

Loving Your Husband: The Beauty of Selfless Wifery

Titus 2:3-5: “Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women **to love their husbands**, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.”

Preliminaries:

- God created marriage (Genesis 2:24: “a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh”)
- Marriage is a covenant relationship between a man and a woman that was given to us by God for companionship, for procreation, and for our good (Genesis 2:18: “it is not good for man to be alone”)
- Our marriages are to picture Christ’s sacrificial love for the church and the church’s humble submission to the Lord. Through our marriages, we get to display the gospel that saved us! (Ephesians 5:32: “this mystery is profound and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church”)

With this in mind, what does it mean to love your husband? The word “love” in Titus 2:4 comes from the Greek word *phileo*, which is the word for “brotherly love.” Which typically means to view someone fondly and to have great affection for them. You could even say – to “like” them. So as wives we are not only to love our husbands, but to genuinely **like** them.

What is *phileo* love?

- A deep friendship love that is evident to others and to the recipient of that love
- Strong, intense love that we have for our family and close friends
- A love that does what is best for others and actively does good to them.
- “Phileo love delights in the other person and places the other person above all others in thoughts, emotions and actions.” Matthew Henry

Make Sure Your Husband is Your Priority! Some suggestions:

- Think about him & pray for him
- Do his stuff first
- Maintain your identity as a couple
- Look forward to him coming home
- Be home when he is home
- Elevate him above other relationships
- Protect his reputation
- Regular physical intimacy

Proverbs 31:11-12: “The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.” Remember there is so much love and service shown in being the woman that he trusts to keep it all together.

Loving is not always easy. Whether they are unbelievers, immature believers, or some other version of “hard,” the command still stands. God does not give us impossible commands.

- 1 Peter 3:1-2: In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

A Warning from Titus 2:5: We love our husbands “so that the Word of God will not be dishonored.”

- The Greek word for “dishonored” here is *blasphemeo*. This means to profane, to slander, to revile, to defame, and to blaspheme. For us as women to live contrary to the principles laid out in this text is to profane, slander, revile, defame, and blaspheme the Word of God.
- The stakes are really high!

“She delights in her husband, in his person, his character, his affection; to her, he is not only the chief and foremost of mankind, but in her eyes, he is all in all. Her heart’s love belongs to him and to him only. He is her little world, her paradise, her choice treasure.” – Charles Spurgeon about his wife, Susie

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you regularly view your marriage as a gift from God? Does it help your disposition and attitude in marriage to remember that it is an opportunity to reflect the gospel?
2. How are you doing at demonstrating phileo love to your husband? Do you think he feels loved by you in this way?
3. Do you find it difficult to make your husband a priority? Do any of the suggestions identified above come more naturally to you? Are there certain areas in which you find prioritizing him more challenging?
4. If you aren’t married, are there people in your life that you can be showing phileo love to? Are there women in your life that you can encourage to live this out in their marriages now? Are there areas in your life today that will present a challenge to you living out this type of love in the future?
5. How can recognizing that we blaspheme the Word of God when we fail to love our husbands motivate you to better live out this type of love?