

- ↳ Our Christianity is no better than it is at home and in our marriages. We've considered God's overall blueprints for marriage in general; and we started looking at the specific blueprints for each partner. Our first foray was into the husband's blueprints. For that we needed to turn to the book of Ephesians 5:22-28. What does loving your wife as Christ does the Church look like? The first role of a husband is that of *savior*. Husbands we lead our homes as saviors not as dictators or abdicators. We lead as Christ leads, with no thought for ourselves, washing the feet of our wives as servant leaders.
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1. Another detail of the husband's blueprint is Sacrifice, Ephesians 5:25.

- ✓ Husbands, can you say, "I am willing to give up my rights to meet the needs of my wife."? The basic premise of the individual in our society is: "Please yourself." How has that worked out for this generation? We are the most educated, funded, and well-traveled of any generation, but we are also the most displeased and discontented of any generation yet. Here is a very simple observation for the please yourself generation, if you seek to please yourself, you will never be pleased. It is an observation that Jesus made before it ever happened, Matthew 16:25. When our main concern is our needs, our happiness, our own time, and what pleases ourselves, our life will slip right through our fingers. Ephesians 5:28, husbands, this has direct implications on your happiness in marriage because the husband sets the tone which means if he lives selfishly so will his wife.

2. What are your wife's needs? It is your job to know them.

- 1) She needs a husband who is committed to Christ and will set the tone spiritual in the marriage.
 - ✓ She should not be the one in the marriage has to lead out spiritually; gets the family to church; leads in prayer; walks with God. You should be more serious about your spiritual life than any other pursuit including your job. Remember, as the husband and father goes, so goes the family. Ephesians 5:25-27, clearly, in order to fulfill the blueprints of being a husband, we have to lead our wives to be a better person spiritually.
 - 2) She needs you to be a man of character!
 - ✓ A man who is above board, above reproach, honest, genuine, someone she can rely on and not someone she's uncertain of. Again, you set the tone. Provide for your family and example of how to live, all the material success in the world will not give them what it is that you will give them. If you break the rules, own it, do not say, "I was doing it for my family." You actually did it at the expense of your family.
 - 3) She needs you to meet her emotional needs.
 - ✓ She's not like you, least of which is the physical differences, she is much more emotionally sensitive than you are as a general rule of thumb. She's brings to the table what you are missing and vise-versa. Ephesians 5:29 "cherish" means to recognize the value of something like a jewel or of fine China. She's not going approach the world as you do and needs your support and protection so she can fulfill what she was created to be. Husbands, you are to be the student of your wife's needs and the meet-er of those needs. This will take time and dedication, talk to her, tell her how you feel and think, listen to her, and pay attention to her as she shares her heart. Your job is to be the expert on your wife's needs! The husband has the hardest job, because he plays the role of savior and the one who sacrifices first. You play the part of Jesus in the skit called marriage; it is the leading role.
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