

Family Relationships (Eph 5:21-6:4)

INTRODUCTION

Last week we looked at three ways to walk. We began our discussion with how we are to imitate God and walk in love. Paul tells us that Christ laid His life down for us, demonstrating His love for us.

(Ephesians 5:1-2) "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; {2} and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma."

We looked at some ways that we are to love one another. We saw how spending time with someone may be the way that they need to be loved. For others, they need someone to listen to them. Others need to be served, and God has given each of us unique gifts, abilities, talents, and desires which we are to use to serve one another.

We also saw how we are to walk in the light or spirit. We saw how we are exposed to darkness. When light fills a room, all darkness disappears. Jesus is the light and we need more of Christ in our lives. We also took a look at the goal of exposure is restoration, not judgment or condemnation.

We ended by looking at how we are to walk wisely. Walking wisely means that we are walking in God's will. Walking in wisdom includes redeeming the time, being filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, and giving thanks for all things. Paul told the Thessalonians to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and to give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) "Rejoice always; {17} pray without ceasing; {18} in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

So when he tells the Ephesians to walk wisely and understand what the will of God is in their lives, he gives a similar message. Rejoicing always includes speaking to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, and making melody with our hearts. Paul also included the giving of thanks for all things. God's will for us is to rejoice in the Lord and to give thanks for all things. Our lives need to be characterized by joy and thanksgiving.

(Ephesians 5:17-21) "So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. {18} And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, {19} speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; {20} always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; {21} and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ."

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It also includes verse 21, which we did not get to last week. We are to be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. God's will for you and I is to live in submission to one another in the fear of Christ.

(Ephesians 5:21) "and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ."

This is a transitional verse. Paul transitions into family relationships, beginning with how wives are to submit to their husbands. But, it is important for us to have a broader understanding of submission, before getting into specific examples and applications.

The word for submission that is used here is *hupotasso*, which means to be under proper order and arrangement.

G5293. *hupotasso*, hoop-ot-as'-so; from G5259 and G5021; to subordinate; reflex. to obey:--be under obedience (obedient), put under, subdue unto, (be, make) subject (to, unto), be (put) in subjection (to, under), submit self unto. [G5021. *tasso*; a prol. form of a prim. verb (which latter appears only in certain tenses); to arrange in an orderly manner, i.e. assign or dispose (to a certain position or lot):--addict, appoint, determine, ordain, set.]

Every person is to be in subjection or *hupotasso* to the governing authorities. Those who resist authority have opposed the ordinance of God. There is to be an underlying attitude of submission in the body of Christ. There are times when we are to obey higher authorities, and we must exercise wisdom when working through those special occasions. But, our hearts need to be submissive to governing authorities. (Also, see Titus 3:1 and 1 Peter 2:13.)

(Romans 13:1-2) "Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. {2} Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves."

Paul tells the Corinthian church to be in subjection to men like Stephanas, who was one of the leaders in the church. It says that Stephanas had devoted himself to the ministry of the saints.

(1 Corinthians 16:15-16) "Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints), {16} that you also be in subjection to such men and to everyone who helps in the work and labors."

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Peter tells the younger men to be subject to the elders. Notice that the context of this is humility. Submission requires humbling ourselves. When we first began to look at walking in a worthy manner, we saw that the first thing Paul said was to walk in humility and gentleness.

(1 Peter 5:5) "You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

Peter also tells servants to be submissive to their masters. Again, the heart of a believers is to be submissive to those in authority. This is a challenging concept for our generation.

(1 Peter 2:18) "Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable."

Last week I met with the men after the service to discuss fire evacuation plans. Each man was given some specific duties or responsibilities in the event that we had an alarm and needed to evacuate our house. If a fire evacuation becomes necessary, James is going to immediately check the garage means of egress and notify us which exit we will use. We will all submit to James' assessment and decision. For us to have a safe and orderly evacuation, we will submit to him. Then, Lee will assume command of the evacuation. He will direct people in the sanctuary how to proceed. We will need to submit to Lee as he gives directions. I will be checking all the rooms and bathrooms to make sure there is no one left behind. Jeff will be outside the chosen means of egress and will be directing everyone to the muster point. As we leave the building, we will need to submit to Jeff's directions. As we submit to one another, we will have an orderly and safe evacuation.

This is a picture of how the body of Christ is to submit to one another. We have different roles, responsibilities, and giftings and we must learn to submit to one another.

I mentioned that this was a transitional verse. Paul goes from sharing how we are all to submit or subject ourselves to one another into how a wife should treat her husband. She should subject herself to her husband as unto the Lord and respect him. This morning Karen will be sharing some practical applications of this.

Afterwards, I will be sharing on how husbands are to treat act towards their wives. Primarily, husbands are to love their wives. Paul did not elaborate on how women are to subject themselves to their husbands. However, for the men, he did not assume we could or would know how to practically love our wives. He gives us some help and breaks it down into five specific ways that a husband should be loving his wife.

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The overall message in this passage to men and women is that marriage is a picture of the church and Jesus. We are the bride of Christ. Scripture says that God put all things in subjection (hupotasso) to Christ. It prefaces that by saying that He put Jesus far above all rule and authority and power and dominion. As the highest authority in creation, the church is to submit to Christ. All things includes angels and demons, men, women, children, etc.

(Ephesians 1:20-23) "which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, {21} far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. {22} And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, {23} which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all."

Besides the clear picture about authority, there is another principle that Paul shares about marriage. He goes back to the original design of marriage and quotes Genesis 2:24. He shares about cleaving to one another. The actions of a husband loving his wife is how a man is to cleave to his wife. Love is the perfect bond of unity. The actions of a wife submitting and respecting her husband helps them to cleave. It produces unity. You cannot have two heads, and two directions. You must have unity. You must cleave and become ONE flesh.

(Genesis 2:24) "For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."

(Colossians 3:14) "And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

This principle applies to marriages, businesses, churches, and all organizations. We believe strongly in teamwork, but there must be someone at the end of the day that has final charge, responsibility, and authority.

Then, we will take a quick look at how children should act towards their parents. They are to obey and honor their parents.

Finally, we will look at the way that fathers should act towards their children. They are not to provoke them to anger, but to bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Our text today is Ephesians 5:22-6:4)

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Subject: How are family members to act towards one another?

Complements:

1. How wives are to treat their husbands
 - A. They are to submit to them as to the Lord. (5:22-24)
 - B. They are to respect them. (5:33)
2. How husbands are to treat their wives
 - A. They are to love their wives (5:25-33)
 - i. They are to lay their lives down for them. (5:25)
 - ii. They are to sanctify and cleanse them. (5:26-27)
 - iii. They are to love them as their own bodies. (5:28-30)
 - iv. They are to nourish them. (5:29)
 - v. They are to cherish them. (5:29)
3. How children are to act towards parents.
 - A. They are to obey their parents in the Lord. (6:1)
 - B. They are to honor their parents. (6:2-3)
4. How fathers are to act towards children.
 - A. They are not to provoke them to anger. (6:4)
 - B. They are to bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (6:4)

(Ephesians 5:22-33) "Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. {23} For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. {24} But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. {25} Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; {26} that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, {27} that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. {28} So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; {29} for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, {30} because we are members of His body. {31} FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. {32} This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. {33} Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband." {6:1} "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. {2} HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), {3} THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. {4} And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

1. How wives should act towards husbands

Wives should submit to their husbands.

This is a difficult passage for many women to accept today. I can think of two quick examples. A number of years ago I gave instructions to a professional golfer named Walt. He had earned his Senior PGA Tour card but had not experienced much success. After I began working with him, he won four Tour events.

Walt had a long time relationship with a businesswoman named Cheryl. She owned a popular golf magazine in Central Florida named *Teetimes*. I used to write a regular golf instructional piece for the magazine, so I knew both Walt and Cheryl fairly well. After a few years of dating, Walt decided it was time for them to get married. So he proposed to Cheryl, and this is what he said to her. "Cheryl, I love you and want to marry you. I only ask you to do three things: love, honor, and obey me." Cheryl did not bat an eye in her quick response. She told Walt to go get himself a dog. She was so upset with being asked to love, honor, and obey Walt that she broke off their relationship.

In verse twenty-two, Paul tells women that they should subject themselves or submit to their husbands, as unto the Lord. In verse thirty-three, the Lord says that women should respect their husbands. In Titus 2:4, Paul tells the older women to teach the younger women to love their husbands.

(Titus 2:4-5) "that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, {5} to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored."

Was anything wrong with what Walt asked Cheryl? No. Scripture tells women that they should love, honor, and submit. What was wrong was the spirit of what was said. We do not demand submission. We do not Lord over people. Men are to grant honor to their wives as joint heirs. Men are to love their wives as Christ loved the church. They are to lay their lives down for their wives. Men are to be examples, not Lords to their wives. Wives are not below their husbands; they are taken from their sides. They are called alongside, not beneath. The arrogance and attitude of superiority is partially what Cheryl was reacting to.

Submission to authority is something that all of us are called to do. A husband is just one in that line of authority.

Here are some thoughts about submission. First, a husband needs the input of his wife. He needs to hear her perspective. He needs her intuition and senses. He needs her wisdom.

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Being under submission does not mean that the wife clam up and never say anything. A wife needs to communicate and share her heart with her husband.

However, once a wife has shared her concerns, it is no longer her responsibility to make the final decision. Some women have a difficult time accepting a different decision than what they have proposed. Unless that decision is going to violate their conscience, or violate the word of God – a higher authority, they should accept the decision. Their act of submission is unto the Lord and will please the Lord.

If a wife strongly disagrees with her husband, she should make an appeal to him. The appeal should be made with respect and humility, not arrogantly, or with criticism, judgment, or ridicule.

Submission is a heart attitude which will result in outward actions. A child may be rebelling on the inside, but submitting on the outside. This child will continue to do things his way when the parent is not around. The child will have a frown on his face and his countenance will not hide the rebellion on the inside. A wife can have the same rebellion on the inside. She may outwardly accept the decision, but inwardly be kicking and screaming. Submission means that we accept the decision and get in proper alignment with that decision. Hupotasso, which means being under proper order and arrangement, is a military term. A soldier who is under proper order and arrangement is in formation and ready for the next command. A wife who has come to grips with a decision, places herself behind the decision, gets in line with the decision, and is ready to march forward with the decision. It is easy to see when people are on board with decisions that are made. They volunteer and get involved; they participate. Those struggling with it, lay back and do not get on board. They fall out of the ranks.

Women should respect their husbands.

How are women to respect their husbands? Here are a few ways that women can honor their husbands.

Words

Women should say things that edify and build up their husbands. Ephesians 4:29 said that nothing should proceed from our mouths that is not needed, does not build up, that is not wholesome, and that does not give grace. This applies to everyone, wives included. I see this principle violated in prayer requests. “Pray for my husband Bill. He is so insensitive and says things that hurt my feelings all the time....”

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I see the principle violated in normal conversations. I hear husbands and wives put down their spouses in conversations regularly. We need to honor one another with our words.

I see women correcting their husbands in public. This dishonors the husband. Most of the time, the issue is minor and is not worth correcting. Husbands need clarifying and correcting words, but not in public. Our words in public need to support, affirm, and honor one another, not correct.

Actions

A woman can support the things that her husband is doing, and this is a great way to honor him. When I was asked to preach at another church, Karen goes with me. She honors me by going with me. If she did not attend or care about what I was doing, I would feel slighted, and dishonored. Her action of going with me honors me.

Karen gets up and makes breakfast for me. We eat pretty early since I go to work early. She honors me by getting up, spending time with me, and having meals with me.

Proverbs says that a woman who shames her husband is rottenness to his bones. A woman's conduct can bring shame to her husband. A few years ago, John Daly's wife went to prison for money laundering, gambling, and drug charges. The fact that a PGA Tour's wife was sentenced to a prison sentence brought further shame to John Daly. A woman's conduct can bring honor or shame to her husband. Her conduct can be a crown of honor on his head, or rottenness to his bones.

(Proverbs 12:4) "An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who shames him is as rottenness in his bones."

Road Blocks To Honor

There are also some road blocks to honoring a man. If a wife holds a grudge, or offense against her husband, it will be difficult to honor him. She needs to forgive her husband so that she is free to honor him. Bitterness and unforgiveness block a person's ability to honor. Words and actions that dishonor the person will flow out of a bitter heart.

Pride will prevent a wife from honoring her husband. If she wants all the honor herself and is competitive about honor, she will not honor others. Honoring others requires putting aside your own quest for honor. It requires humility and thinking of others as more important than yourself. We are all called do this, not just wives. But, the principle applies to wives giving honor to their husbands.

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In our church in Atlanta, our worship leader's brother was a minister. He came to visit her and when he did, he shared some toxic things with some of our folks. He told them that wives did not have to submit to their husbands any more than husbands had to submit to their wives. He taught mutual submission. Like many today, he did not believe in headship. The head simply meant the source, not an authority.

It did not take very long for his words to add fuel to the fire in one woman in our church, who struggled with rebellion. In no time at all, she divorced her husband. Unfortunately, this teaching has given rise to many feminists in the church, and has produced an unhealthy independent spirit.

2. How husbands should act towards their wives.

The overall thrust of this passage is for men to love their wives as Christ loved the church, and laid His life down for the church. It is a sacrificial love. Paul goes back to Genesis 2, and the foundation of marriage.

(Ephesians 5:25,31) "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her... {31} FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH."

(Genesis 2:24) "For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."

The man is commanded to cleave to his wife. Why does the Scripture tell the man to cleave to his wife? Why doesn't it command both to cleave? I believe that both should cleave. However, the man is the head of the house. He is held responsible for the marriage.

When a man leaves his mother and father to be married, he is no longer under their household and their authority. The parents become a point of counsel, but the couple is no longer under their authority. The new husband is now the head of his new household. He is now responsible for what goes on in his household. He is commanded to cleave to his wife and to become one with her.

The Hebrew word for cleave is *dabaq*, which means to pursue, overtake. The word *dabaq* is used 60 times in the Bible, many of those translated cleave. We are to cleave to God. We are to cleave to God's word. It is frequently used in a military sense where an army pursued and overtook their enemy. For example, in 1 Chronicles 10:2 the Philistines closely pursued Saul and his sons, and they struck down Jonathan. Our wives are not our

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enemies, but we need to run hard after, chase, pursue, and win our wives. This pursuit does not stop after the wedding ceremony. Men, we are to continue pursuing our wives all of our lives. Look for ways to pursue your wives.

H1692. dabaq, daw-bak'; a prim. root; prop. to impinge, i.e. cling or adhere; fig. to catch by pursuit:--abide, fast, cleave (fast together), follow close (hard, after), be joined (together), keep (fast), overtake, pursue hard, stick, take.

(1 Chronicles 10:2) "And the Philistines closely **pursued** Saul and his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan, Abinadab and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul."

When you pursue someone to overtake them, you are very focused on that task. You lay other priorities down and follow hard to accomplish that task. The problem in many marriages is that once we get married, we stop pursuing one another. Our culture encourages pursuing a woman before marriage. However, after marriage there is an unwritten notion that we have found our mate and now it is on to the next thing. The pursuit of your marriage partner is abandoned. This is backwards of what it should be. Our primary pursuit of our mate should come after marriage.

Lets take a practical look at how we can pursue our wives. Here are just a few ways to pursue and cleave to our wives.

1. Look for opportunities to spend time with the person, to be around them. Plan activities to take advantage of being with the person. Think of when you first met your wife. You went out of your way to spend time with the person. You went out on dates. You went to movies. You went out to eat. You took walks in the park. You went shopping together. You did all kinds of things together, even if it wasn't at the top of your favorite activity list.
2. Look for ways to initiate conversation and dialogue. Ask lots of questions. Listen with great interest and enthusiasm. It helps to go to a place where there is a nice atmosphere, a quiet place where you can talk.
3. Live unselfishly with your wife. Go out of your way to do things with the person, giving up your own agenda/schedule to go to their arena and do what they want to do.
4. Give gifts to the person. When we want to pursue someone, we often give them gifts.
5. Honor the person. If we dishonor or show disrespect for a person, we will not win them. For us to pursue, overtake and win our wives, we must show honor and respect to them.

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Now, let's take a look at Ephesians 5:25-33. This passage answers the question, what is the best way to cleave to my wife? Let's read it.

(Ephesians 5:25-33) "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; {26} that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, {27} that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. {28} So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; {29} for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, {30} because we are members of His body. {31} FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. {32} This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. {33} Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband."

The Greek word for cleave is **Proskollao**. Proskollao means to glue. Pros means in a direction or towards and kollao means to glue, join, cleave or keep company. Proskollao is used five times (Matthew 19:5, Mark 10:7, Acts 5:36, Acts 11:23, Ephesians 5:31) and the root word kollao is used eleven times in the New Testament.

G4347. proskollao, pros-kol-lah'-o; from G4314 and G2853; to glue to, i.e. (fig.) to adhere:--cleave, join (self).

Let's take a deeper look at what glueing yourself to another person can entail. I want to look at some characteristics of glue in the natural and how it applies to our relationships. Love is the perfect glue. Colossians 3:14 says the love is the perfect bond.

(Colossians 3:14) "And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

Paul gives four specific ways that a man can love his wife. He uses Christ as the example of perfect love.

A. Love your wife by giving yourself up for her.

We need to make sacrifices for our wives. We must lay our life down for your wives. This means that we need to do nothing from selfishness. Look what Paul says in Philippians 2:3-5.

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(Philippians 2:3-5) "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; {4} do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. {5} Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,"

Look what John says about laying your life down for another person.

(John 15:13) ""Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

B. Love your wife by sanctifying her.

The Greek word that is used is hagiozo, which means to make holy, to purify or consecrate.

G37. hagiozo, hag-ee-ad'-zo; from G40; to make holy, i.e. (cer.) purify or consecrate; (mentally) to venerate:--hallow, be holy, sanctify.

How do we do that? Jesus gives us some instructions about how to sanctify our wives.

(Ephesians 5:26-27) "that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, {27} that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless."

He says to cleanse her by the washing of water with the word. We need to speak the word of God to our wives. We need to encourage our wives with the word. We need to encourage our wives in the word. We need to correct our wives with the word of God. We need to pray the word of God over our wives. We need to live the word of God before our wives. We need to wash our wives with the word. Let me encourage you to regularly share the word of God with one another. Love your wife by washing her with the water of the word.

C. Love your wife by nourishing her.

The word for nourish is ektrepho, which means to feed or nourish to maturity. This is different than washing. Washing with the word implies cleaning and removing of things that should not be there. Nourishing implies providing nutrients and things that will help your wife grow to maturity.

G1625. ektrepho, ek-tref'-o; from G1537 and G5142; to rear up to maturity, i.e. (gen.)

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to cherish or train:--bring up, nourish.

For example, you might see that your wife is getting stressed out. Take a look at what is stressing out your wife. You might see that she has too many things going on in her life and she needs to simplify her life. Therefore, you nourish your wife with Psalm 131. You share the Scripture with her and the application you see for her life.

(Psalms 131) "(A Song of Ascents, of David.) O LORD, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty; Nor do I involve myself in great matters, Or in things too difficult for me. {2} Surely I have composed and quieted my soul; Like a weaned child rests against his mother, My soul is like a weaned child within me. {3} O Israel, hope in the LORD From this time forth and forever."

Karen, I see that you are stressed out. I want to share a passage that the Lord has laid on my heart for you. It is Psalm 131. I see that you are involved in great matters right now, too many matters in your life. We need to cut back in the number of activities. Some of these are difficult things that I can help you with.

By sharing this passage with Karen, I am nourishing her. I am giving her an area of the word that she needs to grow in. This will help her. It could be any Scripture. We know that we need the Scriptures to grow. It could be that you read the Bible together. You can nourish your wife by reading together. The key is that we nourish our wives with the word of God.

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D. Love your wife by cherishing her.

The Greek word for cherish is *thalpo*, which means to brood, foster or cherish. The idea is that your wife is very dear and precious to you. She is cared for and protected by you. She is of high value and regard by you.

G2282. *thalpo*, *thal'-po*; prob. akin to *thallo* (to warm); to brood, i.e. (fig.) to foster:--cherish.

I asked Karen about what she felt were the things that bonded us together. Here are her responses.

1. You (Bill) verbally express your love for me continually. Guys, I cannot say enough about the importance of expressing your love verbally to your wives. Scriptures says that open rebuke is better than love that is concealed. We cannot conceal our love. We

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must express it and demonstrate to them constantly.

(Proverbs 27:5) "Better is open rebuke Than love that is concealed."

2. We spend lots of quality time together. We run errands together. We do chores together. We go over to the goats together.
3. You pray for me and over me every morning.

Paul concludes this section in verse 33 with a summary statement. He says that a man should love his own wife as himself and the wife should respect her husband. When the husband is doing his part, it is easy for the wife to do her part. When the wife is doing her part, it is easier for the man to do his part. The challenge is when the other party is not doing their part, you have to continue faithfully doing your part. We are to overcome evil with good. God wants us to have great marriages, because our marriage is a picture of our union with Christ.

(Ephesians 5:33) "Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband."

3. **How children are to act towards parents.**

The third family relationship that Paul speaks about is how children are to relate to their parents. He gives them two specific things to do. First, he says that they are to obey their parents in the Lord. Second, he says that they are to honor their parents.

(Ephesians 6:1-3) "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. {2} HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), {3} THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH."

Paul is quoting from the ten commandments, which are found in Exodus 20. Paul said that this is right for children to obey their parents. Next, he shares the two rewards for honoring our parents – that it may be well for us and that we may live long on the earth.

(Exodus 20:12) ""Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you."

We may not see this verse as pertaining to most of us as adults. However, there is no age limit set in this verse. Even though I am fifty-four years old, I am still to honor my parents. Karen is still charged with honoring her parents. All of us never outgrow the

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principle of honoring our parents. We need to look for ways to honor them. We need to take advantage of opportunities to honor our parents.

Today, we are celebrating Mother's Day. It is not a Christian holiday, but it flows out of Christian doctrine. Children should seize the opportunity to bless and honor their mothers. Next month is Father's Day. Children should use this opportunity to honor their fathers. All of us should take advantage of a day to honor our fathers.

I want to give a couple of definitions this morning as we look at this passage. First, the word obey in the Greek is *hupakouo*, which means to hear under. It means to listen attentively or to be obedient. We know that a child has heard and understood when he does what he is told. That is the meaning of this verse.

G5219. *hupakouo*, hoop-ak-oo'-o; from G5259 and G191; to hear under (as a subordinate), i.e. to listen attentively; by impl. to heed or conform to a command or authority:--hearken, be obedient to, obey.

Children, here are some practical suggestions. When your parents talk to you, stop what you are doing and give them your full attention. Second, give them your eye contact. Look at your parents when they are talking to you. This is a good habit to get into. Always look at people when you speak or listen to them. It is good manners and a good listening habit. Experts say that as much as 90% of communication is non-verbal. If we do not give attention with our eyes, we will not hear with proper understanding.

Next, confirm what your parents have said. Use drive-through communication. When you pull into McDonalds and order a hamburger, fries, and a coke, they repeat your order back to you to make sure that they have it correct. This is called drive through communication. This will help you clarify and make sure that you have heard correctly. It also assures your parents that you are listening and have understood what they have said.

Finally, do whatever your parent has told you to do. Obedience is the proof that you have heard correctly. If the command requires immediate action, do it right away.

The second word that I want to talk about is honor. The Greek word for honor is *timao*, which means to pay the price. It was a term used by Olympian athletes. They trained vigorously to compete. When they won the event, they were given a wreath of honor. They had paid the price for victory and now they were deserving of the honor.

G5091. *timao*, tim-ah'-o; from G5093; to prize, i.e. fix a valuation upon; by impl. to revere:--honour, value.

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Parents pay a price for children. They have provided for you. They have loved you and cared for you. They have prayed over you and cried over you. They have been on their knees before God on your behalf. They have made great sacrifices on your behalf. They have paid the price and are worthy of your honor and respect.

For some people, honoring their parents is difficult. They don't see that their parents have done all these things. They have been hurt by their parents. In these cases, the parents may not be deserving of honor, but we are commanded to honor them anyway. We are not to honor inappropriate behavior, but we are to honor the position.

When we obey and honor our parents, it finds favor with God. We honor God, our Father in heaven, when we honor our parents. God blesses obedience. God blesses our honoring of our parents. The honoring of parents is so foundational in society, that Paul says it is the first commandment with a promise. God wanted to make sure that we followed this principle, so He gave it some handsome rewards. He tells us that things will go well for us and we will have a long life when we honor our parents.

4. How fathers are to act towards children.

The fourth and final family relationship that Paul speaks about is how fathers are to act towards children. He says that fathers are not to provoke children to anger, but instead they are to bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

(Ephesians 6:4) "And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

The word provoke in the Greek is *parorgizo*, which literally means to anger alongside, or to provoke to wrath.

G3949. *parorgizo*, par-org-id'-zo; from G3844 and G3710; to anger alongside, i.e. enrage:--anger, provoke to wrath.

In my life I have provoked my children to wrath at times. Children have delicate and tender spirits. We can easily cause a little one to stumble through teasing. I have to be very careful about teasing, especially with a dry sense of humor. We risk provoking our children to anger when we do this.

We can also provoke our children to anger by nagging them. It is far better to teach our children obedience than to nag them. If we teach them to listen and obey immediately, we will not provoke them to anger.

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Another way to provoke our children to anger is through being unreasonable. When we do not listen to them with understanding, when we are prideful and unwilling to work through things with them in a reasonable way, we can provoke them to anger. There are some issues that we should not compromise on. However, there are many things that we do not have to take a hard stance about. We can reason with our children about these things.

In the early years of discipline, we need to expect obedience. When we tell Johnny to get out of the street, he needs to do it immediately without asking why. However, as a child gets older, we need to give understanding to the child about why he should get out of the street. We have opportunities to teach the principles of God to our children as they grow. The more we can show them why we do things from the Word of God, the easier it will be to relate to them in their teenage years. These are not Dad's or Mom's rules, these are God's rules, and here is why He wants us to do these things.

Paul tells Timothy to give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, and to teaching. The public reading of Scripture gives awareness of God's word and principles. The exhortation gives prodding for obedience or application. The teaching gives understanding of why we are doing things. All of these are needed in our parenting. If we just give exhortation without teaching, we can provoke our children to anger.

(1 Timothy 4:13) "Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching."

One final word about not provoking our children to anger relates to honor. The overriding principle of conduct is honoring one another. When we dishonor our children, we can provoke them to anger. We dishonor them by not listening to them. We dishonor them by not valuing what they have to say. We dishonor them by not including them or counting them as a person. We must learn to honor our children through our words and our actions.

Instead of provoking our children to anger, we are to bring them up in the instruction and discipline of the Lord. We looked at the word *ektrepho* earlier, which meant to train to maturity. Husbands have the responsibility of helping their wives grow and mature in the Lord. Fathers have the same responsibility to train their children to maturity.

Paul uses two words that are important to define. The word for discipline is *paideia*, which means tutorage, education or training. Strong's says that it implies disciplinary correction or chastening. The root word is a slave boy or slave girl that is beaten to do something. It carries corrective actions with the instruction.

G3809. *paideia*, pahee-di'-ah; from G3811; tutorage; i.e. education or training; by impl. disciplinary correction:--chastening, chastisement, instruction, nurture.

Fathers, let me make a few comments about disciplining your children. First, God addresses this to us. We need to be the primary disciplinarians in the home. When the responsibility is dumped

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on our wives, the whole process is undermined. We need to take charge and let our wives support our efforts. In homes where the wives are left to do the disciplining, I have generally found undisciplined children. Our wives must be involved, because we are not generally home all day. While we are at work, our wives must be the primary disciplinarians. However, if there have been problems while we are away, we need to address them when we get home. We cannot allow our children to run over our wives. We must back them up 100% and the children need to know if they cross Mom, they are also crossing Dad and will face the consequences.

The King James translates this as nurture. I don't think that this is a good translation. But, I like the concept. All discipline must be done in love. We must nurture our children. There must be a balance of nurturing and discipline. If we do not discipline out of love, we will provoke our children to anger.

The second word that Paul uses is *nouthesia*, which means a mild rebuke or warning, an admonition. I think that the King James has this one correct and the New American Standard does not indicate to us any kind of warning.

G3559. *nouthesia*, noo-thes-ee'-ah; from G3563 and a der. of G5087; calling attention to, i.e. (by impl.) mild rebuke or warning:--admonition.

On Friday, there was a hotel manager at our office. We were discussing some flowers that had been sent to our Training Administrator by her daughter for Mother's Day. The hotel manager said that her sixteen year old daughter would not do something like that for her because she was mad at her. The mother had warned her about studying. She told her that she needed to study and get a good education. Without an education, she may be stuck to a menial job like cleaning rooms at a hotel. She was admonishing her daughter to study or face the consequences. She had also disciplined her daughter. She took away her cell phone and was not allowing her to get her learner's permit until she brought her grades up to B's. This lady was both instructing and admonishing her daughter. Her daughter would be wise to listen and obey her mother.

I want to finish with one verse out of Psalms 127. Solomon talks about not being ashamed when the enemies are at the gate. He is not ashamed because his children, his arrows, are straight and ready to be shot out. They are well trained.

(Psalms 127:4-5) "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth.
{5} How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They shall not be ashamed, When they speak with their enemies in the gate."

Conclusion

Today, we have looked at family relationships. If we are going to walk in the light and walk in love, the place it begins is in the home. If we are not loving and honoring one another in the home, the world will not receive what we have to offer. The home is the proving place of our faith. We will not be ashamed in the gates when our families are in order.

Introduction (Eph 5:1-2, 1 Thess 5:16-18, Eph 5:17-21, Rom 13:1-2, 1 Cor 16:15-16, 1 Pet 5:5, 1 Pet 2:18, Eph 1:20-23, Gen 2:24, Col 3:14, Eph 5:22-6:4)

_____ (hupotasso, G 5293) means to be under proper order and arrangement.

All Christians are to be _____ to one another. (Eph 5:21)

1. How wives should act towards husbands (Eph 5:22-24, 33, Col 3:18, Tit 2:4-5, 1 Pet 3:6-7, 1 Cor 11:3, 1 Cor 11:9, Phil 2:5-7, Gen 11:6)

- The marriage relation is used to represent the _____ between God and His people. (Is 54:5, Hos 2:16-20, Rev 19:7-9)
- Wives should _____ to their husbands. (Eph 5:22-24, Tit 2:4-5)
- Women should _____ their husbands. (Eph 5:33, Pr 12:4, Pr 31:10-12, 12:4, 1 Pet 3:9, 2 Sam 6:23)

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2. **Husbands should love their wives.** (Eph 5:25-33, Gen 2:24)
- The OT word for _____ is dabaq (H1692), which means to pursue, overtake, or to _____. 1 Chr 10:2)
 - The NT word of cleave is proskollao (G4347), which means to _____ together or join.
 - Love is the perfect _____ or _____. (Col 3:14)
- A. Love your wife by _____ yourself up for her. (Phil 2:3-5, John 15:13)
- B. Love your wife by _____ her.
- Husbands are to hagiazo (G37) or _____ their wives. They can do this by _____ her with the water of the Word. (Eph 5:26-27)
- C. Love your wife by _____ her.
- Ektrepho (G1625) means to rear up to _____ or to train. (Ps 131)
- D. Love your wife by _____ her. (Pr 27:5, Eph 5:33)
3. **How children are to act towards parents.** (Eph 6:1-3, Ex 20:12)
- To obey means to _____ under, listen attentively, or to _____. (G5219)
 - To honor means to _____ or fix a valuation upon. (G5091)
4. **How fathers are to act towards children.** (Eph 6:4, Ps 127:4-5)
- Fathers are not to _____ their children to anger.
 - Fathers are to teach and _____ their children.
 - Both exhortation and _____ are needed, particularly with older children. (1 Tim 4:13)

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