

DO YOU LOVE MY DESIGN FOR THE FAMILY?

Introduction:

1. The Premise: Why Should you Love your Spouse?

A) Because you love God

> Loving God means keeping His commandments and God commands you to love your spouse

Husbands love your wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her (Eph. 5:25)

Wives love your husband (Titus 2:3-4)

> Therefore, to not love your spouse is disobedience and is an indicator of your love for God

B) Because loving your spouse glorifies God

> The Hebrew word for glory implied weight / presence (Exodus 40)

Remember the context for our study today – Ephesians 5:18

> God designed the marriage relationship to image Him

We are able to image God in the husband / wife relationship

God is Triune – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Notice a unique ability to image God in the marriage relationship

The two become one flesh (Genesis 2:24)

The man and woman are equal in essence (Genesis 1:26-27)

But different in function (1 Corinthians 11:1-3)

> Why do wives bristle at submitting to their own husbands and husbands bristle at giving up all of their rights to meet their wife's needs?

C) A loving relationship between a husband and wife is of incredible worth (Song of Sol 8:6-7)

> In God's gift of marriage, He gives to us a lover and a friend (Song of Solomon 5:16)

Intimacy – romantic love between a husband / wife

Friendship – a companion for this journey we call life

D) Your marriage is not outside of God's providence

> If you love God and love His way (providence) then you have to believe that He can empower you to glorify Him in and through your marriage

2. The Question: How Do I Love my Spouse?

A) Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

> Conflict in marriage is a result of the Fall and through redemption we find what God intended

> Don't miss the connection between Ephesians 5:18 and 5:23

KEY THOUGHT: Loving your spouse is a spiritual matter motivated by your love for God and empowered by His Spirit

If you love God, then you will seek to obey Him

If you love His Word, then you will let it guide your steps

When we connect loving our spouse to their beauty, worth, utility, their love for us we have moved love from the sphere of commandment to condition

B) God's Instructions for the Husband

> Love your wife as Jesus Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25)

That is going to require that I have the mind of Jesus (Philippians 2:3-5)

That is going to require that I love like Jesus Christ

Your love is to be spontaneous (Ephesians 5:25a)

Your love is to be sacrificial (Ephesians 5:25b)

Your love is to see your wife sanctified (Ephesians 5:26-27)

Your love is to satisfy your wife's needs (Ephesians 5:28-29)

Your love is to be steadfast (Ephesians 5:30-31)

> Love your Wife according to knowledge (1 Peter 3:7a)

Understand her needs as revealed in God's Word

Understand her needs through an attentive relationship

> Honor your wife (1 Peter 3:7b)