

Biblical Framework For Our Families

Eph. 5: 22-6: 4

Russell Cook

Knoxville, TN

1. Hard to preach these lessons for a number of reasons.
2. Marriage is a team effort where the husband and wife live and work together to bring about the good of their marriage and the good of their children.
3. Families need structure today more than anytime in our history.
4. The Bible defines for us the framework of the Christian family. In these verses we are talking about boundaries, function, and role identification. Since the Bible is God's Word, let's look at the framework of each member of the family.

I. Submit To One Another. (Eph 5:21)

- A This attitude of submission is dependent on the command, "be filled with the Spirit."
- B Life is fulfilled when shared by another person. I understand that some are very fulfilled living the single life. And Paul even recommends that at times.
- C You can only submit when you see a third party present - reverence for Christ.

II. Wives, Submit To Your Husbands. (Eph. 5: 22)

- A How does this submission thing show up in life?
 1. A technical definition of submit means, "Put yourself under."
- B "the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church."
 1. **(Eph. 5: 23)**
- C God does not call wives to obey their husbands in the strictest sense.

III. Husbands, Love Your Wives. (Eph. 5: 23)

- A What is headship? Headship involves responsibility.
 1. He has a responsibility to lead, provide, protect.
- B What headship is not. There are some real signs of authoritarianism.
 1. **(1 Pet.3: 7)**
- C All of this is summed up in one phrase, "**as Christ loved the church.**"

IV. Children, Obey Your Parents in the Lord. (Eph. 6: 1-4)

- A Children are to be taught obedience.
- B "Fathers do not exasperate your children." **(Eph 6: 3 Col. 3: 21)**
 1. A positive attitude in the home lays the foundation for a happy family.
 2. To "provoke" a child is to build up deep-seated anger over time.
- C There is to be spiritual leadership **Eph. 6: 4**
 1. This includes training and instruction of the Lord.
 2. The Lord himself stands behind this kind of training.