House Rules #6 Lead and Love Like Jesus Eph. 5: 25-30

Intro: **Jesus Loved** the church, His people, from eternity past. His love compelled Him to empty Himself of glory and come for us

**Jesus gave Himself up** for us on the Cross. No one took His life from Him, He gave it as a sacrifice for our sin; His death for our well-being.

**Jesus Sanctifies** His church, He sets us apart as pure and holy belonging to Him --- through the power of the Word of the Gospel and, publicly, through baptism --- He purifies for Himself a People.

**Jesus will one day Present** to Himself the Church, like a Bride beautiful & pleasing, glorious and holy. We’ll put a smile on His face.

**The Gospel from eternity past to eternity future**. (Repeat verbs)

Paul gives us this Gospel summary when He writes about marriage. Christian marriage echoes the Gospel. Gospel **pattern** and **power**.

Two great metaphors for understanding the Church: ***Bride and Body***. Both are employed in our text about the role of the Husband.

**Ephesians 5: 25-30**

**Note**: Paul spends more time on Husband’s Responsibilities.

1. Husbands need more Help
2. The Most Counter-Cultural… challenging status quo

Review: For His Purpose; Under His Authority; In His Power

 Truth about Family is Seldom popular, always Good.

**Last week**: Wives be Subject to Husbands. (In Context, Under Layers)

 Husband is Head: Acknowledge, Follow, Respect

 Be His Strong Help.

**t/s** - Keep that Truth of Husband as Head when we read.

**Read Ephesians 5: 25 – 30**

**Husbands Lead.**

Exp – Be careful to keep this in mind. Paul teaches husband as Head.

 Not a declaration of privilege, but Responsibility to Lead.

 **Context:** Genesis Creation Account… ***Adam’s Passivity***.

**ILL** – I read Pearl a book about a little girl who was principal for the day. The girl was “In Charge.”

* From car seat in back. “Mimi, I’m in Charge.”

App – ***In Charge*** = **Responsible For**

 Responsibility is the Mark of a Man. (Buck stops here)

**t/s** - Christian Leadership is Not like the World… Paul Explains

 (Apostles, Pastors… anyone given leadership role)

**Husbands Love your Wives.**

Exp – Paul seems to be echoing the Great Commandment, *Love your neighbor as yourself.* Love your wife as your own body.

***Love Consistently***

Paul chooses the word ***agape.*** It speaks to a kind of love that is stronger and more consistent than romance or sexual attraction, even more consistent than friendship. A love like Christ’s love for us.

* Not a *Response* to my wife’s character or conduct; but the **Initiative** of my own commitment to Jesus.
* Present Tense = Keep on Loving your wives.

**ILL** – Wife, “I do not know if the son will come up tomorrow; but I do not that my Husband will love me.

App – *Like a City Broken into, without walls; is a man who cannot control his own spirit.*

 Husband, your love for Wife brings Security to your Family.

***Love Sacrificially.***

Exp – **Vs. 25** – *And Gave Himself up for her*. Mark 10:45 – To Serve.

 Few husbands here would refuse to take a bullet for his wife.

 Step in front of a train, in harms way… one great heroic act.

* The Daily discipline of Sacrifice… Selfless Love.

Drive that old clunker so family budget will balance

Help around the house at the end of an exhausting day

Turn the TV off and turn your full attention to your bride

**ILL** – Farmer, wife, Tornado; 1st time been out together in years

App – It’s Not about You. Fun, Fulfillment, Fascination… Be A Man!

***Love Purposefully.***

Exp – **Vs. 26** – *So that He might sanctify her…*

**I am responsible for the spiritual well-being of my bride.**

Peter, “Grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life.”

**ILL** – Kent Hughes, Pastor of College Church in Wheaton

 *Is your wife more like Jesus because she is married to you?*

**App – Husband is the Spiritual Leader of the Home**… Marriage.

 One Word: **Initiative**.

* Prayer; Worship; Service; Giving; Moral standards.

We join Jesus in His Sanctifying Work.

**Lead with consistent, sacrificial, sanctifying Love.**

**ILL** – Football coach friend never worried about the Johnson brothers missing summer workouts --- hauling hay, building fence, shoveling grain --- They would be ready to play football.

**Leading with Love at Home prepares a man to Lead in the Kingdom.**

**Gospel =** Only in His Power can we Carry this Responsibility.