

# MBC MEN'S STUDY: LEADERSHIP 7:

## MAN AND HIS HOME

### CLASS 1: MAN AS A LOVER

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Before getting into the book, here is the lay out the framework for our five-month men's study class.

- **Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>:** *The Exemplary Husband* chapters 7-8
- **Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>:** *The Exemplary Husband* chapters 9-10
- **Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>:** *The Exemplary Husband* chapter 14
- **Apr 16<sup>th</sup>:** *The Exemplary Husband* chapters 16-17
- **May 21<sup>st</sup>:** *The Shepherd Leader at Home* Instructing your family

### PURPOSE OF THIS 5 MONTH CLASS

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- Why do we want to talk about the man and his home?
- We have talked about many theological and technical subjects over the past couple years, this is where all that knowledge and information has the chance to be lived out.
- While not everyone is called to the elder role in a church, all men are called to live for the glory of God, all husbands and fathers are called to lead, guide, feed and protect their families.
- If you are desiring the office of elder, Paul says in **1 Timothy 3:4-5** "He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)."
- While this applies to those who are elders, there are many other exhortations throughout the Bible which speak of having an organized, peaceful, spiritual and well-ordered home (Deut 6; Pro 24:3-4; Col 3:19; 1 Tim 5:8; Eph 5:25-31).
- Over the course of this class, our hope is that you are going to grow in several key areas of bring a man of God. As you grow in these areas, you are also going to grow in being a husband, a father and a leader of the family. The overall purpose is for your life to bring honor and glory to Christ and to be an example to others.
- This class is going to examine our heart. We want to have a clear definition of what our heart is, the relationship that our heart has with our works and what influences our worship and love.

## WORSHIPING CHRIST ONLY

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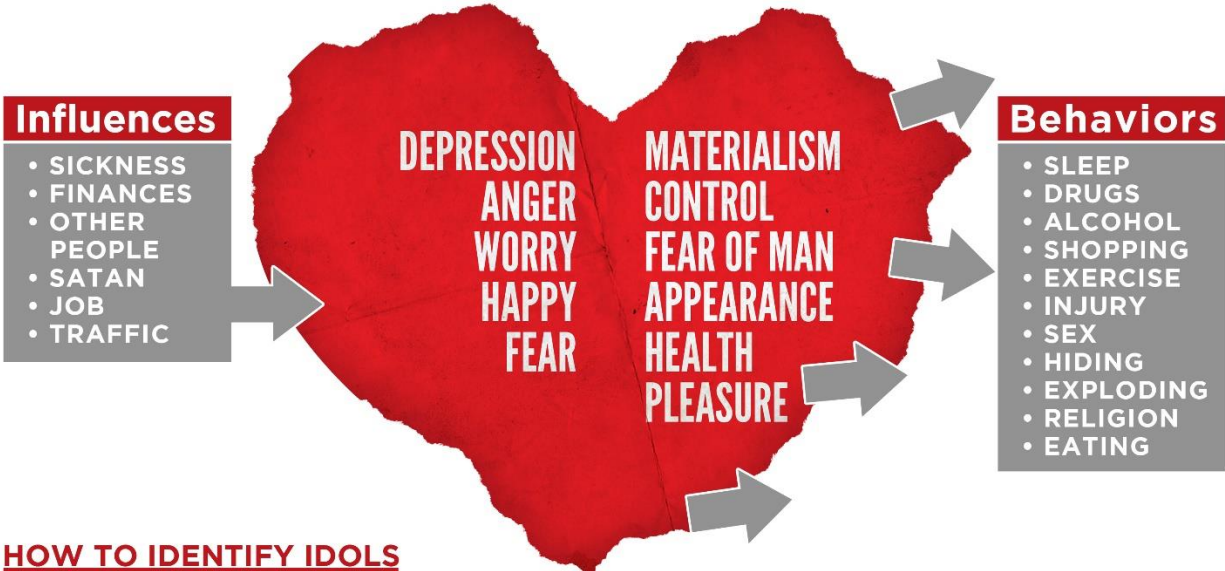
- “The most important commitment for the Christian husband is to have a heart of worship toward God alone.”<sup>1</sup>
- This statement that Scott makes should cause you to stop and consider what he is saying.
- Think about all that the Bible has to say to husbands:
- **1 Peter 3:7** “You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.”
- **Colossians 3:19** “Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.”
- **Ephesians 5:25** “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”
- **Ephesians 5:28** “So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself.”
- **1 Timothy 5:8** “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”
- **Genesis 2:24** “For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”
- **Proverbs 18:22** “He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.”
- **Is what Scott said true**...*our most important commitment for the Christian husband is to have a heart of worship which is alone for God?*
- As Scott further points out, we are all worshipers by nature. His question then is not *if* we are worshiping something but *what* are we worshiping.
- It is only once a man has been born again and given a new, regenerate heart that he is then able to worship the true and living God of the Bible.
- Once a man is born again, there are two important facts that have changed: his position in Christ with God, and his practical daily life lived before God.
- Our position before God, as a believer, cannot change. Our “guilty” standing before God has been changed to righteous. As a believer, we have been declared righteous.
- Our practical life now, as a believer, will be marked more and more with what our positional standing is. In other words, we should now desire to live out daily what has been declared about us eternally.

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<sup>1</sup> Stuart Scott, *The Exemplary Husband*, p. 87.

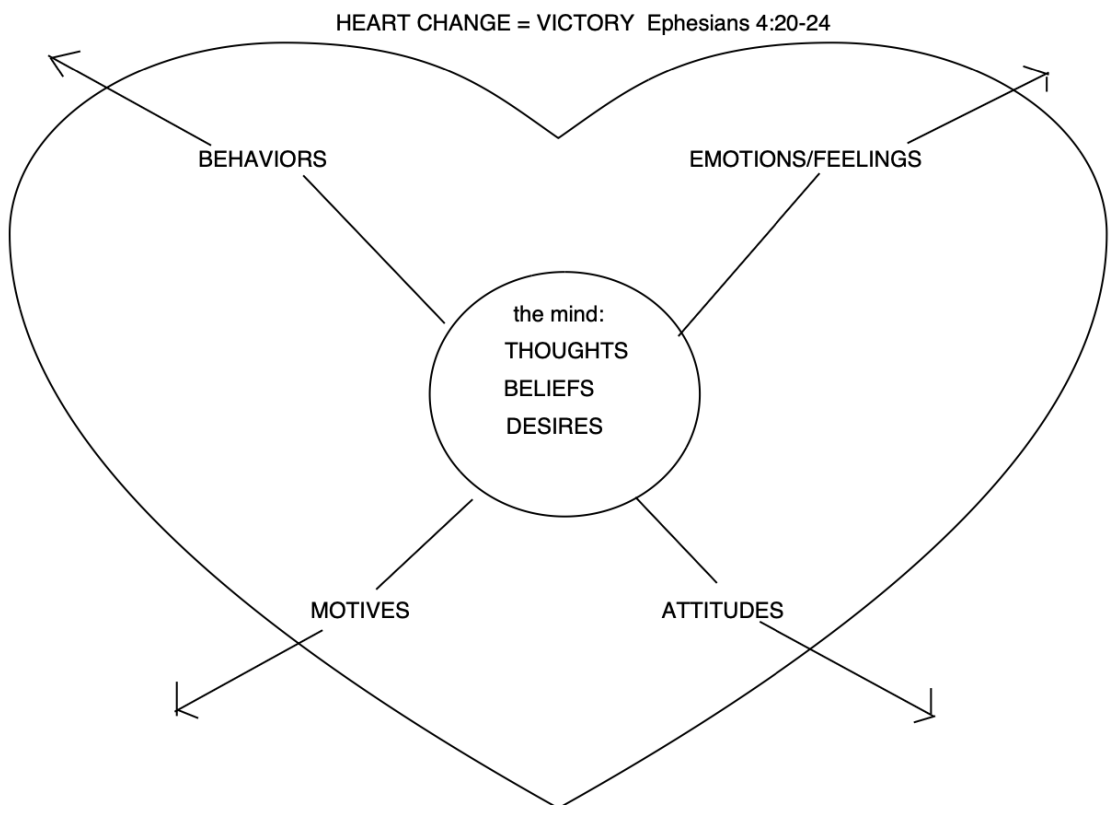
- **This is our progressive sanctification.** Generally, all believers who are justified will be sanctified and finally glorified. This is why we need the Word of God to continually fill our hearts and minds, specifically as husbands, so that we will be worshipers of Him.
- **Why is this important as a husband?** You are going to have victory and defeats in the battle for your heart. There are going to be many things which are going to be pulling you in various directions. Your attention and love will not always be where it should be.
- The fight is not sin, the fight is what we are expected to do and should be doing. It is when we stop fighting and give into the temptation that we finally sin.
- **Romans 6:11-12** “Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts...”
  - *Consider:* Present Middle Imperative Verb
  - We are commanded to think of ourselves dead to sin and think of ourselves as alive to God in Christ.
  - *Do not let...reign:* Because of this, we should not allow sin to reign in our bodies.
  - Why? *So that* we do not obey its lusts.
- **Why is this important to being a husband who worships God alone?**
- As Scott discusses at great length, we need to understand our own hearts.
- Probably the single most important verse regarding your heart is **Proverbs 4:23** “*Watch over* your heart *with all diligence*, for from it flow the springs of life.”
- Your heart is mission control for all that you do in life. When the Bible speaks of your heart, it is not speaking of your organ but of your immaterial, nontangible make-up.
- In your heart, Biblically speaking, are your thoughts, intentions, beliefs, desires and attitudes. It is in the heart of a man that we discover what he truly wants. Our actions will always display our true heart.
- There are many things which are going to come upon your heart. That is why Proverbs tells us to watch over it with all diligence. When our guard is down is when things creep in which should not be there.
- Jesus said in **Mark 7:18-23** “And He said to them, ‘Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?’” (Thus, He declared all foods clean.) And He was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”
- What is the relationship that Jesus is making between our actions and our heart?
- Between the inner man and the outer man?

# IDOLS OF THE HEART



- HOW TO IDENTIFY IDOLS**
1. I will sin if I don't get ...
  2. I will sin in order to get ...
  3. I need this ...
  4. I want that ...
  5. I must have this ...
  6. I have the right to ...

Ezekiel 14:1-11 • Romans 1:25 • 1 Corinthians 10:1-14 • Jeremiah 17:5-10 • 1 John 5:21  
 • Colossians 3:5 • Romans 7:7 • Revelation 9:20 • 2 Corinthians 6:16 • Ezekiel 37:26-27 • Psalm 96:5 • Psalm 97:7 • Matthew 6:24 • Romans 6:16 • Psalm 62:7 • Psalm 71:7 • Psalm 91:2 • Isaiah 25:4 • Matthew 11:28-30 • Psalm 46: 1,7,11



1. What do you love? Hate?
2. What do you want, desire, crave, lust, and wish for? What desires do you serve and obey?
3. What do you seek, aim for, pursue? What are your goals and expectations?
4. Where do you bank your hopes?
5. What do you fear? What do you not want? What do you tend to worry about?
6. What do you feel like doing?
7. What do you think you need? What are your "felt needs"?
8. What are your plans, agendas, strategies, and intentions designed to accomplish?
9. What makes you tick? What lights up your world? What fountain of life, hope, and delight do you drink from? What really matters to you? What pipe dreams tantalize or terrify you? Around what do you organize your life? What magnetic north orients your world?
10. Where do you find refuge, safety, comfort, escape, pleasure, security?
11. What or who do you trust?
12. Whose performance matters? On whose shoulders does the wellbeing of your world rest? Who can make it better, make it work, make it safe, make it successful?
13. Who must you please? Whose opinion of you counts? From whom do you desire approval and fear rejection? Whose value system do you measure yourself against? In whose eyes are you living? Whose love and approval do you need?
14. Who are your role models? What kind of person do you think you ought to be or want to be?
15. On your deathbed, what would sum up your life as worthwhile? What gives your life meaning?
16. How do you define and weigh success or failure, desirable or undesirable, in any particular situation?
17. What would make you feel rich, secure, prosperous? What must you get to make life sing?
18. What would bring you the greatest pleasure, happiness and delight? The greatest pain and misery?
19. Whose coming into political power would make everything better?
20. Whose victory or success would make your life happy? How do you define victory and success?
21. What do you see as your rights? What do you feel entitled to?
22. In what situations do you feel pressured or tense? Confident and relaxed? When you are pressured, where do you turn? What do you think about? What are your escapes? What do you escape from?
23. What do you want to get out of life? What payoff do you seek out of the things you do?
24. What do you pray for?
25. What do you think about most often? What preoccupies or obsesses you? In the morning, to what does your mind drift instinctively? What is your "mindset"?
26. What do you talk about? What is important to you? What attitudes do you communicate?
27. How do you spend your time? What are your priorities?
28. What are your characteristic fantasies, either pleasurable or fearful? Daydreams? Nightdreams?
29. What are the functional beliefs that control how you interpret your life and determine how you act?
30. What are your idols or false gods? In what do you place your trust, or set your hopes? What do you turn to or seek? Where do you take refuge? Who is the savior, judge, controller, provider, protector in your world? Who do you serve? What "voice" controls you?
31. How do you live for yourself?
32. How do you live as a slave of the devil?
33. How do you implicitly say, "If only..." (to get what you want, avoid what you don't want)?
34. What instinctively seems and feels right to you? What are your opinions, things you feel are true?
35. Where do you find your identity? How do you define who you are?

- Scott continues on page 90 by asking the question *what is worship?*
- He says, “worship is to be an all-consuming and all-encompassing preoccupation.”
- In other words, the “thing” which is taking up your time, energy, thoughts and admiration, that is the thing that you are worshipping.
- This is the purpose of the charts and the 35 questions, to find out what is taking up the space in your heart that is reserved for Christ. We want to know, into the deepest recesses of our hearts, what is stealing and vying for the affection that only Christ is due.
- When we worship something, it takes our attention from everything else. We are willing to do anything for the thing that we hold in the highest esteem.

## IDOL WORSHIP

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- “If we revere something other than God in the above ways, we will not live our lives unto God alone.”
- The thing(s) that we worship, we will:
  - Adore, sacrifice for, focus on, submit to, seek after, hope in, serve, talk about, find our identity or worth in, spend our time thinking about and giving energy to.<sup>2</sup>
- God warns, several times, that misplaced worship is called idolatry and God forbids His people from that.
- This act is an abomination to God as it robs the glory from God which is due to Him.
- **Leviticus 19:4** “Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves molten gods; I am the LORD your God.”
- **Jonah 2:8** “Those who regard vain idols forsake their faithfulness...”
  - The ones who persist in their devotion to useless idols will quickly forget the faithfulness or the mercy which God has shown them.
  - In the context of this passage, Jonah is perhaps talking about the sailors who were on the boat with him when the storm came upon them.
- What is fascinating is in **Jonah 2:9** “But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the LORD.”
  - Rather, the absence of any confession of wrongdoing or commitment to repentance demonstrates again Jonah’s misplaced emphasis. His acts of piety are not irrelevant. They, however, are not enough, in and of themselves, to ensure the change of disposition that Jonah needs—a fact underscored later by YHWH’s confrontation with Jonah in chapter 4.<sup>3</sup>
- The reason this is important is that it underscores the need for confession and repentance over what we would consider pious or virtuous works.

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<sup>2</sup> Stuart Scott, *The Exemplary Husband*, p. 90. (the list following is also found here.)

<sup>3</sup> Kevin J. Youngblood, *Jonah: God’s Scandalous Mercy*, ed. Daniel I. Block, 2nd Ed., ZEC (GR, MI: Zondervan, 2019), 117.

- The Lord does not desire for you to have an idol in your heart but think that you are okay because you are doing some good works.
- That's the point of the chapter, we can be doing and saying the right things, but our hearts can be cold towards the Lord and our spouse.

### **How can we recognize the idols in our hearts?<sup>4</sup>**

- **Colossians 3:5** "Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and *greed, which amounts to idolatry.*"
- The first four sins that Paul mentions are sexual in nature. He then says greed amounts to idolatry.
- "The identification of covetousness with idolatry reveals an important Pauline perspective regarding the law. While writing this list, he seems to have had the Ten Commandments in mind, mentioning most of the last five. Covetousness is number ten. Significantly, number ten equals number one, having no other gods beside God. Although the ten are divided into love for God and love for neighbor, little distinction can be made between the two lists. If number ten, covetousness, is actually a violation of number one, idolatry, they are all of the same character. None is to be perceived as a purely physical act toward another person. They are all spiritual. Thus for Paul, the Commandments instructed about relations with neighbors. Breaking a Commandment toward a neighbor is, in reality, breaking a commandment against God himself."<sup>5</sup>
- Think of your "neighbor" as your wife in this context. When we have an idol, we covet that thing. It is something that we want or that we want to keep or that we want to rule over us. We have a desire to make sure, at any cost, this thing is ours.
- When we do that, when God is no longer the primary focus of our heart's desire, we will continue to sin to keep or to get what we think we deserve.
- As Scott says on p. 91 "Thus, an idol is anything that we consistently make equal to or more important than God in our attention, desire, devotion, and choices."
- Look into your own life and see what is driving your daily choices.
- There are some helpful areas that Scott gives on pp. 91-92 that may captivate our hearts.
- Once again, we may be "doing" all that we think God desires, but our hearts can still be coveting something else altogether.
- God says of the nation of Israel in **Isaiah 29:13** "Because this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote..."

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<sup>4</sup> Stuart Scott, *The Exemplary Husband*, p. 91

<sup>5</sup> Richard R. Melick, *Philippians, Colossians, Philemon*, vol. 32, NAC (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1991), 291.

- In other words, it is not enough to go through the actions, there must be a heart for God behind it.

## **God is so loving towards us that He will reveal our idols to us.**

### **Scott gives four ways on p. 93:**

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- We have the Word of God
  - **Hebrews 4:12-13** “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”
- God may give us over to our idols, so we experience their futility
  - **Psalms 106:13-15** “They quickly forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel, but craved intensely in the wilderness, And tempted God in the desert. So He gave them their request, but sent a wasting disease among them.”
  - “Israel was controlled by its desires, rather than by devotion to the Lord. Their wrong desires caused them to test the Lord, instead of accepting his provision for them, as they complained about food and water.”<sup>6</sup>
- God may put someone in our life that convicts us because of their devotion
  - **1 Corinthians 4:17** “For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.”
- God may discipline us
  - **Hebrews 12:6** “For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and he scourges [training by affliction] every son whom He receives.”

## **How can we forsake idols in our hearts?**

### **Scott gives us 4 ways on pp 96-97**

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- Pray for the Lord to search your heart and reveal to you anything that you may have put before Him.
  - **Psalms 139:23-24** “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.”
- Confess your idolatry and repent to the Lord.
  - **Psalms 51:3-4** “For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge.”

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<sup>6</sup> Daniel J. Estes, Psalms 73–150, ed. E. Ray. Clendenen, vol. 13, NAC (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2019), 301.



- **Psalm 51:17** “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”
- Remove the idols and the possibility of having idols from your life. You may need radical amputation.
  - **Matthew 5:29-30** “If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.”
- You must always be on guard against idols coming into your heart.
  - **1 Thessalonians 5:6** “...so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.”
  - **1 John 5:21** “Little children, guard yourselves from idols.”

## RESULT OF HAVING IDOLS IN OUR HEARTS

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- If we do not kill the idols and we do not have a desire to live idol free before God, there are going to be everlasting effects.
- This is going to have detrimental effects in our life and our marriage.
- “When we worship other idols, we naturally distance ourselves from fellowship with God who is the true refuge.”<sup>7</sup>
- When a good thing becomes the main thing, it has become an idol that is the controlling thing (Paul Tripp).
- Scott lists many of the false refuges that men turn to in their marriage instead of turning to the Lord.
- Many of the things that Scott names are not sinful, but they can be controlling.
- When we turn to these false refuges, we are leaving the loving care of our heavenly Father and putting our hope in something that cannot do for us what we need.
- **2 Timothy 4:10** “...for Demas, *having loved this present world*, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.”
- **3 John 1:9-10** “I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, *who loves to be first among them*, does not accept what we say. For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church.”

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<sup>7</sup> Stuart Scott, *The Exemplary Husband*, p. 94

## CHAPTER 8: A HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITY IS TO LOVE

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- I spent more time on chapter 7 because without fully comprehending what idols are, how to get rid of them and how they effect you and your marriage, you will *never* love your wife the way that God has intended and commanded you to do.
- Our own hearts must be for God so that they can truly be for our wives.
- **Ephesians 5:25** “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her...”
- Husbands must give up their own lives, the way that Christ did, to have the love that God demands.
- “A man who does not know the magnitude of God’s forgiveness will not love God properly either.”<sup>8</sup>
- God loved us that He sent Christ to die for us when we were still sinners.
- **Romans 5:8** “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
- God loved us by sending Christ (He held nothing back, Rom 8:32), and Christ loved us by dying for us (Matt 26:39). That is the example that we have for husbands to love their wives.
- What both God and Christ went through in order for us to be saved, while we were their enemy, should put into perspective our command to love our wives.

## WHAT BIBLICAL LOVE IS NOT

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- “Love needs to have great meaning to the exemplary husband. In turn, he must seek to understand and copy God’s kind of love.”<sup>9</sup>
- Scott lists these 102 – 104. These may be a review, but they are helpful reminders.
- Romantic Feelings
  - Feelings come and go, they ebb and flow with all kinds of outward circumstances. While it is true that love *can* produce romantic feelings, they are never held to the same objective standard of God’s love towards us.
- Physical attraction
  - Simply because you are attracted to someone does not mean that you are in love with them. In fact, it may mean that you are looking at a woman with selfish desires.
  - If this is the basis for your love towards your wife, then it is going to be subjected to your own standards and she may never be able to meet them.
  - It is going to change over time and this subtle idol is going to take deep root in your heart.

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<sup>8</sup> Stuart Scott, *The Exemplary Husband*, p. 102

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

- Sex
  - Our culture today equates sex to love. Unfortunately, if you are only looking to love someone because of or for the sex, it is based upon your own selfish desires.
  - Sex is certainly related to love within the marriage but it is never equated with it.
- Needing
  - If you “feel” that you cannot live without someone, that is not love. Once again, this is an idol of selfishness in your heart. Needing someone is not the same as loving someone.
- Benefiting
  - Just because you benefit from someone does not mean that there is Biblical love. You may like to have someone to go to movies with, out to eat with and someone to talk to, but that is not Biblical, Godly love.
  - The question you must ask is *would I still be around if those benefits were gone?*
- Talking the “love talk”
  - Once again, it is not what a person says, so much, but what are they doing. It is easy to say that you “love” someone, but you can still live in such a way that honors and glorifies your own flesh.
- Only having loving actions
  - We must always check our motives for doing something. But just because you have to do the hard things does not mean that it is unloving.
  - A husband should understand that sometimes he is going to cause disappointment or even sadness, but that is not wrong. It can be loving to protect your wife or family by making hard decisions.
- Being “in love” with other
  - We are never told to be “in love” with someone, but we are commanded to love. This means that love is not a state that we enter into but it is a choice, an action.

## **WHAT BIBLIAL LOVE IS**

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- Since we, as husbands, are to imitate Christ’s love, we should know how He loves. (see Scott p. 105)
- Christ’s love...is initiated first by Himself
- is enduring (1 John 4:9-11)
- is verbalized (Psalm 17:12)
- is compassionate (Jer 31:3)
- is demonstrated by actions (Psalm 112:4)
- does what is best for us (Rom 5:8)

- is self-sacrificial (Rom 8:28)
- involves treasuring us, even though we are not worthy (Luke 15:11-32)
- is not based upon performance (Psalm 103:10)
- What about those wives which are not responding to Biblical love? What happens when a husband, through all his power and might, loves his wife in a Biblical and godly way...but she does not respond godly?
- “In some marriage situations the wife becomes so embittered that she begins to relate to her husband in the same way that an enemy would. God still holds a husband, in this situation, responsible to love his wife. He commands us to *love our enemies*. (Matt 5:44-45).”<sup>10</sup>
  - “...unless a wife is an unbeliever or very embittered, she should eventually respond. You *must* persevere for the glory of God. Regardless of your wife’s response, you are called to be exemplary in your love. One day you will answer to God for how you have or have not loved you wife.”<sup>11</sup>

## HINDRANCES TO LOVE

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- Scott covers many ways that we can be hindered in loving our wives the way that the Bible commands.
- These are not hindrances which come upon us but come from inside of us. We should not be looking for our environment to change or our attitude to get better *before* we properly love our wife.
- These hindrances are all covered in the *put-off* and *put-on* commands of Paul in Colossians 3:8-14.
- If you have the wrong motives, looking to serve self instead of Christ, you are not going to be able to love your wife the way the Bible commands.
- If you allow pride to come into your heart and have a self-focused heart attitude, your love is going to be on you and what you can get.
- If you are fearful of what is going to happen that may cause some uncomfortableness, you are not going to be able to love your wife properly. You are more afraid of losing your comfort than you are pleasing God.
- Bitterness will creep into your heart if you continually find fault with your wife. If she is not meeting your expectations or what you desire, you will become hardhearted towards her.
- If your wife is always taking a backseat to your priorities, then you are not going to be able to love her as God has commanded. Your lack of concern for her and what she needs/wants will be a distraction to you and you will serve the idols in your own heart.

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<sup>10</sup> Stuart Scott, *The Exemplary Husband*, p. 105

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, 116

## HOW CAN YOU SHOW LOVE TO YOUR WIFE AND PLEASE GOD?

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- “Every husband should think about and investigate specific ways he can show love to his wife. The exemplary husband’s wife will never accuse him of not loving her because the message will be loud and clear.”<sup>12</sup>
- Prefer her over yourself.
- Show interest in her interests.
- Encourage her with words of appreciation.
- Strive to brighten her day with unexpected cards, notes, flowers, etc.
- Find enjoyment in what she enjoys and spend time with her doing it.
- When with her, listen to her with interest and be concerned about the things that concern her.
- Give her words of encouragement and compassion from God’s Word.
- Give her practical help...don’t wait to be asked
- Act like a man, open doors, pull out chairs for her to sit, etc.
- Show her affection throughout the day.
- Pray with her and for her. Don’t be afraid to confront her sin in a loving and godly way.
- Lead your wife and allow her to be the woman that God has created her to be.
- Provide a safe environment for her to flourish.

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<sup>12</sup> Stuart Scott, *The Exemplary Husband*, p. 115