

Couples In Bloom – Love By Faith

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Husbands have a crazy responsibility: to love their wives as Christ loved the church ⇒ Ephesians 5:25. This is impossible unless they understand how Jesus loves. The Bible is the best tool for understanding the Bible; see what else it says on this topic. A big hint on how Christ loves the church is in Jeremiah 31:34 ⇒ “...I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sins no more.” The word “*their*” means *us*, the bride of Christ. Christians follow Christ, and the Christian husband is to love his bride as God loves His.

The fallen nature of the bride of Christ’s free will leaves her with NOTHING lovely. **The only beauty in the bride of Christ comes from the love of God**, which is the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. *We have to understand this:* the Bridegroom beautifies His bride. **Husbands: our wives’ loveliness depends on how we choose to love them.** Jesus chose to look past His bride’s ugliness (sin) and to see the loveliness *He* put on her.

We walk by faith, not by sight ⇒ 2 Corinthians 5:7 and loving is part of our walking. We still live on earth and still sin, yet are still considered holy by God. Guess what, guys? *This is how* husbands love their wives as Christ loved the church! We **Love By Faith!**

What does this mean practically, on a daily basis? Ephesians 5 ⇒ gives us answers:

- 1) Sanctify** and cleanse her by washing her with rhema (*Biblical word for personalized Bible verses from God to us*). In other words, God gives us husbands the encouragements our wives need! The way we learn them is by hearing Him speak them to us as HIS bride.
- 2) Present** (literally ‘stand beside’) her as a glorious bride *without defect*. This means we **Love** her **By declaring her beauty to her**, with spiritual authority from **Faith** in Christ’s cleansing blood. *This is how* we romance our wives like Song of Solomon 4:7 *honestly*.
- 3) Love** her like a co-joined (‘Siamese’) twin: everything we do to her we also do to ourselves, plus God needs to approve of it. Doing wrong things to our wives only comes back to hurt us anyway, so let’s just surrender to God now and get it right the first time.
- 4) Be one** with her every way, not just sexually. Leave our old ways and continuously consummate our relationship with her with nourishing and cherishing. This is exactly how God loves us and this is also exactly how He commands husbands to love our wives.

Brutal honesty just between us husbands: there may be moments when we have to use our imagination to see this beauty... until our faith catches up. That’s okay; God gave us an imagination for a reason. Of the two spouses, God appointed the husband to take the lead and **Love By Faith**. The good news is that he also gets God’s anointing to do it.

Some of us guys now ask, “Does my wife get a free ticket here, or what?” **Some more brutal honesty just between us husbands:** intimacy did *not* originate with marriage. God invented it for relationship between humanity (His intended bride) and Himself. Marriage merely uses the same method. Our wives are weaker than us ⇒ 1 Peter 3:7. If she seems unlovely, remember her weakness is the exact spiritual picture of *US*, the bride of Christ! God MADE wives weak to teach husbands to **Love** them, and to teach His bride (husbands and wives) how He **Loves** her. Our wives’ responsibility comes later on.

Loving By Faith frees us to *honestly* and *actually* **Love** our wives. ♥ Loren Falzone