**We’re a Band: The ONLY way it works**

**Intro**. **Love is the fuel of marriage**

**Ephesians 5**

2 And **walk** *(live)* **in love (***agape***)**, as **Christ loved us** and **gave himself up for us**, a fragrant offering and **sacrifice to God**

15 **Look carefully** then **how you walk**, (*live*) not as **unwise but as wise**, 16 making the **best use of the time***,(our time is short here)* because the **days are evil**. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but **understand what the will of the Lord is**.

1. **Submission is a two-way street**

21 **submitting to one another** out of **reverence (***healthy fear***) for Christ**.

22 Wives, *submit* (*not in text, implied*) to your own husbands, **as to the Lord**. 23 For the husband is the head (*leads*) of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church **submits** to Christ (*Christ* *the Son submitted to the Father*), so also wives *should submit* *(not in text*) in everything to their husbands.

* *The church submits to Christ because He loved her first, He doesn’t come forcefully*
* *Wives, you need to understand the weight of responsibility God is putting your husband under*
1. **Love is intentional**

25a Husbands, **love** (*agape*, *commanded*) your wives,

* “I love my wife” but do you love her with a **God defined (*agape*) love**
* Agape love is far separated from the cesspool of **human defined love**
1. **Love is sacrificial**

25b **as** Christ **loved** the church and **gave himself up for her**,

* *I would die for her, but would you give yourself up, would you die to yourself*
* *He emptied Himself Phil 2:6-7*
1. **Love is purifying**

26 that he might **sanctify her** (*help her be devoted to God*), having cleansed her by the **washing of water with the word**

* *Lead her spiritually, lead by example*
* *You don’t have to be a theologian, just care*
1. **Love is confident**

27 so that he might **present** the church to himself in splendor (*greatest beauty*), without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish (*free from guilt*).

* *What would your wife look like if you stood before God and presented her right now? Lost, confused, despairing or hopeful, excited and thankful for you?*
* *Is your wife genuinely thankful that you are her husband or does she wish something would change?*
* *If you are devoted to anything more than your wife, you do not love her at the level God has called you to love her.*
1. **Love is selfless**

28 In the same way husbands should **love** **their wives** **as their own bodies**. He who **loves** his wife **loves** **himself**.

29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but **nourishes** (*healthy growth*) and **cherishes (***tender affection***) it**, **just as Christ does the church**, 30 because we are members of his body.

1. **Love is profound**

31 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast (*glued to)* to his wife, and the **two shall become one flesh.** (*nowhere else*) 32 This mystery is **profound** (*megas*) and I am saying that **it refers to Christ and the church**.

* *Only marriage is where this profound (agape) love is executed and is a picture of love on a far greater scale*
1. **Love is irresistible**

33 However, let each one of you **love** (*command*) his wife as himself, and **let the wife see that she respects (***subjective***) her husband**.

* *When you love her with a God-like love and have her very best interests at heart she will be all in.*