

Gritty love in marriage 2

Ephesians 5: 25 – 27, “And to the husbands, you are to demonstrate love for your wives with the same tender devotion that Christ demonstrated to us, his bride. For he died for us, sacrificing himself to make us holy and pure, cleansing us through the showering of the pure water of the Word of God. All that he does in us is designed to make us a mature church for his pleasure, until we become a source of praise to him—glorious and radiant, beautiful and holy, without fault or flaw.”

1. Husbands only have the right of leadership of their wife and family as they “love their wives with the same tender devotion that Christ demonstrated to us.” This is sacrificial love – a love so devoted as to lay down their lives for their family.

1. When others attack

- Circle the wagons – united in defence – pray together – talk to each other frankly and openly – encourage each other, discuss if there is any truth to an accusation or criticism
- Fidelity: What to do when your spouse becomes an interest to another person. What to do if you become interested in someone other than your spouse. Fidelity is a joint responsibility and jealousy is not an option – jealousy is a powerfully negative force – open discussion and taking step to prevent this happening are better options. Prevention is better than cure.
- Fidelity is a strong pillar to every marriage – no one else is allowed to intrude into your sacred bond – marriage is an exclusive relationship and an intimate arrangement between the two of you. Jesus said “Let no try and tear it up or destroy this unique union.”
- Trust: Trust is a firm belief in the reliability, truth or ability in your partner – trust builds trust. It takes years to build a moment to destroy.

Ephesians 5: 28 – 30, “Husbands have the obligation of loving and caring for their wives the same way they love and care for their own bodies, for to love your wife is to love your own self. No one abuses his own body, but pampers it—serving and satisfying its needs. That’s exactly what Christ does for his church! He serves and satisfies us as members of his body.”

1. Husbands have the obligation of loving and caring for their wives the same way they love and care for their own bodies.”
2. These passage of scripture have a lot to say for the husband – we have enormous responsibilities in the marriage relationship – it seems we have obligations as well – an obligation is a duty, a responsibility and commitment. It’s like a debt we owe the relationship. In fact the marriage vows make it clear we have a contract, and we make a promise. We are under contract – one made in love – to care for, to love, to provide leadership, to cover our wives and family providing protection and be a man of integrity.

Ephesians 5: 31 – 33, “For this reason a man is to leave his father and his mother and lovingly hold to his wife, since the two have become joined as one flesh. Marriage is the beautiful design of the Almighty, a great and sacred mystery—meant to be a vivid example of Christ and his church. So every married man should be gracious to his wife just as he is gracious to himself. And every wife should be tenderly devoted to her husband.”

1. Marriage is a reason for a man to leave his mother and father
2. Marriage is all about to lovingly hold on to his wife, and that through marriage become one flesh. One in purpose, one in destiny and one in direction.
3. Marriage is the beautiful design of the Almighty
4. Marriage is a great and sacred mystery – note the word sacred – holy, consecrated and sanctified – marriage is an exclusive relationship – it is a bond between two people that

nothing should seek to sever – the 2 people involved in the relationship are the ones who have the most responsibility to keep that sanctity intact.

5. So every married man should be gracious to his wife and if this is a truth and reality then it should be easy for every married wife to be tenderly devoted to her husband.

2. Growing old together

- Because marriage is until death us do part – the possibility is you will live with each other until you're really old! This is the plan of God for you. Really it is!!
- Empty nest syndrome: What's left of your relationship after the kids have moved out to start their own adventures? It is a time to reinvent life together.
- Things start to break down!
- You'll have someone to talk to when everyone else is gone!
- Grandkids – the kids you wished you had before your own kids! The joy of longevity in marriage!