

Think It Over helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. The points, questions, and Scriptures are designed to help make it real in your life.

- When have you observed a wife that is completely loved by her husband? What were some of observations that caught your attention? How did that impact the wife's well-being?
- Read Matthew Henry's quote. What do you see as important? What might you change? How does it impact your perspective of marriage?
- Read: *...Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them. As women they lack some of your advantages. But in the new life of God's grace, you're equals. Treat your wives, then, as equals so your prayers don't run aground. 1 Peter 3:7 (Msg).* What principles does Peter, who was married, share about being a good husband? How can you apply these regardless of your marital status?
- Look up and read the following passages: Ephesians 6:4, Proverbs 24:26, Colossians 3:19, Philippians 2:3-4. What characteristics are seen in these verses that you would also say are vital to a good marriage?
- Read: *...Enjoy the wife you married as a young man! ¹⁹Lovely as an angel, beautiful as a rose— don't ever quit taking delight in her body. Never take her love for granted! ²⁰Why would you trade enduring intimacies for cheap thrills...²¹Mark well that God doesn't miss a move you make... Proverbs 5:18–21 (Msg) and in another translation. What are some of the takeaways from such a passage? What process does a husband need to begin to live that passage out? Verse 21 tells us God is watching. Is that a motivator? What can spouses do to make it easier to have a Proverbs 5:18-21 marriage?*

Making It Real: Which out of the *Love Your Wife Take-aways* need your attention to especially avoid relationships? If you are a husband how could you in a non-defensive way discover which ones you may need to address? If you a wife how could you share a few of these that need some attention in your marriage? If that is not possible, how will you lean into on God as you pray for your husband to become aware of them? If you are not married, what are the implications of Husbands, Love Your Wives, for your life?

Changing Your Mind: Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.



The woman was made out of Adam's side. She was not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved. Matthew Henry

²⁵⁻²⁶Husbands, you must love your wives so deeply, purely, and sacrificially that we can understand it only when we compare it to the love the Anointed One has for His bride, the church. We know He gave Himself up completely to make her His own, washing her clean of all her impurity with water and the powerful presence of His word. ²⁷He has given Himself so that He can present the church as His radiant bride, unstained, unwrinkled, and unblemished—completely free from all impurity—holy and innocent before Him. ²⁸So husbands should care for their wives as if their lives depended on it, the same way they care for their own bodies. As you love her, you ultimately are loving part of yourself (remember, you are one flesh). ²⁹No one really hates his own body; he takes care to feed and love it, just as the Anointed takes care of His church, ³⁰because we are living members of His body. ³¹And this is the reason a man leaves his father and his mother and is united with his wife; the two come together as one flesh. Ephesians 5:25–31 (Voice)

↳ Husbands, love your wives wholly

²⁵Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting.
Ephesians 5:25 (Msg)

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Romans 12:1 (ESV)

The very definition of the word sacrifice means that sacrifice isn't sacrifice unless it costs us something; so men, it's a fair question for you to ask, "How have I loved my wife in the past two or three weeks in such a way that it has cost me something — vocationally, financially, and with my hobbies, time, or comfort?"

Gary Thomas, Sacred Marriage

↳ Husbands, love your wives with holiness

²⁶Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her,
²⁷dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness.
Ephesians 5:26–27 (Msg)

↳ Husbands, love your wives with wholeness

²⁸And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They're really doing themselves a favor—since they're already "one" in marriage.
²⁹No one abuses his own body, does he? No, he feeds and pampers it. That's how Christ treats us, the church, ³⁰since we are part of his body. Ephesians 5:28–30 (Msg)

Love Your Wife Take-Aways

¹⁹Let every husband be filled with cherishing love for his wife and never be insensitive toward her. Colossians 3:19 (TPT)

- ✓ Love Her Heart—Emotional Love
- ✓ Love Her Mind—Intellectual Love
- ✓ Love Her Body—Physical Love
- ✓ Love Her Soul—Spiritual Love
- ✓ Love Her Relationships—Relational Love
- ✓ Love Her Humanity—Realistic Love
- ✓ Love Her Calling—Supportive Love
- ✓ Love Her Maker—Theological Love

William Boekestein

[Bottom Line](#)

Holy Love is Wholly Love

Think it over is on the back page.