

Subject: A Christian Home, Part 2

Scripture: Ephesians 5:22-33

It's no secret that many homes are in trouble and all homes need God's help. In this text Paul targets four areas of family life. First he deals with wives, then husbands, and then in Ephesians 6:1-4, he moves to children and parents. So here is an overview:

GOD'S WORD TO WIVES (5:22-24)

GOD'S MESSAGE TO MEN (5:25-33)

GOD'S COMMAND TO CHILDREN (6:1-3)

GOD'S PLAN FOR PARENTS (6:4)

When we speak of a Christian home, we are not talking about a perfect home but the kind of home God wants us to have and expects us to have. Since it has been a couple of weeks since we thought about this subject, it will be worthwhile to review what a Christian home means:

- A Christian home is no ordinary home – It is a different kind of home. It's not a certain kind of house, but a certain kind of home. Many people live in a nice house, but not a nice home. The furniture is comfortable, but there is no comfort.
- A Christian home is a blessed home – God meant for the home to be a blessing and not a burden. See Genesis 2:15-25.
- A Christian home is a peaceful and joyful home – God meant for the home to be a refuge, a touch of heaven on earth, an oasis in the desert.
- A Christian home is a holy home – The Bible tells us to be holy as the Lord our God is holy. That doesn't mean to be holy at church and not at home. Whenever Christians stand up and speak out for Christian values, the liberals like to raise the argument about the separation of church and state. What they really want is the separation of God and government. They want to leave God out or marginalize God. But there's a greater problem and that is the separation of church and home. It is an ungodly separation where we act one way at church and another way at home.
- A Christian home is a Bible-based home – This is more than having a Bible in the home. It is a home that honors the authority of God's Word and follows the teaching of God's Word. A Christian home is a home with wisdom. The Bible word "wisdom" means skill for living the way God wants. Spurgeon said: "When a home is ruled according to God's Word, angels might be asked to stay with us, and they would not find themselves out of their element."
- A Christian home is a Christ-centered home – Too many homes are centered on the wrong thing. Some homes revolve around the husband and father. Some revolve around the wife and mother. Some revolve around the children or grandchildren. Now they're all important members of the family, but the home is not to be centered around any of them. A Christian home is centered around Christ. It is a home that seeks to honor and please Him. A Christian home is one where Christ feels at home and He is honored by the actions, words, and attitudes of the people who live there.

GOD'S WORD TO WIVES (5:22-24)

The main idea is “submission.” That’s not a very popular thought to some women. There is a lot of misunderstanding about a wife submitting to her husband.

- Submission does *not* mean the wife is inferior to her husband.

The word “submit” comes from the Greek word, *hupotasso*, which means to line up under, to place yourself under another person. In the military a private submits to a sergeant not because he is inferior, but because that’s the way it must work. There is submission even in the Trinity (1 Cor. 11:3). The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all equal and eternal, but the Son submits to the Father and the Holy Spirit submits to the Father and the Son.

- Submission is *not* a male/female issue. It is a husband/wife issue.
- Submission does *not* mean the husband is always right.
- Submission does *not* mean the husband makes all the decisions.
- Submission does *not* mean the husband is a dictator.

There is the power of position and the power of influence. The husband may be the head, but the wife is like the neck.

This is the kind of submission God wants in a marriage:

- Submission in marriage is voluntary

Verse 22 says, “submit yourselves.” A wife makes the choice to submit to her husband. The husband is not to force his wife to submit. He is not to hold the Bible over her like a club. A wife’s submission is never by force, but by choice.

- Submission in marriage is limited

The wife submits to her husband only and not to all men. Verse 22 says, “submit yourselves unto your own husbands” (lit., the husband belonging to you”).

- Submission in marriage is based on love and respect

God gives the wife a perfect model to follow: “as unto the Lord.” Ladies, why do you submit to the Lord? You love Him and respect Him. As believers submit to Christ, the wives submit to their own husbands.

- Submission in marriage involves both action and attitude

Verse 24 says “in all things.” That means the wife maintains a submissive attitude. It is a way of life.

Just how important is it for wives to submit to their husbands? See **Titus 2:1-5**. The phrase in 2:5, “be obedient” is the same word in Eph. 5 (“submit...is subject”). If Christian wives are not submissive, the word of God is blasphemed.

But what if a wife is married to an unsaved husband? Should a Christian wife submit to an unsaved or unspiritual husband? See **1 Peter 3:1-6**.

GOD’S MESSAGE TO MEN (5:25-33)

The main idea is “love.” It is not left for us to interpret that. God has done that for us because he describes the kind of love Christ has for His church, and husbands are to follow that model.

- Love your wife with a sacrificial love

A husband is to think of his wife and her needs, and not think only of himself. Christ gave Himself as a sacrifice for us on the cross.

- Love your wife with a sanctifying love

A husband is to protect his wife without smothering her. He is concerned for her holiness.

- Love your wife with a satisfying love

A husband must understand and meet her needs. Here is a good verse for all husbands: “I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren.” Just as husband loves himself in a healthy way, he will love his wife.

- Love your wife with a steadfast love

A husband must be deeply committed to his wife. The man and his wife are one flesh. What God has joined together, let not man put asunder (divide). The vow is “until death do us part,” not until difficulties do us part, not until disagreements do us part, not until debts do us part, not until differences do us part. When a wife submits like this and a husband loves like this, it’s like a hand in a glove. You can’t have a Christian marriage unless both the husband and wife are Christians. You can’t take bad eggs and make a good omelet.

The relationship between a husband and wife is based on another relationship, even more important than marriage. It is your relationship to Christ. That must be right for your marriage to be right. How is your relationship with Christ? The real issue is not submitting to your husband, but submitting to Christ. The real issue is not loving your wife supremely, but loving Christ supremely.

How can we apply today’s message?

- We should believe and obey what God teaches about marriage

What God has told us about the home in His Word is not just a good suggestion or an option. Like all of His Word, it is the final authority and it is His wisdom on the subject. The primary motive for obeying His Word is to honor Him and bring Him glory in our home.

- We should see our marriage as a reflection of Christ and His Church

Everything in this text is built around the model of Christ as the Bridegroom and the Church as His Bride.

- We should repent and humbly ask for God's grace to have a truly Christian home

Our motive is not mainly to have more kindness, harmony, and joy, but to bring God the glory He deserves by having a home that reflects His goodness and grace. We want our homes to point people to Christ as Lord and Savior.

I was thinking about that good old song: "It is no secret what God can do. What He's done for others, He'll do for you. With arms wide open, He'll pardon you. It is no secret what God can do."