

Love Her Like Jesus

Faith It Daily Devotion - November 29th, 2021

Ephesians 5:25 says, “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church.” So, now ask the question, **HOW** does Jesus love the church? As a husband, God calls you to love your wife like Jesus loves her.

1. Stubborn Love

Jesus won’t ever leave his bride. He says to her, “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (*Matt. 28:20*). His love is not based on performance, but on his covenant love. When we keep our marriage covenants through the challenges & changes of years of married life, we reflect his stubborn, delight-filled love. May our wives know the comfort of love that says, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (*Heb. 13:5*).

2. Hopeful Love

When Jesus looks at your bride, he sees her as already sanctified. This hope is anchored in the power and promise of the gospel. Paul writes to believers, “You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (*1 Cor. 6:11*). In fact, he sees her not only as already sanctified, but as already glorified (*Rom. 8:30*). How often would your wife say that your love for her “hopes all things” (*1 Cor. 13:7*)? By keeping eternity in mind, you can have patience with your wife, just as Jesus does with her — and you.

3. Pursuing Love

Jesus never stops pursuing your wife’s heart, not romantically but persistently. In fact, he cares not only about her devotion, but also her affection (*Pss. 37:4*). He is the tireless Shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine to seek after the one (*Lk. 15:4–7*). God is glorified when a husband continually seeks a deeper relationship with his wife. A husband who has been captured by Jesus’s love is an incurable romantic toward his wife.

4. Forgiving Love

Jesus gives your wife grace when she doesn’t deserve it. It may be that the most Christlike thing you can do is offer your wife forgiveness, remembering that you need it, too.

The picture of forgiving love that every husband should seek to emulate is Jesus making breakfast for Peter, who had sinned against him, denying him three times at his crucifixion (*Jn. 21:12–15*). Is it you or your wife who is usually the first to begin to move toward reconciliation when it’s needed?

5. Joyful Love

Jesus doesn’t just put up with your wife or grudgingly but persistently love her — Jesus *loves* to love her. He delights to be with his bride. He receives joy by giving us joy (*Heb. 12:2*). Wives who are loved this deeply, who know their husbands love to love them, are often an even greater blessing to others. Love your wife so joyfully that it’s obvious to her and others.

Dear God, please help me to honor and love my spouse in all the ways that you have loved the church and its people. I praise you for blessing my marriage. In Jesus’ name, amen