

DIGDEEPER

April 17, 2016

A Pattern of Love by Chris Millar
Ephesians 5:25-30 ([Listen Online](#))

THE BIG IDEA

A husband's love for his wife should be a visible picture on earth of the eternal reality of Christ's love for the church. As such, the love of a husband must be patterned after the love of Jesus as he pursues the church, purifies the church, and presents the church to himself. As head of the home, a husband's first need is to see all Jesus has done for him if he ever hopes to provide anything of significance to his wife.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

In marriage, what are some of the primary things God designed men to do?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- In his instruction to husbands, why does Paul spend more time talking about Jesus and the church than about husbands and wives?
- Paul outlines carefully the ways Jesus sacrificed to make provision for us. In what ways are you laboring on behalf your wife to make it possible for her to grow in holiness? What things are you not doing that you should be doing?
- Husbands, consider verse 28 and ask yourself in what ways you love your own self more than your wife? What would it take to change those specific priorities?
- What is the ultimate goal and aim for your marriage?
- Husbands, how does the completed work of Jesus inform your role in marriage?

GO DEEPER

- Jesus is the best demonstration of what a godly husband should be. From [CBMW.org](#), we see how [following his example won't be comfortable](#), but it will be good.
- Being a husband is a tremendous task. Matt Chandler [exhorts men to exhaust themselves](#) in leading their homes and then lean into Christ for rest.
- Sam Storms helps us understand [what it means for husbands to the head](#) of the home.
- Douglas Wilson encourages men to [look to the Puritans](#) for a good example of husbandry.
- If you're a husband (or want to be one someday) check out [The Masculine Mandate](#).

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

Take time to lift your eyes from the daily concerns of your own marriage, and look to Jesus. Consider the ways your spouse has disappointed you this week in light of the ways you've sinned against your Savior in the same time period. Repent of your sin and ask the Holy Spirit to give you eyes to see the goodness of Jesus in fresh ways so that you might love your spouse better.