

Sermon Outline 4.20.08

Ephesians 5:21-33

- I. A command to love that unveils something greater.
 - a. Sacrificial in nature (v. 25)
 - It is not becoming a *bellhop* for your wife.
 - It is a call to servant leadership and sacrifice; a giving up of your time and energy and desires in order to meet her *real* needs.
 - b. Sanctifying in effect (v. 26-27)
 - It is not condemning, rejecting, or criticizing your wife.
 - It is helping your wife to grow in Christ's likeness.
 - It is being the *chief repentor* in your home so that it's safe for her (and everyone else) to face and repent of their own sin.
 - c. Unifying fruit (v. 28-31)
 - A leaving of lesser loyalties
 - A cleaving to deeper oneness

- II. A covenant of love that signifies something bigger (v. 32)
 - Christ and his church
 - An apologetic (*living defense*) of the Gospel