

Sacred: God's Design for Marriage

A Peculiar Command

Ephesians 5:1-2 (ESV)

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:25, 28 (ESV)

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ...

²⁸... husbands should love their wives ...

Titus 2:3-4 (ESV)

³Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴and so train the young women to love their husbands ...

The myths:

The reality:

These verses aren't just telling us *how* we should love our spouses (as if love was a given), they are telling us *that* we should (because sometimes it's not a given!)

Love is not an _____ outside of my _____.

Love is an _____ that God _____.

(*And if He commands, I _____!*)

Therefore, I have to _____ to love, and not wait until I "feel" like it!

The big idea ...

Consider first _____.

Confess where I have _____ loving my spouse like that.

Commit to _____.

Stop putting feelings first. Start by doing something.

Choosing to love like Jesus means I will ...

_____ regarding my desires, 'needs', wishes, etc. in order to satisfy his/hers.
(Eph. 5:2, 25)

_____ to my spouse by meeting his/her needs (With no quid pro quo).
(Eph 5:1)

_____ to their needs, knowing them well enough to love them specifically.
(Eph 5:28)

_____, not _____ with my words and my attitude.
(1 Cor 13:4ff)

_____ when things aren't going my way. (1 Cor 13:4ff)

_____ of faults, mistakes, imperfections, offenses, and wrongs. (1 Pet. 4:8)

_____ in choosing to love my spouse, no matter his/her reaction or response. (1 Cor 13:7-8)

A few final reminders to help me love my spouse:

God let me _____!

If Matthew 5:44 commands me to love my _____ (and it does!), what excuse do I have for not loving the one I chose to love?

I made a _____.

My promise was not just to him/her. It was to _____! (Malachi 3:14, Mark 10:6-9, Eccl. 5:5)

I am a _____.

I can love because I have been loved and because the _____ lives in me. (Romans 5:5)

To say to my spouse, "I never loved you" is to say ...

To say, "I no longer love you" is to say ...

To say, "I can't love you" is to say ...