



GOD'S 5G FAMILY PLAN

Ephesians 5:15-33
Holman Christian Standard Bible

"¹⁵ Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil [amplified says "These are desperate times!"].¹⁷ So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

We are here this morning to understand the Lord's will for marriage. Our message is entitled Marriage Part 1: The Primary Line. Whenever you have a family plan, in most cases, the Husband would carry the primary line and then all the other cell phone lines come under that one line. The significance of the Primary Line for the family plan is Responsibility. The primary line is responsible for all of the other lines... they have to pay the bill for all of the lines.. and if something should go wrong... the buck stops with them. Therefore they have authority to make changes to the family account. However, with this authority comes responsibility.

Turn to your neighbor and say with great authority comes great responsibility.

1. WHAT RESPONSIBILITY DOES THE HUSBAND HAVE TO HIS FAMILY?

And just like a mobile phone plan, God's 5G family Plan has a primary Line. This morning we are going to ALIGN our families to God's 5G Plan. Remember P Mike said last week, "God's 5G Family Plan is about experiencing the faithfulness of God to the 5th generation (5G) as we love Him and stick to His plan."

If you want to see God's faithfulness in your family to the 5th Generation say AMEN! Well it starts with Alignment! Whenever I hear the word Alignment I think of my back. Have ever felt it when your back is out of alignment. What do feel? Stiffness and sometimes even pain right? You think to yourself man I need to crack my back so I can get my alignment right. It only takes one area in your back to be slightly off and it can wreak havoc in your whole body. The same is true in our families. It only takes for one person or for one thing to be out of alignment and it brings so much pain and discomfort within the home. Can I get an amen!

2. DESCRIBE A TIME WHEN YOU WERE OUT OF ALIGNMENT? WHAT WERE THE RESULTS AND HOW DID YOU GET BACK INTO ALIGNMENT?

Let's continue to read at Ephesians 5 at verse 18,

"¹⁸ And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions, but be filled by the Spirit:....²⁰ giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,"

And here it is in verse 21,

"...submitting to one another in the fear of Christ."



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Whenever we talk about marriage.. this always seems to be the trigger word you hear. Prayerfully we will be able to address this and it will no longer be a curse but a blessing to us all! The greek meaning of the work submitting actually means lining oneself up under.

GK hupotassomenoi: lining oneself up under

The word definitely implies the idea of voluntarily giving up your own rights and bowing your own will to another. In the Greek culture , the word was often used in military terminology in the sense of soldiers standing under the authority of a commanding officer.

The most significant thing about this verse is we are to submit IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD. So why do we submit? We do it for our reverence and honor of the Lord.

With this understanding as the foundation of what we will talk about for the remainder of this message, lets continue to read...

"²² Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord, ²³ for the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so wives are to submit to their husbands in everything."

I like how the message translations reads:

(THE MESSAGE TRANSLATION) ²²⁻²⁴ *"Wives, understand and support your husbands in ways that show your support for Christ. The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing. So just as the church submits to Christ as he exercises such leadership, wives should likewise submit to their husbands."*

3. IN YOUR OWN WORDS DESCRIBE WHAT IT MEANS FOR A WIFE TO SUBMIT TO HER HUSBAND AS TO THE LORD.

So, Husband are to submit to the Lord, women are to submit to the husband as to the Lord. The "as to the Lord" means if your husband is submitted to the Lord and you are submitted to your husband, then you are submitted to the Lord. I know what you are thinking, But what if husband is not submitted to the Lord?

Great question. That's why I like this image. A vertical alignment brings an umbrella of protection (thus the image of umbrella). If we step outside of that umbrella of protection you are open for the enemy to attack. All of the pain and arguing in your home is due to the enemy's schemes to steal kill and destroy (but more on that in our next series).



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Remember husbands.. your wife is not your enemy. The pain or disrespect you are feeling within your marriage may just be due to something that's out of alignment. The challenge is figuring out what is out of alignment. Remember not everything has to be out of alignment, it could just be one thing.

This morning my prayer is to esteem husband and future husbands in the house! Your Role is vital! When you are out of alignment everything will be affected. Trust me your wife wants to submit to you but if you are making decision that go against the ways of the Lord... that is going to cause great tension because ultimately she wants to submit to the Lord.

Now we realize husbands you are not perfect and that is ok. They are not looking for PERFECTION; they just deeply desire your SUBMISSION. Because if they know you have a vibrant intimate walk with the Lord and you are working to living our this relationship with the Lord in obedience, then all will always be OK.

4. IN YOUR OWN WORDS DESCRIBE WHAT A VIBRANT AND INTIMATE WALK WITH THE LORD LOOKS LIKE?

Husbands you are like this stallion! You are strong, handsome, powerful, and just want to run. You don't like to be told what to do and you want to run wild. God's plan for you is to walk in meekness. And MEEKNESS is NOT WEAKNESS. The definition of meekness:

Meekness is essentially an attitude or quality of heart whereby a person is willing to accept and submit without resistance to the will and desire of someone else. In the case of Christians, this is God.

So see yourself like this stallion up on its hind legs; but visualize reigns around your neck being held by the mighty right hand of GOD. May this picture in your mind remind you never to LORD OVER those who are submitted to you.

5. WHAT WORD COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU VISUALIZE THIS IMAGE OF THE STALLION(YOU) BEING HELD BY GOD WITH THE REIGNS IN HIS HAND? HOW DOES THIS IMAGE MAKE YOU FEEL?

You have the honor and privilege of being the HEAD of the home and with that leadership and authority comes great responsibility.

Which is why the Apostle Paul spends the remainder of this passage talking about the most significant part to make this whole alignment thing work. WHAT THE HUSBAND MUST DO. Let's continue to read.



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"²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing[c] her with the washing of water by the word. ²⁷ He did this to present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, ³⁰ since we are members of His body... ³³ To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband."

Again lets read this from the message translation:

"²⁵⁻²⁸ Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They're really doing themselves a favor—since they're already "one" in marriage.

²⁹⁻³³ No one abuses his own body, does he? No, he feeds and pampers it. That's how Christ treats us, the church, since we are part of his body. And this is why a man leaves father and mother and cherishes his wife. No longer two, they become "one flesh." This is a huge mystery, and I don't pretend to understand it all. What is clearest to me is the way Christ treats the church. And this provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, loving himself in loving her, and how each wife is to honor her husband."

Now next week, Glenn will speak to all the ladies in the house and believe me when I tell you, its a powerful message. And for all the husbands here who are challenged because your wives are not respecting you, I implore you to break the crazy cycle.

REMEBER with great authority comes great responsibility.

You have the authority to break this crazy cycle by LOVING her Christ's way even when she may not be deserving of it.

In Romans 5: 6- 8 says,

"⁶ For while we were still helpless, at the appointed moment, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For rarely will someone die for a just person—though for a good person perhaps someone might even dare to die. ⁸ But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!" (HCSB)

6. LOOK UP THE FOLLOWING CROSS REFERENCES AND LIST HOW THIS ENCOURAGES US TO LOVE LIKE CHRIST (John 3:16; 1 John 4:10).

You say, "That's impossible P Theresa. I can't love like Christ loved."

OH, BUT YES YOU CAN! Stay connected to God's network. Spend time face to face with Him. Remember what Pastor Mike said, when you look in the mirror you see who - JESUS. He reflects to you who you really are and you imitate that, not in your power but in HIS power. As you submit to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit you are giving them permission to guide your every thought which leads to your words and actions. Ultimately bringing all things back into alignment to God's 5G plan for your family and getting rid of all that pain. It starts with you!

I wanted to create an acronym for all you husbands to carry with you day by day to help you remember all that we talked about today. In the cellular phone industry some phones have these things called SIM cards. You can take one SIM card out and replace it with another. My college roommate just did that. She is in Guam, but is staying in Hawaii for the next two weeks. To get on the hawaii network she replaced her SIM card with a Hawaii SIM card to save on phone charges. A SIM card is the SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE.

Men, get on God's Network by replacing your SIM card on that primary line. I created an acronym for SIM to help you remember day by day what your new Subscriber Identity Module will be in Christ:

S - SELFLESS SERVANT

I - IMITATOR OF CHRIST

M- MEEKNESS IS NOT WEAKNESS