

# A Man and His Marriage Maximum Motivation

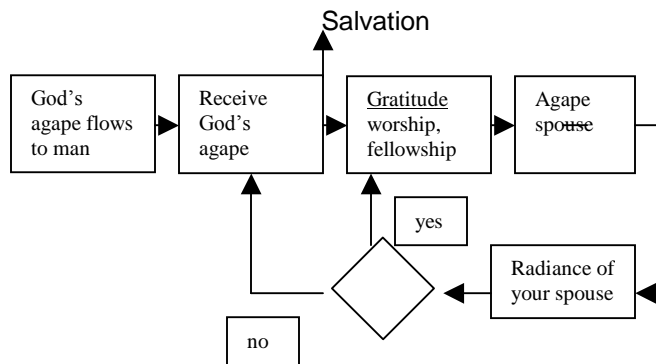
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Ephesians 5:25-33. *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church – for we are members of his body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

## SUMMARY:

Husbands and wives are to see in Christ's beautiful and loving relationship with the church a model for their own relationship. Marriage is one of God's great blessings to humanity. It will be that for us if we live out our relationship according to God's pattern and by his strength.

## NOTES:



## DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Questions:

Growing up how did you picture God? (i.e. Kind Father, Policeman, Judge, friend) How does the New Testament definition of love discussed today impact that picture?

What is your role in God's decision to love you?

Discussion:

How does the world define love? How do you define it?

How is your love for your wife most like Christ's love for the church?

Where does it deviate the most from Christ's model?

As Bill McCartney shared, Imagine looking into your wife's face, what does that show you about your character?

Do you think your marriage relationship is centered in Christ or is it "me" centered?

## APPLICATION:

When you get home, observe your wife's face, her countenance, is it indicative of Christ's Agape for the church, which makes the church radiant? Reflect on the flow chart, and truly receive anew or for the first time God's Agape for yourself. Only the power of the Holy Spirit working through you, will you be able to love your wife as Christ loved the church.

## ON YOUR OWN...

Read the Parables with the Agape motif as discussed today in mind.