

# *God's Grace In US*

**Ephesians 5:25-33**

**Husbands “Under the Influence”**

## The Bar is Raised!

- Wives: submit – willingly, joyfully, voluntarily follow the husbands lead whenever and wherever possible!
- Husbands: love – as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.

*That is: to lovingly, willingly do whatever it takes to serve her by seeking her highest good even if it means giving your very life!*

## The Bar is Raised!

### Sacrificial Love (vs. 25)

- What it looks like: 1 John 4:10; John 15:13; Matt 26:36 ff.; Philippians 2:6-8
- *The point of being her head, her leader, her lover is not that she does things for you, but that you do things for her.*

## The Bar is Raised!

### Sacrificial Love (vs. 25)

### Purifying Love (vs. 26-27)

- Jesus cleanses us from sin, removes its stain and defilement, making us holy
- *Is your wife more like Christ because she is married to you? Or is she like Christ in spite of you?*

## The Bar is Raised!

### Sacrificial Love (vs. 25)

### Purifying Love (vs. 26-27)

### Cherishing Love (vs. 28-30)

- Cherish = to hold dear, to cultivate with tender care and affection.
- See **I Thess 2:7**
- *In our culture we see this as a ‘feminine’ trait - but in the bible it is at the core of the husband’s role and responsibility.*

## **The Bar is Raised!**

**Sacrificial Love (vs. 25)**

**Purifying Love (vs. 26-27)**

**Cherishing Love (vs. 28-30)**

**Unbreakable Love (vs. 31-32)**

- See Gen 2:24
  - ‘cleave to’ = a permanent bond (like ‘super glue’)
  - ‘one flesh’ = cannot be separated without doing permanent, irreparable damage
- *Contrast with our culture where men and women change partners like clothing*

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**Sacrificial Love (vs. 25)**

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**Cherishing Love (vs. 28-30)**

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**Wrapping It Up (vs. 33)**

- A wife who is loved by her husband as Christ loves her will increasingly find it natural to follow his lead.
- A man whose wife follows his lead as she does Christ will increasingly find it natural to love her as Christ loves her.