

## Valentine's Day message: Husbands love your wives as its good for us all!

Part of our vision is to be a 'transformational community.' At the heart of community is **the family**, and at the heart of family is marriage.

In other words, it's good for everyone who wants to experience and live in true community, if husbands love our wives like Jesus loves His church.

I was listening to a Radio 5 lunchtime programme as I was driving somewhere during the week. There was a lad who had written an amazing poem about poverty and as he was interviewed he talked about how a 'poverty mind set' can be established when family life is broken and children don't receive the kind of support and role modelling needed.

Let's listen to the words of Paul in Ephesians 5;

Ephesians 5:25-33

*<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

At the heart of marriage is the principle of 'husbands loving our wives as Christ loved the church.' No pressure!

### 4 reasons Husbands and Fathers are key to transformational community

- They provide **secure context** to wives, family and church family. The role of the husband and father is massive in the family AND in the church family. They are key building blocks.
- They **model the love of Jesus** as one who sacrifices, serves and lifts people up. A good father provides a safe context for their families to grow into all they are created and gifted to be. They don't dominate, control or abdicate responsibility but rather embody and communicate secure love, consistently
- They are a key **building block in communities**. Children of a good father are secure and know they are loved – even when they mess up
- They are **a big part of the answer** to what is wrong in society and as a transformational community, fathers are essential in helping provide family space to the lonely, isolated, single, elderly, children of single parents

### **Psalm 68:6 The Passion Translation**

<sup>5-6</sup> *To the fatherless he is a father.*

*To the widow he is a champion friend.*

*To the lonely he gives a family.*

*To the prisoners he leads into prosperity until they sing for joy.*

*This is our Holy God in his Holy Place!*

*But for the rebels there is heartache and despair.*

### **Galatians 6:10 The Passion Translation**

<sup>10</sup> *Take advantage of every opportunity to be a blessing to others, especially to our brothers and sisters in the family of faith!*

### **Malachi 4:5-6 New King James Version**

<sup>5</sup> *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. <sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.*"

Good husbands and fathers model something to us all about the love of the Father and the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ.

*Husbands and fathers – we need you to be successful in your journey towards being like Jesus! To bring transformation in our world and communities, we want to experience the love and security you bring and model to us so we can fully live as the people Father God has created and intended us to be. Your example will help our children to grow up secure and confident in who they are as children of God. You will mirror our Father God. The one who romances us and loves us intimately.*

### **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

<sup>4</sup> *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails.*

