

A MARRIAGE CLOSE UP

Ephesians 5:22-33

**Today we'll consider some of God's instructions
to husbands about loving their wives.**

Husbands will you hold your wife close?

I. THE ATTITUDE OF LOVE - Ephesians 5:25-30

A. A NOBLE, CHRIST-LIKE LOVE (25-27)

1. A Sacrificial Love (25)
 - That is selfless and substantive
2. A Sanctifying Love (26-27)
 - That includes a special placement, preparation and presentation

B. A NATURAL, COMMITTED LOVE (28-30)

1. The Characteristic of This Love (28-29a)
 - Patterned after your love for yourself
2. The Conduct of This Love (29b-30)
 - a. Provision: Nourishing
 - b. Attention: Cherish
 - c. Illustration: Christ's love for the church

C. A NOTABLE, CLOSE-KNIT LOVE

- God wants husbands to be emotionally close to their wives!

II. THE APTITUDE OF LOVE - I Peter 3:7

A. THE COMMAND

1. Be Present: Live with your wife.
2. Be Perceptive: Live with her in an understanding way
 - Know what makes her tick, tickled and ticked!

B. THE CONSIDERATION

1. Show Her Honor
 - Assign a high value to her!
2. Know Her Limits

C. A CONCLUSION

- God wants husbands to be thoughtfully close to their wives!

III. AN ACTIVITY OF LOVE - Song of Solomon 2:8-13

A. THE SILLINESS (8-9)

B. THE SENTIMENTALITY (10-13)

C. THE SACRIFICE (13b)

1. He asks her to walk in the Springtime meadow!
2. In affect he says: "Let's picnic!"

D. THE SWEETNESS

1. He is holding her close cherishing her
2. She knows she is cherished!
 - See 2:16 and also 7:10

E. THE SUCCESS

- God wants husbands to be physically close to their wives!

CONCLUSION:

Husbands will you hold your wife close?

- Emotionally > The attitude of love in Eph. 5:25-30
- Thoughtfully > The aptitude of love in I Pt. 3:7
- Physically > An activity of love in Ecc. 2:8-13