God’s Design for Christian Marriage – Part 4
Ephesians 5:25-27

1. **God’s original design for man’s role** - This is the way God intended it before there was any sin in the world: sinless man, full of love, in his ___________, strong ____________ in relation to woman (John Piper)

2. **Biblical headship** for the husband is the **divine calling** to take ______________ responsibility for Christ-like, servant leadership, protection and provision in the home.

3. **in his tender, strong leadership in relation to woman** - Consider before there was any sin in the world, God intended for the man to relate to his companion and suitable helper is a way that was **full of love**, and therefore **tenderly** living with her in an ________________ way.

4. Therefore **biblical headship** looks like the man’s ______________ leadership in the **home**, carry our his functions of leading, protecting and providing in a humble loving way. He lives his life to ____________ his wife and children, and to **give his life away** in meeting their needs in relentless humble love. So when the Bible calls men to their role, the **model** is the **life** of Jesus and the Gospel.

5. **2 Timothy 3:1-5** - 3 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For **men will be ____________ of self, lovers of money**, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, **lovers of pleasure ____________ than lovers of God**; 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these. NASB

6. **Gospel centered** – This kind of love is self-sacrificing, and therefore __________ on the benefit and blessing of others, and is willing to __________ and serve to meet the needs of others. It gives itself __________ for the benefit of others, just as Christ did for the church.

7. **Gracious, tender and understanding** – Because biblical love is a **fruit of God’s Spirit** and part of His own **divine nature**, it is therefore very much __________ God.
He is gracious, giving Himself because He ___________ to give, and not based on the merit of His object. The husband is to love the wife because he is gracious and loving like God, and with God’s love as a fruit of the Spirit filled life, not ___________ on her ___________ or worthiness.

8. 1 Peter 3:7 - 7 You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an ___________ way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her ___________ as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. NASB

9. All of this He does in spite of our sinfulness, our ___________ and our complacency in ___________ His love. It is this kind of love that God’s calls Christian husbands to exercise on behalf of their wife.

10. Christ’s Gospel love in dying for the church is the ___________ that He gives us husbands, “just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”

11. Titus 2:14 - 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and ___________ for Himself a people for His own ___________, zealous for good deeds.

12. See here that Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to ___________, cleanse and set her apart for Himself. He gave His self-sacrificing and purifying love for the purpose of ___________ His bride for Himself, so that He could be ________ with her and that she would be suited for Him, “in all her glory” and also “holy and blameless.”

13. Nevertheless, we husbands would do well to pursue a ministry to our wives that would have the effect upon her of ___________ her mind and her conscience from the defilements of the world and of sin. They need to be ___________ from the filth of the world, not drowned in it.

14. As we conclude, consider that our role as head is to provide tender strong and loving ___________ to our wives. And this means that we must take ___________ responsibility for Christ-like, servant leadership, protection and provision in the home.