



## Pilgrim Home Baptist Church

NT 260 2022 • THE FAMILY • EPHESIANS 5:22-6:4 • 7/24/2022

### MAIN POINT

God has ordained the family, persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption, as the foundational institution of human society.

### INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**How would you describe what it means to be part of a family from a Christian perspective?**

**How has the culture around you broadened the definition of what it means to be a family beyond the scope of the Bible?**

Confusion over the nature of the family has produced a context of great danger in modern times. Few confessions of faith throughout the history of the church included articles on marriage and the family because Christians throughout the centuries have been united in a common understanding of God's plan for marriage, family, and children. In adding this article to The Baptist Faith and Message in 1998, Southern Baptists boldly declared a commitment to the biblical vision of the family as our standard and witness.

### UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EPHESIANS 5:22-6:4.

**What did Paul understand a family to be, according to these verses?**

**Where did Paul get the idea that the husband was the head of the wife? Read Genesis 2:23-24. How is this idea rooted in the order of creation?**

What is marriage? "Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime." That simple declarative statement from The Baptist Faith and Message stands on a firm biblical foundation and expresses God's design for marriage as a covenant that unites one man and one woman in a lifelong union marked by fidelity and mutuality (see Heb. 13:4).

**What relationship does the marriage relationship represent in light of Jesus Christ?  
Who do the husband and wife represent?**

**How might a wife respond to a husband who loves her like Jesus? How does this type of love benefit her spiritually?**

**How does a relationship centered on sacrificial love and submission reflect the gospel? How can you and your spouse keep these ideas as a common part of your marriage?**

**How can embracing our roles as God designed them help create a strong and healthy friendship in marriage?**

God honored marriage by establishing the metaphor of the bridegroom and the bride to express the relationship between Christ and His church. Christ's redeemed people are described as the bride, and the Lord Jesus Christ is the Bridegroom (see Rev. 19:7). This metaphor helps us understand the intimacy, purity, and order that are to characterize earthly marriages.

**What relationship are children and parents supposed to have according to Paul's words in Ephesians?**

**Read John 15:9-10. What do we learn about submitting to our parents from Jesus' example? What are specific situations that might make submitting to your parents more challenging?**

**Is it ever appropriate for parents to submit to their children? If so, explain.**

The primary responsibilities of nurturing the family and raising children are assigned to the husband and wife. Children are also assigned responsibility to honor and obey their parents, for this is pleasing to God and is a testimony to God's loving purpose for the family. If children are to honor their parents, then parents have a reciprocal responsibility to be submissive to their needs in ways that will lead them to maturity. Growing up in a Christian home is to be a positive, encouraging experience for both parents and children.

# APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**For those of you who aren't married, how does this affect your view and expectation of marriage? Why is it important to not simply "skip over" this passage and move on?**

**In your own words, how would you explain God's plan for family relationships?**

**Why is having a biblical understanding of marriage and family absolutely essential to all that we believe as Christians?**

# PRAYER

Praise God for the gift of the family. Ask that God would strengthen and protect our families even as mainstream culture moves away from the Christian idea of what it means to be a family. Pray that God would bless and protect our families.

## From the baptist Faith and message

### | THE FAMILY

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children

spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

## COMMENTARY

### | EPHESIANS 5:22-6:4

5:22 Wives submit directs wives to be submissive to their own (Gk *idios*; “one’s own”) husbands (cp. Col 3:18-4:1). The distinctive feature here is that the relationship between husband and wife is compared with that between Christ and the church. No verb is in the original language of verse 22. The imperative “submit” is understood from verse 21.

5:22-24 Paul addressed wives first. They were to be voluntarily submissive to their husbands. No external coercion should be involved, nor should submission imply that the wife is a lesser partner in the marital union. The submission is governed by the phrase as to the Lord. Christian wives’ submission to their husbands is one aspect of their obedience to Christ. Submission is a person’s yielding his or her own rights and losing self for another. Submission is patterned after Christ’s example (Php 2:5-8) and reflects the essence of the gospel. Submission distinguishes the lifestyle of all Christians.

5:25 Paul turned to the duties of husbands. The society in which Paul wrote recognized the duties of wives to husbands but not necessarily of husbands to wives. As in Col 3:19, Paul exhorted husbands to love their wives, but Ephesians presents Christ’s self-sacrificing love for the church as the pattern for the husband’s love for his wife.

Husbands are to love their wives continually as Christ loves the church. The tense of the Greek word translated “love” indicates a love that continues. Love is more than family affection or sexual passion. Rather it is a deliberate attitude leading to action that concerns itself with another’s well-being. A husband should love his wife: (1) as Christ loved the church (vv. 25-27); (2) as his own body (vv. 28-30); and (3) with a love transcending all other human relationships (vv. 31-33).

5:26-27 Cleansing her with the washing of water: Paul explains more fully the result of Christ’s atonement for the church: it makes the church holy and pure. The purpose of Christ’s giving himself up for the church is the church’s sanctification and cleansing.

5:28 Since husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church, they give up their personal rights for the good of their wives. It is a solemn picture of covenant love.

5:29-30 On first sight, Paul seems to have descended from the lofty standard of Christ's love to the low standard of self-love when he says no one ever hates his own flesh, but he reminded Christian couples of their oneness, their "one-flesh" relationship. For this reason a husband's obligation to cherish his wife as he does his own body is more than a helpful guide. His sacrificial love is an expression of the sacred marital union. True love is evidenced when husbands and wives have this spiritual, emotional, and physical oneness.

5:31-32 Paul appealed to Gen 2:24, which is God's initial statement in the Scriptures regarding marriage. The marriage commitment takes precedence over every other human relationship.

5:31 One flesh means closely joined. It hallows the biblical standard of covenantal heterosexual marital relations and excludes polygamy and adultery. What is primarily a divine ordinance graciously and lovingly is designed for mutual satisfaction and delight.

5:33 Love...respect concludes and restates this section's theme. The husband's ultimate responsibility is to love his wife with a Christlike love.

6:1-3 Paul's initial concerns were for children to be responsible to their parents. He called for children to be obedient as taught in natural law, in the Mosaic law, and in the gospel. The word for obey is different from the term for submission. Obedience involves recognition of authority.

6:4 Parents have responsibility both to discipline and to instruct their children. Paul indicated that fathers are to take the lead in this responsibility. Parents are not to stir up anger in their children. Discipline is not to be arbitrary or something done out of anger.