



SKIP HEITZIG

SERIES:	Keep Calm and Marry On
MESSAGE:	The Storm-Proof Shelter of a Husband's Love
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Ephesians 5:25-32

MESSAGE SUMMARY

OK men, it's our turn today—God's blueprint for husbands is in view here. God's plan is for a man's love to become a strong shelter for his wife. The kind of love the Bible directs a husband to have is the kind that makes it easy for a woman to submit to. In fact, I believe the husband holds the key to a flourishing relationship by his *initiating* and *cultivating* love.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

A. Storms of life, marriage

1. Marriage requires deep commitment
2. "Keep your eyes wide open before marriage and half-shut afterwards."— Benjamin Franklin

B. When people get married, love is strong and uncompromising, Tendency for love to wane over time

1. "Seven Ages of the Married Cold" *The Saturday Evening Post*: "1st year cold: The husband said, 'Sugar! I'm really worried about my baby girl! You've got a bad sniffle... I'm putting you in the hospital this afternoon for a general check-up... I know the food is lousy there, so I'll be bringing you food from Rosini's. I've already got it all arranged with the floor superintendent.'
2nd year cold: 'Listen, darling! I don't like the sound of that cough! I've called Dr. Miller to rush over here. Now you go to bed like a good little girl just rest for me there, please.'
3rd year cold: 'Maybe you better lie down, honey. Nothing like a little rest when you feel lousy. I'll bring you something to eat. Do you have any canned soup?'
4th year cold: 'Now look dear, be sensible! After you've fed the kids, washed the dishes, you'd better lie down.'
5th year cold: 'Why don't you take a couple of aspirin?'
6th year cold: 'If you'd just gargle or something, instead of sitting around barking like a seal!'
7th year cold: 'For Pete's sake, stop sneezing! Are you trying to give me pneumonia!?'"
2. Any relationship left untended will deteriorate over time and become less satisfying
3. Every person on earth is incompatible with every other person on earth
4. "In any marriage more than a week old, there are grounds for divorce. The trick is to find and to continue to find grounds for marriage"—Robert Anderson

C. Purpose of Series

1. Good marriages better
 2. Shaky marriages not only survive, but thrive
 - D. In this passage, more written real estate given to the role of husband
 1. Three verses address wives (vv.22-24)
 2. Three times that amount devoted to husbands (vv.25-33)
 3. The key rests with husbands
- II. The Meaning of a Husband's Love (v. 25a)
- A. The Husband
 1. Meaning
 - a. Original: one who works the soil; a tiller of the ground
 - i. "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser." (John 15:1, NKJV)
 - ii. "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener." (John 15:1, NIV)
 - iii. "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." (John 15:1, KJV)
 - b. Webster
 - i. A married man
 - ii. A prudent or frugal manager
 2. Husband is one who cultivates the marriage relationship
 - a. Wisely manages the home
 - b. Initiator
 - i. Women want men to be the spiritual leader in the relationship
 - ii. Not easy
 - iii. Chinese proverb: It's harder to lead a family than it is to rule a nation
 - c. We need Christian leaders in politics, but we need Christian leaders in families more so
 - B. The Husband's Love
 1. ἀγαπᾶτε; agapate - love
 - a. Second person, plural, present, active, imperative
 - b. Command
 - c. ἀγαπάω; agapao - extraordinary, far-reaching love
 2. Husband is the head of home; must have a heart for the home
 - a. Wives never told to love husbands; husbands commanded to love wives
 - b. "Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives" *The Message*
 - i. Not: husbands rule over your wives
 - ii. Not: husbands subjugate and conquer your wives
 - iii. Be lavish in love
 - c. Husband's authority to be mixed with affection
 - i. Wife responds to her husband's love
 - ii. Like iron rubbed with a magnet becomes magnetized
 - iii. Love in a marriage more caught than taught
 3. Husband who's a leader but not a lover is a tyrant
 4. Husband who's a lover not a leader is a sentimental sap
 5. Combine a leader with loving tenderness, a man
 6. Valuable things take time
 - a. More time they take to manage, cultivate, maintain, the more valuable they are
 - b. Like tending a garden to bring forth fruit
 7. Marriage the most challenging relationship

8. God-given pattern
 - a. Wives submit to husbands
 - b. Husbands love wives
 - c. If something goes wrong, not because there's a problem with the pattern—someone left the garden untended
9. Two analogies "as"
 - a. As Christ loves the church
 - b. As you love your own body

III. The Manner of a Husband's Love (vv. 25-31)

A. Sacrificial Love

1. As Christ loved the church and give Himself for her
 - a. Extraordinary love motivated Jesus to step out of heaven, come to earth, die on the cross, and give eternal life
 - b. On earth he was rejected, mocked, spit on, yelled at
2. Do you sacrifice for your wife?
 - a. Willing to give something up for her
 - b. Take a bullet for your wife: ultimate sacrifice
 - i. Necessarily means you would be willing to make lesser sacrifices
 - ii. Find out what she wants
3. Whether she fulfills her role or not: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
 - a. Unconditional
 - b. Irrevocable
4. Child's accurate description: "Love was when my grandmother got arthritis and she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore so my grandpa did it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too."

B. Sanctifying Love

1. Sanctify: to set something apart for its original purpose; fulfilling the purpose for which something was created (e.g., sitting in a chair)
2. Help your wife grow and mature to fulfill her role in the relationship
 - a. Initiate
 - b. Garden
 - c. Cultivate
 - d. To reach her role in the relationship:
 - i. "I will make him a helper comparable to him" (Genesis 2:18)
 - ii. One like opposite him; north pole and south pole
3. Not just a housewife, *my* wife
 - a. We are partners
 - b. I couldn't be what I am without you

C. Secure Love

1. A wife is the extension of the husband
 - a. They have become one; they are a unit
 - b. "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." (Genesis 2:23)
2. As you love your body
 - a. Feed them

- b. Clothe them
 - c. Take care of them
 - d. Develop a sense of wellbeing
 - 3. Study with mirror outside a building
 - a. People like to look at themselves
 - b. Men stop to do it more than women
 - c. Body conscious
 - D. Stable Love
 - 1. Come from days, weeks, months, years of leaving, cleaving, and weaving
 - 2. Love: Second person, plural, present, active, imperative
 - a. A command to keep on loving her
 - b. "Husbands, keep on actively, repeatedly, without stopping, loving your wives"
 - 3. Typical pattern: Man sees, likes, impresses, she responds, marriage, man thinks: "conquest over"
 - a. Romancing, nurturing, communication comes to a halt
 - b. Stable love continues
- IV. The Mission of a Husband's Love (v. 32)
- A. Marriage is intended to become a horizontal microcosm of a vertical reality
 - 1. Relating with other people is horizontal
 - 2. A picture and example of our relationship with God:
 - a. A means of seeing what the churches relationship is like:
 - b. Makes the relationship visible
 - B. Need to be able to resolve their conflict in order to have a message about the love of God and forgiveness of Christ
 - C. A good marriage is a good witness; a bad marriage is a bad witness
 - D. Family is under attack
 - 1. The role of a husband is under attack
 - 2. Satanic attack to undermine the husband's role
 - a. To neutralize an army kill the commander
 - b. To demoralize a nation, kill its king/president
 - c. To ruin a church, devastate its pastor
 - d. To ruin a family, take out the leader
 - E. God is honored by a tender warrior, servant leader, initiator, cultivator
 - F. "Getting married is easy. Staying married is more difficult. Staying happily married for a lifetime is among the fine arts."—Roberta Flack

Greek terms: ἀγαπᾶτε; agapate - love; ἀγαπάω; agapao - extraordinary, far-reaching love

Publications referenced: "Seven Ages of the Married Cold" *The Saturday Evening Post*; *The Message*

Figures referenced: Ben Franklin, Robert Anderson, Roberta Flack

Cross references: Genesis 2:18; Genesis 2:23; John 15:1; Romans 5:8

Topic: Role of a Husband

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