

This week's message was exclusively to men. The discussion questions are addressed to men but are intended to invite the input of their wives. If you are not married, learn from and offer encouragement to those who are married in your group.

**1) Husband, love your wife as Christ loves the church. (25-27)**

**a. He pursues her. (25-26)**

Describe how you pursued and won the heart of your wife before you were married.

Do you still ask your wife on dates? Why or why not? How are your dates different now? Why?

**b. He purifies her. (26-27)**

Who is the spiritual leader in your marriage? Does your wife intimidate you with her knowledge of the Bible, her prayer life, or intimacy with God?

How could you increase your spiritual leadership in your marriage?

Do you share with your wife what God is showing you in scripture?

**c. He polishes her. (27)**

Do you initiate prayer with your wife every day?

Do you know your wife's spiritual needs?

How are you helping your wife grow spiritually?

**d. He presents her. (27)**

How do you introduce your wife to others? How do you talk about your wife to others? How do you brag on your wife?

**2) Husband, love your wife as you love yourself. (28-33)**

**a. He nourishes her. (29)**

**b. He cherishes her. (29)**

**Five ways a wife feels cherished**

**1) Security**

How have you communicated recently that you are committed to the permanence of your marriage? Have you left any room for doubt that you are going to the finish line together?

Does your wife trust you (sexually, financially, physically, etc.)? Have you done anything to damage your wife's ability to trust you when you are not in her presence?

Do you regularly admit your failures to your wife? Have you shared with your wife how she can pray for you?

Have you kept any secrets from your wife?

**2) Honor**

How "mindful" are you of your wife when she is not with you?

How do you communicate to your wife that you are thinking of her?

When was the last time your wife received an unexpected gift from you? What was it?

Make list of free or cheap things that you can do daily to show honor to your wife.

**3) Understanding**

List at least three ways your wife is different from you. Do these things annoy you?

Does your wife know that you accept her the way God has made her? How have you communicated this?

When your wife shares a difficulty she is facing, do you try to fix it before you simply understand what she is feeling about it? Why is understanding so important to her?

**4) Communication**

What competes for face to face communication with your wife?

**5) Physical Affection**

It is estimated that your wife needs between 8 and 12 non-sexual touches from her husband every day to feel secure. Do you provide this for her?

**c. He inspires her. (33)**

**A husband's love inspires a wife's respect.**

How have you made it more or less difficult for your wife to obey her part of verse 33?

**Additional Scripture**

- Proverbs 5:15-23
- Proverbs 31:10, 28-31
- 1Corinthians 7:1-5
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-8
- 1Peter 3:7