

CrossRoads Baptist Church  
November 12, 2006 10:00 am  
Ephesians 5:33  
Neighbor Series #4

## “Loving My Neighbor...My Spouse”

There is a critical key to understanding our spouse in Ephesians 5:33. The Amplified Bible reads like this:

**Amplified:** However, let each man of you [without exception] love his wife as [being in a sense] his very own self; and let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband [that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly]. (Amplified Bible - Lockman)

### I. We are to love our wife unconditionally

The word “love” here is the same as used elsewhere to describe that agape love. It is the word of command, a choice you make, an act you act out.

Since God’s love is unconditional, so is our love for our wife. This love is not subject to changing times, seasons, circumstances, but unconditional.

As a husband, we are to provide for her, protect her, please her, preserve her and praise her.

### II. We are to respect our husband unconditionally

The wife is to respect, revere her husband. It is the same word that is used for reverence for God.

He needs this respect as critically as she needs love.