will have neither; if you seek to serve me more than serve happiness, you will have both."

Make her holy, pure, wholly for God (spiritual leadership)

Use words to build her up (verbal leadership)

Vision of what she can be... (visionary leadership)

RESETTING The Charter

- ♥ Accept the charge-call from God (agree with God)
- ♥ A Humble start—Admit wrongs—Forgive for not getting it right.
- ♥ Create a safe place (acceptance, forgiveness, reconciling, honest)
- ♥ Pray and ask God for help.
- ♥ Ask others for help.
- ♥ Focus on Jesus.