



## Husbands and Courage

### Ephesians 5:25-27

**Listen!** Here is a quiz for husbands. In order to love my wife well I should:

1. Buy flowers for her.
2. Talk to her at least an hour every day.
3. Watch the kids once a week.
4. Buy a mink coat for her. (In Houston?)
5. Be nice to her mother.
6. Take responsibility for half the household chores.
7. Take her to Paris, Breckenridge, or Montego Bay.
8. Fix the faucet.
9. Shave.
10. Watch “Sense and Sensibilities” with her—all the way to the end.

**Why talk about this?** God expects us to love our wives well and our society is bitterly confused about how to do that.

**The Big Question:** How should I love my wife?

**The Big Answer:** I should love my wife just like Christ loved the Church.

**The Big Clarification:** Just how did Jesus love the Church? Jesus loved the Church:

- Sacrificially:
- Actively:
- Unconditionally:
- Continually:
- With a view to her perfecting:
- With a skill at meeting her needs:
  - So, what does my wife need? Some of the top needs are:
    - Security:
    - Conversational companionship:
    - Significance:
    - Affection:
    - Commitment:
    - And all of this done with Engagement:

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**APPLICATION FOR HUSBANDS:** Carve out a quiet, alone, safe time and place—be courageous—be gracious—and ask your wife these two questions:

- #1 What needs do you need me to meet for you in our relationship?
- #2 Is there something I am missing about our relationship? Is there something I don't get? Is there something you need to say to me?

**APPLICATION FOR WIVES:** When your husband engages you on these questions respond to him with absolute grace and with truth. Do not use this as an opportunity to “tee off” on him (that would be unkind and it will train him not to do this again) and do not withhold the truth from him (that would harm him and your relationship).



# Walking Papers

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk this week.

**The Big Idea of this passage:** We, like Jesus, must strive to love our wives well.

Please take time each day this week to think through these questions and ideas:

- **Today:** Schedule the time and place for engaging your wife on these questions. Pray for a wonderful time of engagement and of nurturing her and the relationship.
- **Monday:** Ask God what you need to do in order to love your wife sacrificially.
- **Tuesday:** Ask God what you need to do in order to love your wife with vision.
- **Wednesday:** Ask God what you need to do in order to love your wife continually.
- **Thursday:** Ask God what you need to do in order to love your wife actively.
- **Friday:** Ask God what you need to do in order to love your wife unconditionally.
- **Saturday:** Schedule the actual time and specific effort for meeting the needs she has conveyed to her.

*“The most courageous thing a man can do is engage his wife with the important relationship questions—once you have done that skydiving is child’s play.”*