

# Fathers' Studies: Husband-Wife Relationships

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 21 OF 52

## THE HUSBAND - A LOVER

**LESSON AIM:** To define true love and how husbands should love their wives.

### KEY VERSE:

1. **EPHESIANS 5:28-29** A husband should love his wife as much as he loves \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. **EPHESIANS 5:25** A husband who loves his wife as Christ loves the church will \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. **COLOSSIANS 3:19** The love that a husband has for his wife will not include \_\_\_\_\_.
4. **1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8** These verses describe true love. Make one list that tells what love is and another that tells what love is not.

Love is... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

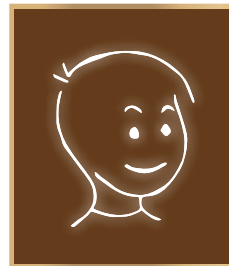
Love is not... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## For You To Do



### By Yourself

Read the verses from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 again. Put your name in place of the word "love/charity". Does it sound like you really are?

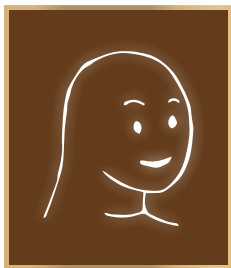


### With Your Wife

Get into the habit of telling her at least once every day, "I love you."

### With Your Children

Teach them to begin telling their mother often that they love her.



# THE HUSBAND - A LOVER

LESSON 21 OF 52

Four times in the Bible, God commands husbands to love their wives. He is not talking about what the world calls love. Unsaved people of the world know all about sexual love. They also understand friendship and family affection, which is another kind of love. What God has in mind is a deeper kind of love, a spiritual love.

God describes this kind of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. A man who has this kind of love is patient, kind, loyal, and truthful. He is not jealous, proud, or easily hurt. A husband who has this kind of love can give himself totally to his wife.

In Ephesians 5, God gives two ways of measuring how much of this spiritual love we really have.

**1. AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH** Ephesians 5:25 “Church” means everyone who follows Christ. Jesus Christ loved you so much that he went to the cross, took your punishment, and died in your place. Your needs were more important to him than his own personal comfort and feelings. He talked often about love, but then he put his words into action.

In the same way, a husband should tell his wife often, “I love you.” But then he should show his love by giving up his own rights, interests, and comforts in order to make his wife happy. A husband who has this kind of love will even be ready to give his life if necessary to save his wife.

**2. AS HIS OWN BODY** Ephesians 5:33 You know how much care you give your body. You make sure your stomach is fed, your skin is clothed, wounds are repaired. When part of your body hurts, the rest of it hurts, too.

A husband who truly loves his wife will feed her and clothe her. But he will also try to meet her inner needs. He will try to understand her feelings so that he can “laugh when she laughs and cry when she cries”. He will also care for her spiritual needs and try to help her find peace with God. When the wife feels her husband’s care for her emotional and spiritual needs, she will respond more quickly to his physical attention. The sexual needs of both husband and wife will be met when he loves all of her, body, soul, and spirit.

**GENESIS 24:67, 29:20; EPHESIANS 5:25-33; 1 PETER 3:7**

**SO EVERY MAN MUST LOVE HIS WIFE AS HE LOVES HIMSELF...  
(EPHESIANS 5:33)**

**Lust is not love.**

**Love is:**

- patient
- kind
- loyal
- truthful

**A husband must demonstrate his love in his conduct.**

**Her needs are more important than his own interests.**

**Her problems and joys are his.**

**He loves all of her.**

## WINDOW TO LIFE

True love between a husband and wife brings together their spirits, souls and bodies.

