



What is a Biblical Husband Who Loves His Wife & Family?

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A BIBLICAL HUSBAND & FATHER

In today's world, the role of a husband is often misunderstood or undervalued. However, the Bible provides clear guidance on what it means to be a loving husband and father.

This study will explore five key characteristics of a biblical husband who loves his wife and family, as outlined in Scripture.



A BIBLICAL HUSBAND

- Loves Sacrificially
- Leads with Humility
- Nurtures and Protects
- Faithful and Committed
- Honors and Respects



1. A Biblical Husband Loves Sacrificially

Ephesians 5:25 (NKJV)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.

The duty of the husband is not to enforce his wife's submission. This duty to love her is repeated three times in Ephesians (vv. 25, 28, 33).

To “love” (ἀγαπάτε, agapate) is to care for the needs of someone, even when that person is unlovely and undeserving.

This divine kind of love is not motivated by self-interest or the attractiveness of the one loved, but by a sincere interest in that person's well being.



Love based on self-interest will fail whenever the object of love fails to gratify selfish lusts. Love based only on attractiveness will fail whenever the object of love grows older, gains weight, gets sick, or loses hair.

True agapē love can include sexual desire and appreciation for attractiveness, but it is based on a permanent concern for the one loved.

It is the only kind of love that goes on loving whether circumstances are better or worse, whether richer or poorer, in sickness or in health, until death parts the lovers.



...just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

When Christ gave his life for the church He loved, the church existed only in prospect. Christ gave his life for what would be, not for what already was. He would build the church out of the triumph of his own resurrection.

His voluntary sacrifice sets the pattern for husbands to follow. As Westcott put it, “Christ loved the church not because it was perfectly lovable, but in order to make it such.”¹

¹ Westcott, p. 85.



It is only Christ's kind of love that makes the headship of the husband tolerable.

When the husband's greatest desire is for the happiness of his wife, and when the wife's greatest desire is to support the leadership of her husband, a harmonious and successful union will result.

Boles, Kenneth L. 1993. [Galatians & Ephesians. The College Press NIV Commentary. Joplin, MO: College Press.](#)



The first characteristic of a biblical husband is sacrificial love. Ephesians 5:25 calls husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church.

This type of love is not based on feelings or conditions but is selfless and sacrificial. A husband who loves his wife biblically puts her needs above his own, even when it requires personal sacrifice.

This sacrificial love is the foundation of a strong and godly marriage.



- **Prioritizes His Wife's Needs:** A biblical husband puts the needs of his wife above his own. Just as Christ gave up His life for the church, a husband is called to lay down his personal desires to serve his wife. This could involve sacrificing time, energy, or resources to ensure her well-being.
- **Consistent Selflessness:** Loving sacrificially isn't a one-time act but a consistent way of life. A husband demonstrates sacrificial love daily through small acts of kindness, choosing to serve his wife in practical ways, and putting her interests first.
- **Reflects Christ's Love:** The ultimate model for sacrificial love is Jesus Christ. A biblical husband strives to mirror Christ's unconditional love for the church in his relationship with his wife, showing grace, patience, and forgiveness, even when it's challenging.



2. A Biblical Husband Leads with Humility

Ephesians 5:23 (NKJV)

For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

For the husband is the head of the wife...

The specific basis of the submission of the wife is that God has set the husband in the family as its “head” (κεφαλή, kephalē).

Paul’s own usage is conclusive in support of the meaning “leader” or “ruling authority.”



When Jesus accepted the responsibility of being head over his body, the church, it meant he had to be willing to serve as savior and protector—to rescue the church from danger.

While the husband cannot be “savior” to the degree that Christ was, he can look to Christ as the ultimate model of what it means to look out for the interests of his family.



Ephesians 5:23 (NKJV)

For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Leadership in the home is another essential characteristic of a biblical husband. However, this leadership is not about domination or control; it is about serving and guiding the family with humility.

Just as Christ leads the church with love and humility, a husband should lead his family by example, showing kindness, patience, and a servant's heart.

This type of leadership fosters respect and trust within the family.



- **Servant Leadership:** A biblical husband leads his family by serving them. Just as Christ led through service, a husband leads not by demanding submission but by humbly serving the needs of his wife and children, prioritizing their spiritual and emotional well-being.
- **Makes Godly Decisions:** Leadership in the home involves making decisions that honor God. A husband must seek God's wisdom through prayer and Scripture, ensuring that his decisions reflect biblical principles and guide his family toward spiritual growth.
- **Leads by Example:** A biblical husband leads through his actions more than his words. By living out his faith, demonstrating integrity, and practicing what he preaches, he sets a godly example for his wife and children to follow.

3. A Biblical Husband Nurtures and Protects

1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV)

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Husbands are exhorted to treat their wives with knowledge, according to the will of God.



Women are physically weaker, and the wise husband considers the biological difference between his wife and him in the relationship. Husbands should honor their wives because they are coheirs of the eschatological gift of life.

Both husbands and wives can expect the same heavenly destiny. The seriousness of bestowing honor upon one's wife is evident, in that husbands who refuse to do so will find that their prayers are hindered.



1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV)

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

A biblical husband understands the importance of nurturing and protecting his wife and family. 1 Peter 3:7 emphasizes the need for husbands to dwell with their wives with understanding and honor. This means being attentive to her needs, providing emotional support, and ensuring her well-being. Protection extends beyond physical safety to include spiritual and emotional protection, creating a secure environment where the family can thrive.



- **Provides Emotional Support:** A husband who nurtures his wife provides emotional support, being attentive to her feelings, needs, and concerns. He listens actively and offers comfort, ensuring she feels valued and understood in their relationship.
- **Provides Spiritual Guidance:** Nurturing also involves providing spiritual guidance. A biblical husband prays with and for his wife, leads her in studying the Word, and encourages her spiritual growth, helping to strengthen her faith and their shared walk with God.
- **Provides Physical and Emotional Protection:** A biblical husband protects his wife by creating a safe environment, both physically and emotionally. He shields her from harm, whether it be from external threats or from harmful influences, and ensures she feels secure in their relationship.

4. A Biblical Husband is Faithful and Committed

Proverbs 5:18 – 19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth.

¹⁹ As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.



Faithfulness is a cornerstone of a biblical marriage. A husband who loves his wife biblically remains committed to her alone, both physically and emotionally.

The text encourages husbands to rejoice in their wives and be captivated by their love. This faithfulness is not only a promise to avoid adultery but also a commitment to invest in the marriage continually, nurturing love, and intimacy over time.



The teacher now outlines several reasons why the godly man should confine his sexual energies to the marriage relationship. First, the teacher reminds his pupil that he has chosen a wife.

In this passage “well,” “cistern” and “fountain” (v. 18) are metaphorical for one’s wife. These figures emphasize the value of the wife. In a region starved for water, the cistern or well was one of the most valuable possessions and adjuncts of the Eastern house.

Song of Solomon 4:15 (NKJV)

A fountain of gardens, A well of living waters, And streams from Lebanon.



Second, the wife is the God-ordained and socially sanctioned source of satisfaction for the sexual urges.

“**Drinking water**” from one’s cistern is metaphorical for sexual intercourse. The idea is: one should find contentment and satisfaction of natural impulses with his own wife.

The figure points to the pure, innocent, and chaste nature of the physical pleasures of marriage. Just as water of the cistern and well are pure and suitable for drinking, so marital sex is wholesome. Just as water quenches thirst, so marital intercourse is designed to satisfy the “thirst” for physical intimacy which most human beings experience (5:15; cf. 1 Cor 7:9).



- **Maintains Emotional Fidelity:** Faithfulness begins with emotional fidelity. A biblical husband guards his heart and mind, ensuring that his affection and emotional intimacy are directed solely toward his wife, avoiding inappropriate relationships or distractions.
- **Continually Invests in the Marriage:** Commitment to marriage means continually investing in the relationship. A husband shows faithfulness by regularly nurturing his connection with his wife, whether through quality time, open communication, or ongoing romance.



- **Stays True to the Marriage Vows:** A biblical husband remains steadfast in his marriage vows, honoring the promises he made to his wife before God. This includes being faithful in actions, words, and thoughts, upholding the covenant of marriage throughout their lives.



5. A Biblical Husband Honors and Respects

Colossians 3:19 (NKJV)

Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

The counterpoint to the submission of the wife is the love of the husband. “Love” translates the term found in verse 14, and is the same word the New Testament uses of God’s love for man. **This word was not found in any secular list of household duties.** No motivation clause is found here because love in Christian terms carried its motivation within itself, was “absolutely valid.”

Ash, Anthony Lee. 1994. [Philippians, Colossians & Philemon. The College Press NIV Commentary. Joplin, MO: C](#)



Finally, a biblical husband honors and respects his wife. Colossians 3:19 instructs husbands to love their wives and not to be harsh or bitter toward them.

Respect in marriage means valuing your wife's opinions, treating her with kindness, and speaking to her with gentleness. It also means honoring her as an equal partner in the marriage, recognizing her unique strengths and contributions to the family.



Values His Wife's Opinion: Honoring his wife means valuing her opinions and perspectives. A biblical husband listens to her thoughts and considers her input in decisions, recognizing that she is his equal partner in the marriage.

Speaks with Kindness: Respect is reflected in the way a husband speaks to his wife. He avoids harsh words, criticism, and bitterness, choosing instead to communicate with kindness, gentleness, and love, even in disagreements.

Encourages and Uplifts: A biblical husband honors his wife by encouraging and uplifting her. He supports her goals, affirms her strengths, and builds her up in love, helping her to grow and flourish in all aspects of life.



CONCLUSION

Being a biblical husband is a profound and noble calling, one that requires a deep commitment to love, lead, nurture, remain faithful, and honor one's wife and family.

By embodying these characteristics, a husband not only strengthens his marriage but also reflects the love of Christ in his home.



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