

HUSBANDS WHO ARE LIKE CHRIST

David Halbrook

Ephesians 5:25, 29, 33 teaches husbands to *love their wives just as Christ* does His people, His church, by nourishing and cherishing her. This may be a husband's most difficult assignment, requiring him to make decisions which are in his wife's best interest—not which merely make him or her momentarily happy.

This means he must nourish her—providing her every *need*. By coming to earth, Jesus denied His preferences, accepted new duties, and made decisions based on the Father's will (Matt. 26:39). Likewise, husbands must make decisions which may not please themselves but are best for their wives. Considering her physical, emotional, and spiritual needs must factor into each decision he makes.

He also must cherish (value and protect) her. Jesus does this by telling us of His love for us, keeping His promises, and protecting us from Satan (Jn. 10:11-17). Do you do these things? Viewing pornography tells her that you value other women more than her, violates your wedding vows, and makes her vulnerable to Satan's attacks (temptation to hate or leave you).

Contact us with comments, questions, or to request a free CD of a sermon on this topic, ***WWW.QVCOC.COM***.

-- *Editor's Note*: Our community is filled with husbands who, in their childhood, did not see what it is like for a husband to love his wife like Christ does the church. Learning God's plan for the physical family lays the groundwork for learning of God's plan for the spiritual family. Will you use our *Arkansas Weekly* article to begin laying that groundwork in someone's life?

We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM

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The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

Chuck Kozens

The work of the church (collectively of a local congregation) has been corrupted by our religious world. Many religious organizations have changed the mission of the church from spiritual to social. Their focus is geared to items such as social aid programs, day care centers, secular education, social activities for the young and old, etc. Food and fun is often the means by which many churches attract new people. The justification often used for these activities as a work of the church is expressed by the statement, "It is a good work." BUT, an activity of a local church (in its collective capacity) cannot be considered a "good work" when it changes the New Testament pattern. (2nd Timothy 1:13) The scriptures clearly reveal God's disapproval of going beyond His pattern as illustrated in both the Old and New Testament. (1st Samuel 15:22-23, Proverbs 16:25, Matthew 15:8-9, Galatians 1:8-10 and 2nd John 9) Therefore, the work of the church in its collective capacity must be according to the faith that was once delivered to the saints. (Jude 3, Romans 10:17, 2nd Timothy 3:16-17) Any work that is practiced by a church that is not authorized by the New Testament is not of faith and therefore must be rejected. The work of the church can be broken down into three areas – evangelism, edification and the benevolence of needy saints. Listed below is a brief description of each.

Evangelism

The church is to be the pillar and ground of truth. (1st Timothy 3:15) Truth is revealed in the word of God, the gospel. (John 17:17) We learn that the gospel is God's power to salvation. (Romans 1:16) Therefore, each congregation is required to proclaim the gospel to the best of her ability. (1st Thessalonians 1:7-10, Acts 13:1-5 and 1st Corinthians 9:14) The church must not resort to gimmicks in reaching others

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but rather proclaim the gospel in its purity to lost souls. It must also be remembered that no church became the central funding headquarters for other churches in the matter of support for preachers. (Philippians 4:15-16 and 2nd Corinthians 11:8)

Edification

Paul states, "From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love." (Ephesians 4:16)

Thayer's Greek English Lexicon defines the word "edify" as, "the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, holiness and happiness." (page 440 #3619) The process by which the church is edified is through the word of God. (Acts 20:32) The assembling of the saints for bible classes and worship services are a means by which the church is edified. The writer of the book of Hebrews states, "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24-25) Let us remember that the church's work of edification is spiritual, not social in nature. (1st Corinthians 11:22) This spiritual focus is designed to make the child of God complete in his or her service for the Lord. (1st Thessalonians 3:3, 1st Thessalonians 3:13, Titus 2:11-15 and Hebrews 13:20-22)

Benevolence Of Needy Saints

The work of benevolence concerning the collective church is limited to the needy saints. A study of the New Testament teaches that each congregation was to take care of their own needy. (Acts 2:43-45, Acts 4:32-35, Acts 6:1-6 and 1st Timothy 5:16) When a need arose beyond the ability of the local congregation, another congregation or congregations assisted to relieve the need. (Acts 11:27-30, Romans 15:25-31, 1st Corinthians 16:1-4 and 2nd Corinthians 8:1 thru 9:15) It should be noted that a congregation did not create a need in order to solicit assistance from other congregations, nor was there a congregation who designated itself as the collective and distributing agency of funds from other congregations. We must be diligent to maintain the autonomy of each local congregation.

Conclusion

The church can accomplish the work that has been given to her as taught within the scriptures. It is important that each member functions to the best of his or her ability according to the teachings of the New Testament. Remember, "To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:21) Are YOU an active member of the New Testament church which was purchased with the precious blood of Christ? (Acts 20:28)

(http://bridgeviewchurch.com/Bridgeview_Church_Of_Christ/the%20work.pdf)

"A CLANGING CYMBAL"

Steve Niemeier

I Corinthians 13 is known as the chapter of love. Paul deals with love in such a way that it cannot be misunderstood what genuine and true love is. He states in the first verse that if he does not have love he is as a sounding brass or clanging cymbal.

Do you ever find yourself just going through the motions? Maybe it is in fixing breakfast for the family or talking with your spouse or doing your duties as a father or mother. Your heart just isn't in it on that day. Maybe your marriage is suffering because you have quit working with your spouse to make the marriage work. We all have things that we grow tired of and just go through the motions and do the duties but without love in our hearts.

Sometimes this even goes as far as our service to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Maybe we do something for each other but we do not have love in our hearts and the actions are just actions of emptiness. The deeds might get done but they are done as a sounding brass or clanging cymbal.

This also occurs when we attend worship services and do not worship our God in Spirit and Truth (John 3:23-24). We attend the Bible Study, sing the songs, bow in prayer, participate in giving, and partake of the Lord's Supper but our actions are done without the love in our hearts for what we are doing. As a result our worship goes up to the Lord as a sounding brass or clanging cymbal. We must do our deeds with the proper love in our hearts!

www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org/assets/bulletins/2012/030412.pdf