

LESSON 3: Love

The greatest gift a father can give his children
is to love their mother.
– Unknown

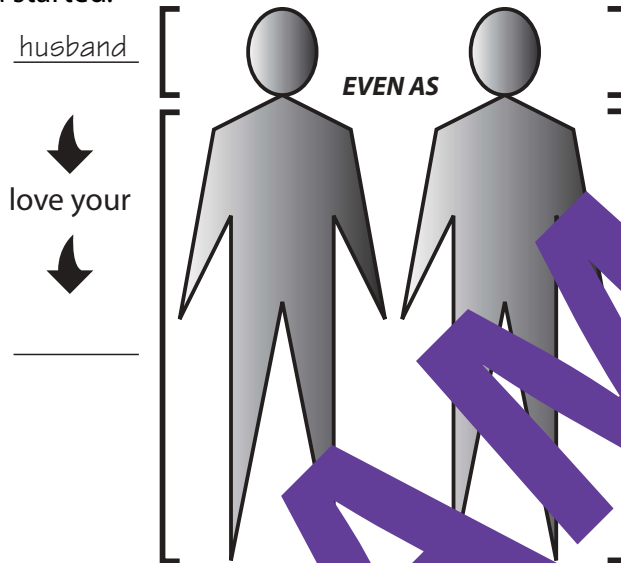


1. What is love? Using your own words, describe below what it means to **love** your wife:



Read Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Titus 2:4

2. Complete the following chart using Ephesians 5:22-33. The first blank has been completed to get you started.



How many times in Eph.
does Paul remind
men to love their wives?

times

Why do you think he
repeats this command?

4. According to Ephesians 5:22-33 what is a godly wife *obligated* to do for her husband? Make a list.

5. According to Ephesians 5:22-33 what is godly husband *obligated* to do for his wife? Make a list:

6. Do a husband's obligations end if his wife does not fulfill her obligations? In other words, can a husband withhold his love if his wife is less than loveable?

yes no not sure

Different Types of Love

As we noted in Ephesians 5, husbands are commanded to *love* their wives. In Titus 2:4, wives are instructed to *love* their husbands and children. However, the Greek word for “love” in each of these passages is different and each has a different meaning.

Men are to *agapao* their wives. According to *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, this love does not arise out of the “excellency of its object.” It is a deliberate, conscious love. This love does not occur spontaneously, but has to be consciously demonstrated. In other words, it has to be *planned*. 1 Corinthians 13 talks about this love.

Women are to love *philandros* their husbands and children. In this context this means “love of her man and her offspring.” This love can best be defined as “kindness” and is the same as that of Titus 3:4 which describes the merciful, sacrificial love of “God our Savior” for mankind. This love is more emotional and more spontaneous. It might be said it occurs naturally *without planning*.

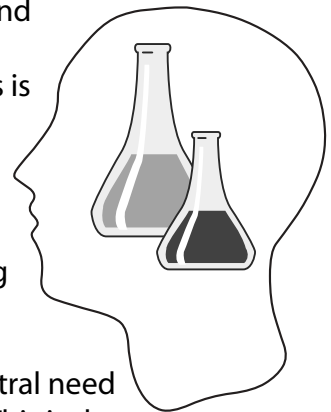
7. Is there any significance in the fact that men are instructed to *agapao* their wives and wives are instructed to *philandros* their husbands? Give it some thought and explain below:

What is Romantic Love?

Neurobiologists have discovered there is a chemical released in the brain when a man and woman fall in love. This chemical is phenylethylamine and it affects the body much like an amphetamine perhaps explaining the romantic feelings two people have when they fall in love. Since phenylethylamine is released in the presence of your partner, you want to spend every waking moment with him or her and most couples do just that. During this stage of their relationship, two new people seem to tire of one another. This is the romantic phase of a relationship.

Unfortunately phenylethylamine highs cannot last. Your body builds up a tolerance to it and the body requires more and more of the substance to achieve the special “mark.” It takes about four years for the effects of the chemical to wear off. A couple is faced with the difficult challenge of living together without the “spark.” This can create a struggle for many married couples—especially the woman.

According to Ashley Andelin, in the book *Man of Steel and Velvet*, the “central need that a woman has in her life with her husband is her need for romantic love. This is the center of her happiness.... Men are not harmed by the absence of this love to the same degree as women. A man denied love throws himself into his work and finds compensating fulfillment there. Not so with a woman.”



8. Given the definition of *agapao* love and a women’s need for romantic love, why do you think that some men do not provide more romance for their wives?

Then and Now

Complete the exercise below and be ready to share your answers. The letters "D" and "R" will be explained later.

THEN

When you were dating your wife, what did you do to *demonstrate* your love for her?

1. _____
_____ D R

2. _____
_____ D R

3. _____
_____ D R

4. _____
_____ R

NOW

Now that you are married what do you do to *demonstrate* your love for your wife?

1. _____
_____ D R

2. _____
_____ D R

3. _____
_____ D R

4. _____
_____ D R

SAMPLE



Read Colossians 3: 12-14



9. What type of heart should characterize a man of God?

10. What is the connection between what we "put on" (verses 12 and 14) and what "dwells within us" (verse 16)?

Dutiful vs. Romantic Love

Dutiful love is *expected* love. It manifests itself in things it is our duty as husbands to perform. It might include working to support our family or keeping the house in good repair. Many of our holidays are *dutiful* holidays because gifts or gestures given on such days are expected. There is little or no surprise when you give your wife a gift on your anniversary. These are expected gestures. The fact that they are expected does not diminish their importance.

Romantic love, conversely is *unexpected* love. It is a kindness or thoughtful gesture that surprises the recipient. Romantic love adds a "spark" to a marriage. It often appears spontaneous to the wife, but may require careful pre-planning on the part of the husband. Giving your wife a gift of flowers or writing her a poem when she does not expect it is more romantic than doing so on her birthday (though you should never forget her birthday!)

When courting his wife-to-be, a man is often more romantic. He engages in little acts of kindness that surprise his girlfriend. Unfortunately, when men get married, they often disengage with romance and let the fulfillment of their duties be the sole indication of their love. If you want to add some spark to your marriage and make your wife feel romanced, you need to imagine you are courting her all over again. Surprise her with little unexpected gestures of love. Consider this excerpt from a recent *Good Housekeeping* article: *What do women want in the way of wooing? I don't think I'm alone in saying forget about the standardized nicey-nice. No wooing credit should be given for bringing home heart-shaped boxes of drugstore chocolate on Valentine's Day.*

What we really want is romantic surprise, the delicious shock of having a date what's being cooked up. Think outside of those little cardboard valentine boxes. The gesture does not have to be big or extravagant. -- Joanne Kaufman, *Good Housekeeping*, February 2007

Dutiful Love	An expected, regular manifestation of love.	Examples: • Working hard to provide for your family. • Giving your wife a gift on your anniversary.
Romantic Love	An unexpected gesture or surprise that demonstrates love.	Examples: • A surprise gift given for no special occasion. • A handwritten love poem.

With the above in mind, go back to the exercise on the previous page and circle the appropriate letter after each thing you want to demonstrate your love to your wife *before* and *after* you married her. Circle "D" for dutiful items and "R" for romantic items. Be ready to discuss the difference between the two manifestations of love.

Commitment to Action

If it is true that *mapao* love requires conscious planning, list below at least three things you could do this coming week to show your love for your wife. In other words make a plan to demonstrate your love not in a dutiful way, but in *romantic* ways. Make your list and then DO at least two of the things on the list. Keep referring to the list and keep DOING these things.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

draw her a bath

give her a backrub using exotic lotions

hide a bottle of perfume under her pillow

set the table

Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest...
– Ecclesiastes. 9:9