

**THE CROSS-SHAPED  
HUSBAND**

**Ephesians 5:25-30**



# The Gospel

- Jesus and the Cross are to shape all our thinking and actions.
- The Gospel-centered life means that we look at all things in light of the Cross.
- Marriage is Gospel-centered.



# Context

- Eph. 1-3: Saved by grace through faith
  - New identity in Christ, new walk (4)
  - Commanded to be filled by the Spirit (5)
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- Ephesians 5:25



# The Highest Standard

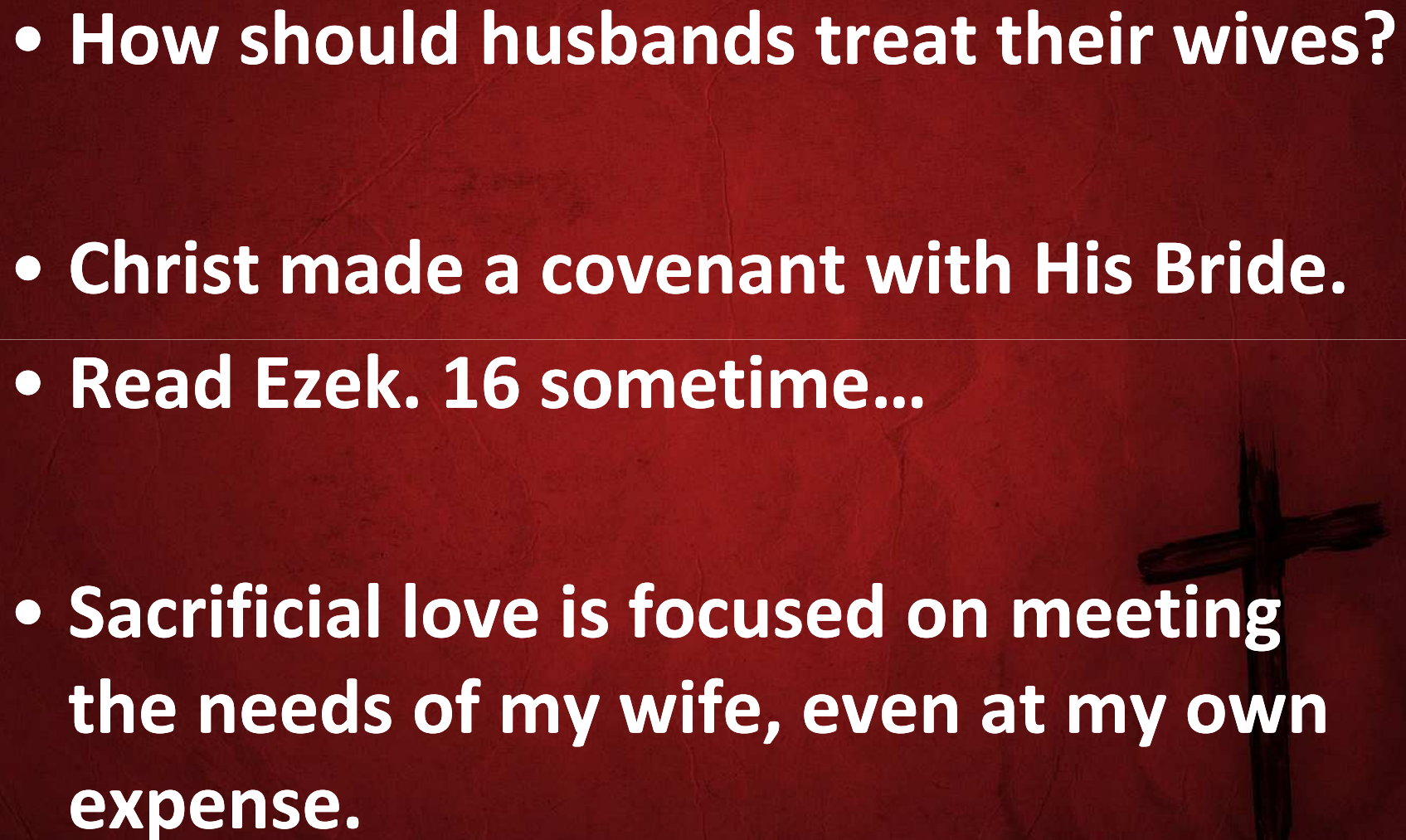
- The husband is given the highest standard to follow – Christ's love, Christ's death.
- The greatest act of love in the history of the world is the Cross of Jesus Christ.
- Husbands must pattern their love after Christ's.

# The Highest Standard

“Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.” (Eph. 5:2)

- *Agape* love: always seeks the highest good of another at your own expense just like the Cross.

# **1. Cross-shaped husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church.**

- **How should husbands treat their wives?**
  - **Christ made a covenant with His Bride.**
  - **Read Ezek. 16 sometime...**
  - **Sacrificial love is focused on meeting the needs of my wife, even at my own expense.**
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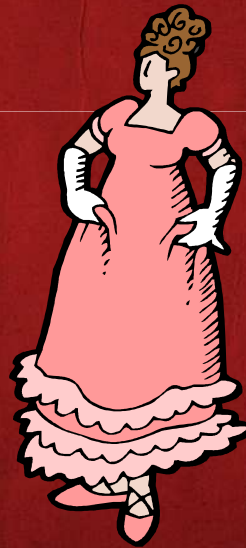
# 1. Cross-shaped husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church.

- Going from heaven to the Cross, Jesus showed sacrificial love.



# 1. Cross-shaped husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church.

- Martyr?



# **1. Cross-shaped husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church.**

- **Why should we love selflessly?**
- **God tells us to**
- **Your wife needs your love**
- **God's glory is on the line**
- **You made a vow**
- **The picture of Christ and the Church is at stake**



# 1. Cross-shaped husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church.

- Christ's love was sacrificial and ours is to be the same.
- If husbands are told to love their wives to the point of *death*, then what extent do you think their love should be expressed in *life*?



**1. Cross-shaped husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church.**

**“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”**

**(John 15:13)**

**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)**

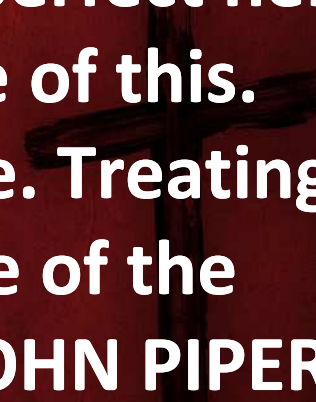
# **1. Cross-shaped husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church.**

- **Wives: unappreciated**
- **Husbands: unapproachable**



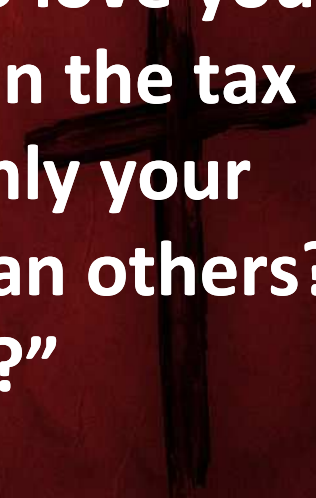
# **1. Cross-shaped husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church.**

**“You cannot say too often that marriage is a model of Christ and the church. One of the reasons is that this makes clear that marriage is based on grace. Christ pursues his bride, the church, by grace, obtains her for his own by grace, sustains her by grace, and will perfect her for himself by grace. We deserve none of this. We deserve judgment. It is all by grace. Treating people better than they deserve is one of the central pieces of Christian ethics.” – JOHN PIPER**



# **1. Cross-shaped husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church.**

**“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be like your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?”**  
**(Matt. 5:44-47)**



# **1. Cross-shaped husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church.**

- **If that's how we are to treat our enemies, how much more should we love our wives?**

**We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for our fellow believers.**


**(1 John 3:16)**

# 1. Cross-shaped husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. **(Eph. 4:32)**



## **2. Cross-shaped husbands sanctify their wives through the Word of God.**

- **Jesus died on the Cross for the church for three purposes here:**
    - 1. to sanctify her, or set her apart for his special purposes. (v. 26)**
    - 2. to present the church to Himself in splendor (v. 27)**
    - 3. to make us holy and blameless (v. 27)**
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## **2. Cross-shaped husbands sanctify their wives through the Word of God.**

- **What is this “washing of the water with the Word”?**
- **“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” (Ezek. 36:25-26)**



## 2. Cross-shaped husbands sanctify their wives through the Word of God.

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit... (Titus 3:5)

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5)



## **2. Cross-shaped husbands sanctify their wives through the Word of God.**

- Husbands are responsible for their wives' spiritual growth through time in the Word together, mimicking Christ's cleansing of us through the Word.
- Brides took ritual baths before the wedding in Israel.
- We are being cleansed by Christ, so that we're prepared to meet Him when He returns.



## **2. Cross-shaped husbands sanctify their wives through the Word of God.**

- **Just like Christ's sanctifying work in our lives, a husband is to seek the blessing and development of his wife.**
- **His foremost concern is his wife's spiritual growth.**
- **Spend time in the Word together!**



## **2. Cross-shaped husbands sanctify their wives through the Word of God.**

- **Marriage – You signed up to be # 3.**

**1. God**

**2. Wife and kids**

**3. You**

- **“Savior and Sanctifier”**




## **2. Cross-shaped husbands sanctify their wives through the Word of God.**

- The Cross brought us to Christ as His bride.**




### **3. Cross-shaped husbands care for their wives just as they care for themselves.**


**So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. (Eph. 5:30)**



### **3. Cross-shaped husbands care for their wives just as they care for themselves.**

- **Union with Christ, connected to Him**
  - **Head and body**
  - **Whatever you would do for yourself you must also do for your wife, and conversely what you don't do to yourself, like yell at yourself, you don't do to your wife.**
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### **3. Cross-shaped husbands care for their wives just as they care for themselves.**


- **Christ nourishes and cherishes His Bride because we are connected to Him.**
  - **We are one with the Lord.**
  - **When Saul was persecuting the Church, Jesus said, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” in Acts 9.**
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### **3. Cross-shaped husbands care for their wives just as they care for themselves.**

- A husband who mistreats his wife is ultimately hurting himself.**



# Summary

- 1. Cross-shaped husbands love their wives as Christ loved the Church.  
(v. 25)**
  - 2. Cross-shaped husbands sanctify their wives through the Word of God.  
(v. 26-27)**
  - 3. Cross-shaped husbands care for their wives just as they care for themselves.  
(v. 28-30)**
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# Greg Hatteberg



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