

THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN THE BIBLE

"Nowhere in the Bible does it say that a wife is to love her husband", I heard a speaker say on a Christian Radio program. Frankly, I was surprised at the statement. Even as a fairly young Christian, I recalled that somewhere in the Bible it said for a wife to 'love her husband'. However, I had no clue as to the location of that verse, so I ran to my concordance and looked up the word "love". Scanning the page containing reference after reference on love, I came upon Titus 2:4. There before my eyes, were these precious words, "teach young women to be sober (sound minded) and to love their husbands..."

I wondered why the speaker did not know this verse. Maybe he had been looking up the word "Agape", and somehow missed the "Philandros", two unique meanings for the word 'love'.

It is the only time the Bible instructs "a wife to love her husband", BUT it is there! Now I was truly curious, I wanted to know more to gain further insight.

I decided to look up the Greek meaning for love. Now, I don't know Greek, but I followed the numbers noted by the words at the back of the concordance. There I found the Greek word and its meaning. The word love has two meanings. The word for the wife's love is "Philandros." It comes from the same root word as 'Philadelphia' or 'The City of Brotherly Love.' This love "Phileo", means 'fond of' and "dros" is Greek for 'affectionate' as a wife toward her husband. The word "Agape" is the word God uses for His love for us, also the husband's love for his wife.

This may seem confusing, but it is the KEY to understanding Titus 2:3-5. This may be why some pastors have told me they have never seen Titus 2 like I was explaining. They teach 'older women' are to be good examples, which is true. The Greek word for 'teaching' is, "Sophronizo," which means passing on their wisdom, knowledge and experience. The word, Sophrone, means sound minded. The word izo means "to teach, pass on, and train as for the Olympics." So the older women are to be teaching the younger women the Titus 2 Principles.

It is important for us to acknowledge that the Bible only once tells the wife to "Phileo" (love) her husband and more times tells the husband to "Agape" (love) his wife. More often God tells the

wife to 'be submissive' to her husband.

As I read more of the meaning of "Phileo", it is, 'chiefly of the heart', to be his friend and lover, to show affection, personal attachment, sentiment and feeling." See why teaching women is easy. It is clear how we are to love our husbands. It is how we want to love him, but lack of knowledge, anger and bitterness keep us from loving him like we should.

The meaning of "Agape" is, 'chiefly of the head', the deliberate choice of the will as a matter of principle, duty and propriety".

This difference is important to understand, because it shows up in the differences between men and women. It gives a greater understanding as to why husbands and wives have such a hard time interacting with each other.

He wants her to think like him as in "Agape" love and she wants him to love her as in "Phileo" love. The husband needs to listen to what she is 'feeling' and the wife needs to listen to what he is saying. This requires much prayer, partnered with a willingness to accept and work with our differences. When we understand this truth, we can prevent many, many disagreements, heartaches, and ultimately divorces.

This Biblical eye opener changed my ministry! While I was teaching women the Gospel of John, women began coming to me for help in their lives and marriages. Recognizing the challenges, I prayed to the Lord for wisdom, and He faithfully showed me what I needed to do. I was to obey His instructions to be an 'older' woman by teaching sound mindedness, marriage, and the importance of home making, all based upon Titus 2:3-5.

So I studied each of the key words in Titus 2:3-5, and I learned quickly what God wanted me to do and teach. Time and again I saw women's lives and marital questions and concerns beautifully met in Titus 2.

If you were to ask a woman to teach a lesson on 'loving your husband', she most likely would teach from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, which, of course is a marvelous passage. But this love is "Agape" love. Remember, "A deliberate assent of the will, as a matter of principle, duty, and propriety." I found this understanding of the meaning of love, imperative in my teaching and counseling because of the differences between men and women.

We need the Holy Spirit to live these truths in us before we can help others. Remember, God instructs us only once 'to love our husbands' (Titus 2:3-5), while there are four times in the Bible that we are told to be subject to him and to let him take the lead in our marriage (Ephesians 5:22, Colossians 3:18, 1 Corinthians 11:3 and Titus 2:3-4).

The husband is to love as God loves. It is a giving love, and

so much more. John 3:16 KJV

*"For God so loved (Agape) the world that he gave
His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes
in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting
life!"*

It is this powerful love that draws us to our Lord. Its message is that GOD LOVES YOU! Have you believed in Him?

Finally, our love for our husbands is rather **to Be**. **Be** his lover and friend, **Be** his sweetheart, (not his Holy Spirit or his mother), **Be** available, **Be** ready, **Be** eager, and **Be** there! BEATITUDES... (Notice the play on words.) **Be** attitude. It is our attitude that matters most.

Titus 2:3-5 can be examined in its parts,

1. Be his friend and lover
 2. Be fond of your children
 3. Be discreet
 4. Be pure
 5. Be good
 - 6, Be a keeper of the home. A Protector
 7. Be subject to your husband
8. SO THAT THE WORD OF GOD WILL NOT BE BLASPHEMED!

THIS IS THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN THE BIBLE!

GROW IN THIS GRACE!