

Connected

Practical Christianity Part 2 – the Role of Sacrifice Ephesians 5:25-29

I. Message – Practical Christianity Part 2 – Sacrifice

a. Husbands are to love their wife sacrificially – v.25

- i. To love like Christ loved the church
- ii. How did Jesus love the church?
 1. Jesus did all the work
 2. Jesus took the initiative when we least deserved it
 3. Jesus sacrificed his own well-being
 4. Jesus forgave us at our worst
 5. Jesus is preparing a home for the church He loves
 6. Jesus protects the church from the world – v.26-27

b. Husbands are to love their wife carefully

- i. As their own body – v.28
 1. The original “Happy wife, happy life” statement
 2. Want to love your life? Love your wife!
 3. He says “love her like you love yourself”
- ii. Nourishing and cherishing – v.29
 1. “Nourished” – nurture to maturity, develop
 - a. She needs you to help her reach her fullest potential
 - b. She needs you to encourage her as she pursues Christ
 2. “Cherished” – to keep warm, to show tenderness
 - a. Does she feel warm (loved)?
 - b. It’s YOUR job to do that
 - c. If your wife does not feel cherished, you are not loving her like Christ loves the church

II. 3 Applications for today:

- a. Seek to be an initiator of sacrificial acts and attitudes
- b. Help others, especially your wife, reach their fullest potential
- c. Celebrate marriages that get sacrificial love right!