

GOD'S GLORY IN THE HUSBAND'S LEADERSHIP

(Part 2: Ephesians 5:25-33)

In his book, *Point Man*, pastor and author Steve Farrar accurately states that Satan has two main strategies in his war against the family: first, to effectively alienate and sever a husband's relationship with his wife, and second, to effectively alienate and sever a father's relationship with his children. Such assessment reflects the pastoral concern of the apostle Paul for the Christian home. Under the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit, Paul underscores the primary responsibility and obligation of the Christian husband and father because God has appointed him as the leader and the head of his wife and family. If we are to wage war against Satan's assault on our family for the sake of God's glory and honor, then we need to banner this biblical truth: **Since the glory of God in Christ is as stake in every marriage, we must honor the God-ordained role of the wife's submission and the husband's leadership.** Reflecting on Ephesians 5:25-27, let's consider the following features of God's glory in the husband's leadership.

1. *God is glorified in the husband's servant leadership.*

2. *God is glorified in the husband's steadfast love.*

3. *God is glorified in the husband's _____.*
God calls us to see and view marriage in light of the self-sacrificing and self-giving love of our Lord Jesus for His church (Ephesians 5:25). In other words, the standard of a husband's love for his wife is the Cross of Christ. No wonder, Satan would do everything to wreck Christian marriages because he hates the Cross for it meant his absolute defeat and his eternal damnation. But as far as the church is concerned, Jesus' self-sacrificing love for us on the Cross has sealed and secured His eternal covenantal love relationship with us (1 Peter 2:24, Galatians 3:13; Romans 5:8,10; 8:38-39). Christian husbands, we lead our wives most like Christ and most authoritatively when we love our wives most sacrificially. The shape of our marriage should be shape of the Cross. There must be the attitude of daily self-giving, moment by moment renunciation of selfish sins and practical demonstration of sacrificial love.

4. *God is glorified in the husband's _____.*
Christ's love for His church is not aimless. It is a purposeful love with a sacred goal and the goal is the sanctification and glorification of His church (Ephesians 5:25-27). Our Lord Jesus gave His life for the church to make her holy, to sanctify her and one day to present her to Himself as radiant, unblemished and glorious. A Christian husband who truly loves his wife as Christ loves the church must make it his sacred goal to nurture and ensure his wife's spiritual beauty and growth in godliness and holiness through his own life example and his spiritual and sanctifying leadership in the family through prayer and the ministry of God's Word (Matthew 6:13; John 17:17).
