**Sermon Title: The Priority of Christ in the Husband’s Life, Part 1**

**Sermon Text: Colossians 3:19**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the Christian husband and future husbands to new creation living.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 priorities for Christian husbands demonstrating Christ like love that honors the wife.**

**Introduction:** Consistently the Bible and sections like this one and Ephesians 5 seek to help husbands (male heads of households) learn how to glorify God, and demonstrate transformation, in the way they govern their families. The authors of Scripture reflect on how husbands should not seek to dominate, but love like Christ. Paul addresses 2 commands in this verse, loving his wife and do not be embittered. “The new man makes a new home and family.”

**I. The definition of a husband. V.19a**

 A. The husbands are to be **males**.

 **Genesis 1:26-27** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **27** So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

 B. The husbands are to marry **females**.

 **Romans 7:1-3** Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? **2** For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to *her* husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of *her* husband. **3** So then if, while *her* husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.

**II. The demonstration of a husband. V.19b**

 The husband is to demonstrate and to imitate the love Christ has for the church, toward his earthly wife. This is done by being Spirit-filled, and by nurturing and cherishing those under his leadership and care.

 It is clear that in spite of the faults, failings, and foolishness of the church, Christ continuously loves HIs bride with grace and forgiving mercy, and has never become embittered because of her many sins.

 We find 3 ways that Christ love His bride, and the new man (husbands) demonstrates this.

 A. The demonstration of the role of a **Savior**. (**Ephesians 5:25**)

 The emphasis in this part of Scripture is not the husband’s authority to rule, lead, shepherd, but his responsibility to love and care for his wife like a Savior.

 The present tense of the command (agapate) love indicates a continuous action of love. This is the idea of willing love, not a love of sex, passion, or emotion, but of voluntary choice, a covenant that binds kind of love. This love views his wife as inheritor of the promises of God. She is a best friend and a life partner.

 Isaac and Rebekah - **Genesis 24:67** Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's *death*.

 Christ demonstrates for the husband, His sacrificial service as a Savior on behalf of the church. This sacrifice accomplished redemption and victory over Satan.

 B. The demonstration of the role of a **Sanctifier**. (**Ephesians 5:26**)

 1. The husband **purifies** his wife.

 Husbands are called in the manner of Christ, to adopt and adjust their lives to what is best for their wife’s needs as defined by God. They are to provide for the wife’s spiritual growth and development.

 2. The husband **presents** his wife.

 The husband presents his wife as a gift to himself, purified from all defilement. **V.27**

 C. The demonstration of the role of a **Supplier**. (**Ephesians 5:28-29**) (**1 Peter 3:1-6**)

 **1 Corinthians 14:34-35** Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but *they are* to be submissive, as the law also says. **35** And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.

 **1 Timothy 2:11** Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.

 **Titus 2:5** *to be* discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

 1. The husband **loves** their own wife. V.28a

 2. The husband **protects** their own wife. V.28b

 Illustration: Adam-**Genesis 3**; Abraham-**Genesis 20:1-6**

 3. The husband **nourishes** their own wife. V.29a

 4. The husband **cherishes** their own wife. V.29b

**III. The distinctiveness of a husband. V.19c**

 Husbands also must not be embittered against their wives. The imperative “pikrainestha” (embittered) could be translated, “stop being bitter” or “do not have the habit of being bitter” “harshness of temper” “exasperate.”

 [**A. T. Robertson, Word Pictures of the New Testament, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1931, 4:506**]

 If refers to something bitter in taste:

 **Revelation 8:11** The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

 **Revelation 10:9-10** So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." **10** Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

 “Husbands are not to speak honey, but respond like vinegar.”

 **1 Corinthians 7:33-34** But he who is married cares about the things of the world-- how he may please *his* wife. **34** There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world-- how she may please *her* husband.