

The Design of the Family

Ephesians 5:22-6:4

INTRODUCTION

Exposition of Ephesians

“No institution on earth is more sacred than that of the family. None is more basic. As is the moral and religious atmosphere in the family, so will it be in the church, the nation, and society in general.”¹

This morning I want us to look at the infrastructure of the family from a Biblical perspective. What is an infrastructure?

Infrastructure is ‘the basic organizational structure needed for operation.’

What is hurting the American Christian family today is that we do not know the basic operational structure of a Christian home. We have allowed the ways of the world and the world’s philosophy of the family to infiltrate the nucleus of the home. We have allowed “progression-ism” to be our goal neither knowing where we have been or where we are going just grabbing hold of what is the popular acceptance of society. The question of truth is no longer a question we seek to ask.

Ephesians 5:22-6:4

Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. Now as the church submits to Christ, so wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. He did this to present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless. In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, since we are members of His body.

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.

This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.

Children, obey your parents as you would the Lord, because this is right. **Honor your father and mother**, which is the first commandment with a promise, **so that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life in the land.** Fathers, don’t stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

I. Key Words & Phrases

Notes: _____

- a. Submit (5:22) – place one’s self under
- b. Head (5:23) – chief of responsibility
- c. Love (5:25) – the priority of God
- d. Sacrifice (5:25) - costly
- e. Holy (5:26) – set apart for God
- f. Presentation (5:27) – a proud success
- g. Provisionary (5:29) – a provider
- h. Join (5:31) – surrendering to a cause
- i. Respect(5:33) – seeing value
- j. Obey (6:1) – choosing to follow instruction
- k. Honor (6:2) – choosing to respect
- l. Don’t Stir Up Anger (6:4) – don’t be a provoker
- m. Train (6:4) – home should be a training ground
- n. Instruct (6:4) – a parents primary role is instruction

II. Roles of Responsibility

Notes: _____

A. The Role and Responsibility of the Husband

Colossians 3:19

Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

B. The Role and Responsibility of the Wife

Proverbs 31:10-31

Who can find a capable wife? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will not lack anything good. She rewards him with good, not evil, all the days of her life. She selects wool and flax and works with willing hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from far away. She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and portions for her female servants. She evaluates a field and buys it; she plants a vineyard with her earnings. She draws on her strength and reveals that her arms are strong. She sees that her profits are good, and her lamp never goes out at night. She extends her hands to the spinning staff, and her hands hold the spindle. Her hands reach out to the poor, and she extends her hands to the needy. She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all in her household are doubly clothed. She makes her own bed coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known at the city gates, where he sits among the elders of the land. She makes and sells linen garments; she delivers belts to the merchants. Strength and honor are her clothing, and she can laugh at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom and loving instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the activities of her household and is never idle. Her sons rise up and call her blessed.

Her husband also praises her:

“Many women are capable, but you surpass them all!”

Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the LORD will be praised.¹ Give her the reward of her labor, and let her works praise her at the city gates.²

C. The Role and Responsibility of the Children

III. Respect

Notes: _____

Billy Graham

A child who is allowed to be disrespectful to his parents will not have true respect for anyone.

²[*The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version.*](#) (2009). (Pr 31:10–31). Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

CONCLUSION

If we don't stop and address the needs of the family then society's decline will get more steep in its drop. We must begin to see the need for a godly family and begin to apply God's truth to our family for it necessary changes.

Scripture teaches in *2 Timothy 3:1-5*

But know this: Difficult times will come in the last days. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to the form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid these people!³

Question: Where is Satan teaching these principles?

Answer: The family

If we want to rescue our nation then it must begin with rescuing the families that make up this nation and this world.

³[*The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version.*](#) (2009). (2 Ti 3:1–5). Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.