

Paul says in Eph 5.25 'Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it.' This is a scripture used many times to show the beautiful analogy between marriage and the church. But I think that we usually jump immediately to the fact that Christ died for the church for us. We seldom have the opportunity to die for our wife. We need to realize that in addition to this, Christ showed his love for us by serving while he lived. In John 13 we read how, though he was Lord, though he was the authority, he humbled himself and performed the menial task of washing his disciple's feet. How many of us who are husbands are so willing to serve our wives?

Just bringing home the bacon is not enough. The picture we see and sometimes live of the husband coming home from work, kicking off his shoes, flopping down on the couch, and demanding is dinner, is not the way Christ gave himself for the church. We must be very careful not to get into the rut of minimum service. Let's read now Lu 22.27: 'for who is greater? The one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves'. There seems to me to be a real parallel here to our married lives. Can husbands really be the servant, or is it like Christ says, that from a worldly viewpoint the husband who is 'the boss' sits at the dinner table and lets his wife do of the work.

Now, I don't want to be stoned by all of the husbands here. But it is something to think about. Do we love enough to serve our spouse? Do we do little jobs like taking out the garbage cheerfully? Service is such a fundamental part of Christianity. Let us go out and do what Paul says to do in Gal 5.13: Serve one another in love. These thoughts can really be helpful to all of us. Are you serving for Christ?