



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

October 6, 2024: 20th Sunday after Pentecost Followers of Jesus: Know How to Love Their Families

Ephesians 5:21-6:4

²¹Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²²Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³²This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

¹Children, 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“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

1. What's your favorite cliché tv/movie example of “traditional” or “societal gender roles”? How do those compare with “Biblical gender roles”?
2. God designed Eve to be suitable, the perfect complement to Adam. How is the role of the husband designed to benefit the wife and children? How is the role of the wife designed to benefit and husband and children?
3. Paul is talking in this section about the relationships between husbands and wives, parents and children. Wherever you find yourself in those pairs, what are some things that your counterpart (e.g. wife, husband, parent, etc.) does really well?
4. One of the purposes of God's law is to be a mirror to show us our failures. What parts of the role God gave you do you find yourself struggling with the most?
5. These commands are hard for us. As we realize much how we fail, the law has done its work. What parts of this section will you use to silence your “mom-wife guilt” or your “dad-husband guilt” or your single-person guilt or your child guilt?
6. We might summarize this text this way: *Be the “you” Jesus died for you to be, in the role he created you to have.* What characteristics of Christ's love for the church and vice-versa do we want to characterize our marriage and family?
7. All three Scripture lessons included this verse today: **“For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”** What are the many parts of this definition of marriage that we must continue to uphold in a world where the Devil seems to be winning the battle against marriage and the family?
8. What is the primary objective for parents in the raising of their children? How does that happen practically?