

## The Christian Home - Calvary Love in the Christian Home - Eph. 5:25

*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.* The strongest love ever known is *Calvary Love*. We all need *Calvary Love* in our Christian Homes. Just because you are a Christian does not mean you have a Christian marriage. **The Christian marriage and Christian Home have much more to do with what we put into them than what we take out of them.** Some folks have what could be called "Christian house cleaning." They get everything out that they think is improper, but they do not put the right things into their homes. They still do not have a Christian home or a Christian marriage. **The relationship that we have with our wives is to reflect the relationship that Christ has with the Church. The world needs to see Christ in our homes. Our marriages reflect the testimony of our church. If our marriages are not what they should be, then our church doesn't have the testimony it should have. This is a serious matter.**

Rom. 5:5, "*And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*" God loves us, and God gives us the capacity as Christians to love people with the love of God. This is a work done through us by the Holy Spirit of God. People who are not saved are not capable of this because they have not been born of the Spirit of God. There are many people who are married, but not happily married, even in churches, and even in the ministry. The ONLY way to correct what is wrong in the Christian life is to go straight to the heart of the matter, which is the spiritual condition. This is the foundation for it all. The Bible targets the husband and says the husband is to love his wife with a *Calvary Love*, to love her as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it. This is *Calvary Love* in the Christian Home.

### **1. Calvary Love is a Covenant Love - Proverbs 5:1-5**

The word *strange* means one that doesn't belong to you, as we examined last week from the passage in Prov. 2:11-19. According to this chapter five, a married man ought not to look at a strange woman's lips. Do not look into her eyes. Look at her feet! They are planted in hell (Prov. 5:5). If you begin to look and let your eyes wander on a strange woman, you will change your life and your schedule just to walk by and catch a glimpse. Your life will begin to revolve around your desire for strange flesh. Your mind will race with ideas of what you should not do. When you think of following a strange woman, think of who you are in Christ Jesus. Think of whom you represent in a lost and dying world. Think of the testimony of your church! *Calvary Love* is a Covenant Love. Mal. 2:14. Marriage for a Christian is NOT a contract. A contract to buy a car states that if you don't pay for it, it will be repossessed; a contract to buy a house comes with the possibility of being evicted if you miss enough payments. **Marriage is NOT a contract - Marriage is a COVENANT! We do not make this covenant with one another, but with God.** The man makes a covenant with God, "Lord, I covenant with Thee that I will be the husband to this wife that You desire for me to be and that she deserves to have." The woman makes a covenant with God, "Lord, I covenant with Thee, I promise Thee that I will be the faithful wife to this man that You desire for me to be and that he deserves to have."

In John 17, the high priestly prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father, we read time and time again the words *which thou gavest me*, referring to God giving us to Christ. At Salvation, we enter into a covenant relationship; the Covenant is between God the Father and God the Son. As we enter the relationship of marriage, God says we enter into a covenant relationship with Him. We covenant

with God that we will be what God expects for us to be. Wives will change and husbands will change, but God never changes. Let us keep this covenant with God!

## 2. Calvary Love is a Causing Love - 1 John 4:19

Why do we love the Lord Jesus? *We love Him, because He first loved us!* We have responded to His love. Jesus Christ has caused us to love Him. So, husbands are to cause their wives to love them. Many men have made something out of their wives that they do not like, and they have no one to blame but themselves. Early on, you called her *baby, sweetheart, darling*, etc, but now you call her *hey you!* We can cause our wives to love us by the way we speak to them (Eph. 4:15). If you can't speak in love toward your spouse, I doubt you'll be able to toward anyone else. There are daily emergencies and life can bring much stress and pressure at times - whatever the immediate happens to be, don't yell in a harsh tone toward those you love the most! Too many times the ones closest to us are the ones who get yelled at for things that are out of their control. Don't treat your spouse mean just because you had a bad day at work. Prov. 18:21. *Calvary Love* is a love that causes us to love. The more your wife knows of your love and care for her, the more love she will return to you.

## 3. Calvary Love is a Constraining Love - 2 Cor. 5:14

*The love of Christ constraineth us.* What does this mean? The love of the Lord Jesus Christ stopped me in my tracks! I cannot sin against this love - it is a constraining love. *Constrain* - To compel or force; to urge with irresistible power, or with a power sufficient to produce the effect. Can your wife say, "I never thought I could live in this life and be married to someone who loves me as you love me and cares for me as you care for me"? A woman who receives this kind of love is going to be constrained by it (with a power that will be sufficient to produce the same love in her heart toward her husband). She will find it hard to sin against this kind of love. This same loving principle works everywhere, not just for the husband concerning his wife. The two greatest things that men can ever do for their children are to pray for them and love their mother! **There are many women and children who are going in the wrong direction and they could be brought to where they should be by the constraining love of Calvary, as it is shed abroad from the heart of a husband and father.**

## 4. Calvary Love is a Calming Love - 1 John 4:18

The love of the Lord Jesus calms us. Christians are calmed, not by the absence of trouble, but by the presence of the Shepherd. He drives our fears away. *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.* Our wives are calmed and our homes are calmed by *Calvary Love*. There is so much turmoil in the homes of Christian people when there should be so much peace. Why is this? Because there is a lack of *Calvary Love* on the part of the husband to calm his wife and to calm his family. The Christian husband should say to his wife, "Honey, God is in control. He has given me peace. We will make it through this together. Everything will be all right."

## 5. Calvary Love is a Continuing Love - Heb. 13:5

We cannot love our wives to the same degree that the Lord Jesus loves us, but we can love them the same way. *I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.* The Lord Jesus not only died for us, but He sent another Comforter to abide with us forever. *Calvary Love* is a continuing love. Christian men ought to look at their wives and from their hearts say *I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.* The words

spoken in your wedding vows should not be the only time you say them! Those words are worth repeating to reassure your spouse of your love toward them. We are to be as the Lord Jesus is to His Church. His arms are always open, and He is always ready to receive us, to have us, and to hold us!

There is a connection between home and Heaven. 1 Peter 3:7, *Likewise ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. If we have trouble at home, we cannot get through to God in our prayer lives.* Husbands bear a responsibility to dwell with their wives *according to knowledge*. This means we should study our wives, learning what they need, what they love, and what their likes and dislikes are. No two women are exactly alike. Become a student of the wife God has given you. **Some men say, "I'm too busy for that, I have a job to take care of." Well, you had better take care of your home, or you will not be able to get through to Heaven in your prayer life.** You may have a great career and even own a great business, but you will never be happy and satisfied until you take care of your home the way God commands you to. Husbands are to dwell with their wives according to knowledge. This is our God-given assignment. We are to report for duty, accept the assignment, and do our best at it until the Lord Jesus comes back!

There is an intimacy God gives to marriage when we share spiritual things. There are many people whose hearts are yearning to share the Christian life with their spouses. It is a blessed thing to be able to get together as a family and pray and know in your hearts that your prayers are not hindered!

### Home Work

- Keep the covenant you have made with God to be the husband God desires for you to be.
- Look after your wife better than she can look after herself.
- Speak to your wife gently, not in harsh tones.
- Cause your wife to love you more because of your love and care for her.
- Love your wife and give her such attention that she feels she cannot sin against your love.
- Calm your wife's fears and anxieties by assuring her that God is in control.
- Make this commitment to your wife, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."
- Study your wife and learn what she needs, what she loves, and what she likes and dislikes.