

FOR A GREAT MARRIAGE (PART II) ROLES FROM GOD

COLOSSIANS 3:18, 19, EPHESIANS 5:22-33

BACKGROUND: The summation of the roles of husband and wife in **Colossians 3:18,19** and **Ephesians 5:22-32** is found in **Ephesians 5:33**. With each command in Scripture, God gives grace (divine power) to obey.

HUSBANDS, JUST LIKE CHRIST, you are to love you wife unconditionally with a love that is self-sacrificing, self-giving, meeting her needs , and directing your will so that you find joy in your wife, Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament, p. 64. For a woman God made love her deepest value. Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, Love and Respect (Large Print), p. 88. (**Colossians 3:19, Ephesians 5:25-33, fn 5:25-30, I John 4:7,8, fn 4:8, Romans 5:5, Malachi 2:13-16, fn 2:15,16, Proverbs 5:5-23, fn 5:18-20**) *How could you (by faith) love your wife unconditionally?*

How could you do this (love unconditionally) in ways she is aware of? Ask God to show you how you may be missing giving unconditional love to your wife.

WIVES, JUST LIKE CHRIST, you are to respect your husband unconditionally. For a man, God made respect his deepest value. Eggerichs, p. 89. This is a respect that honors, esteems, and sees him as good and vitally important for you. “A husband who does not feel respected is apt to become self-righteous and indignant. He feels even more worthy of respect when others don’t respect him.” Parrott, Drs. Les and Leslie, Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts, p. 109. (**Colossians 3:18, Ephesians 5:33, I Corinthians 11:3, fn 11:3[2nd], Galatians 3:28, fn 3:28[1st], Proverbs 18:22, Proverbs 14:1**) *(Questions from Love and Respect Workbook, p.138) What specifically could you start practicing as a way to respect you husband unconditionally?*

How is it unique that your husband was given to you by God for you to meet his need to be respected?

For group discussion: What would a marriage look like that is built on a husband’s unconditional love for his wife and a wife’s unconditional respect for her husband?

Pray briefly with your spouse for each other at bedtime!