

***The Biblical Blueprint for the Home # 3***  
**The Framework of the Home**  
Ephesians 5:22 – 6:4

As we continue to study the biblical blueprint for the home, I sense the need to address the biblical order of the home. God ordained the home with the first of mankind, and He established the order in which the home should operate. If our homes are to honor the Lord and prosper spiritually, we must ensure they are established and maintained according to God's plan.

I will admit, these verses have become controversial in our modern era, and for the most part, are being largely ignored. If the home is to prosper, being all God desires it to be, each member of the home must understand and support their role. There are circumstances that arise, forcing the home to function differently, but this is God's providential design for the home.

Modern society may hold a different point of view, but God has established the natural order of the home. The woman serves her role as wife and mother. The man serves his role as husband and father. The children have responsibilities as well. I know things have changed drastically in our society, but God has ordained the marriage of a man and woman in order to establish the home under His holy ordinance, through which children are born. Apart from this, the creation of family is biologically impossible.

Let's examine the [facets](#) of the home described in these verses as we consider: [The Framework of the Home](#).

**I. The Humility of the Wife** (5:22-24) – In these verses, Paul speaks of the role of the wife. Notice I referred to her role as the humility of the wife, not the humiliation of the wife. Her biblical role is often misunderstood and even misguided at times. We must clearly understand the Lord's intention regarding the wife. Consider:

**A. The Instruction** (22) – [Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord](#). The Lord desires the wife to submit herself unto her husband. This is difficult for some to embrace, even though it is clearly revealed in Scripture. I believe many have a difficult time with this because some men have distorted this truth, and even abused it. Submission on the part of the wife never implies she is inferior to her husband. The woman is not a second-rate citizen or of lesser value within the home. She has an important and valuable role to play. In fact, most homes are held together spiritually by godly wives!

- Submission in the text means "*to place in order; to place under in an orderly fashion.*" This doesn't speak of spiritual character, but of physical, positional, and functional order. A godly wife doesn't feel threatened by this because it is ordained of God. Her submission is never a problem when the husband knows his place and meets his expectations in the relationship.

**B. The Motivation** (22-23) – *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.* [23]

*For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.* Paul speaks of the motivation involved in the wife's submission. She submits to her husband as unto the Lord. She knows God has ordained the husband to be the head of the home. She understands that marriage is the most beautiful picture of the relationship believers have with Christ. As she submits to her husband, she does so knowing she is following the instruction of the Lord and honoring Him with the life she lives. (There are cases where the husband doesn't behave in such a way to earn her submission, but she continues because it honors the Lord.)

**C. The Representation** (24) – *Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.* Although it is difficult at times, a submissive wife knows the value of her position and the testimony she bears through submission to the God ordained order. As she submits to the leadership of her home, she bears witness to her submission to Christ the Lord. Her life stands as a public example of the church's submission to Christ!

- My spiritual life has been greatly impacted by godly women who chose to follow the direction of the Lord rather than embrace public sentiment and rebel against her husband. I would never advocate or support spousal abuse, and this passage doesn't either, but a woman who willingly submits to her husband bears witness to the saving grace of God and her relationship to Christ. It is revealed in a tangible way that cannot be ignored or denied by those around her!

**II. The Responsibility of the Husband** (5:23-29; 6:4) – Here Paul reveals the responsibility of husbands. Men relish the thoughts of submission from the wife, but often fail to fulfill their God given responsibilities. He is more accountable for the home than the wife. We discover:

**A. He is to Love** (5:25-29) – Paul admonishes the husband to love his wife. Men, if we will love them as we should, showing the favor they deserve, their role will be much easier! The love of the husband is two-fold. It is:

**1. Sacrificial Love** (25) – *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.* We are to love our wives as Christ loved the church. This is the Greek word agapao, referring to God's Agape love, love that isn't selfish or pleasure driven, but a sacrificial love. Have you tried to imagine the love of God for us? He loved us when we were unlovable, even when we had no desire to know Him. He loved us enough to send His only begotten Son to die for our sin.

- We are to love our wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it! Jesus loved us so much that He was willing to take our sin and our shame upon Himself. He bore our reproach, becoming sin for us so that we might be saved. It was that love that took Him to the cross.

- Sacrificial love seeks the good of others above one's personal desires. It is a love that is steadfast and unwavering. It is not dictated by outward circumstances. This love is born of a desire to love, not looking for anything in return. Do you possess a sacrificial love for your wife? Sacrificial love will place the needs of the family as the priority. Are you willing to give up your own wants and desires to show her that love?

**2. Significant Love (5:28-29)** – *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.* <sup>[29]</sup> *For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.* Our love for our wives is to be as the love for ourselves. It is as much concerned with her welfare and desires as it is our own. We have become one flesh in the eyes of God and our love must show no partiality between the two.

- We are to nourish and cherish our wives as Christ did the church. We must be committed to *nourish* or “*feed our love and see to it that it continues to grow and mature.*” Our love should be stronger now than ever before. We must also *cherish* (*to warm*) that love, “*showing the warmth of our affection.*” If you love her, show her that love every day! Don't just say it; show it! She has heard it, but does she know it?

**B. He is to Lead (5:23; 6:4)** – The husband is also expected to provide leadership within the home. In order to do this, he must be:

**1. A Man of Identity (5:23)** – *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.* The Bible is clear that the man is to be the head of the wife and the home. Most men relish the thought of being head of the home. This is ordained of God, but many have a distorted view of what God has said. Being the head of the home is not being a dictator in the home. We are not called to lord over our wives, but to lead them.

- God's idea of the husband being the head isn't referring to ability, worth, or advantage; it is dealing with the order and function of the home. Someone has to take the lead and stand responsible for the home, and that is to be the husband. Now men before you get too excited and proud of your God-given role, consider this: with that role comes responsibility. God has placed you in that role and He will hold you accountable for your family.

**2. A Man of Integrity (6:4a)** – *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath:* This refers to “*an action or influence that builds up resentment, bitterness, and anger in a child.*” We are to live a life before our children and treat them in such a manner as to generate respect, love, and admiration, rather than resentment and anger. We have a great influence on our children. It is likely that they will live their lives in much the same way we do. We can't hold the idea of “do as I say, not as I do.”

- As fathers we are responsible to lead our children in the ways of God, not away from Him through hypocrisy and deceit. How would our children react if they could be with us each moment of the day? It is an awesome responsibility to raise a child and we are expected to live a life of integrity. If our children have no confidence in us, they will have a difficult time placing any reliance in other men.

**3. A Man of Instruction (6:4b)** – *but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.* Their nurture involves “*the whole training and education process, in regard to their mental and moral discipline.*” We are to bring our children up in such a way that when they reach maturity and leave the home, they are ready to face the world and challenges it brings.

- We are also to bring them up in the admonition of the Lord. This is a multi-faceted process, involving “*counsel, encouragement, and correction.*” We must guard against raising them according to our ideals and prejudices. This process requires different attitudes and actions.
- We must **counsel** them in the ways of God, teaching them of His deity, His love, His power, His provision, and the undeniable truths of His grace. They need to learn to lean upon Him whatever the circumstance.
- At times we must **encourage** them to continue for the Lord, even when others around them are not. I cannot emphasize the need for encouragement enough. Lift them up during the struggles of life and stand by them when their faith is being challenged!
- We must also possess the wisdom to **correct** them when necessary. It is often difficult, but we must provide guidance when they have gone astray. I am certainly glad that I was loved enough to be corrected and not allowed to continue in a way that would lead to hardship or ruin. If you love them, you must be willing to correct them at times.

**III. The Accountability of the Children (6:1-3)** – Finally we discover the accountability of the children within the home. Many today are no longer accountable. In many homes the children make the rules and the parents submit to their demands. This is not how God ordained it. Notice:

**A. Their Behavior (1-2)** – *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.* <sup>[2]</sup> *Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)* Paul speaks of only two requirements regarding their behavior, but apart from these there is chaos in the home. Where these are present there is harmony. Children are expected to obey their parents. I know the younger generation doesn't like submitting to authority, but it is biblical. Children, obey your parents!

- Also, they are to honor their father and mother. I see many children and youth today who have no respect for their parents. Honor them according to the Lord!

**B. Their Benefit (3)** – *That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.* Obedience to the Lord regarding your parents will prove beneficial in the long run. God will honor and bless those who obey and honor their parents. You will never enjoy the blessing of God in your life if you are living in rebellion to your father and mother. You will not always agree with them, but if you want to enjoy God's blessing, you must obey them and give them honor. They are the only parents you will ever have. Love them and appreciate the sacrifices they make for you!

**Conclusion:** I don't know how you feel about the message today, but I have tried to be faithful to the text. America is in a mess, due in large part to the dysfunction of the home. If you desire the blessing of God, assume your role and live as the Lord desires within the home. He will bless those who seek to live according to His Word.

Maybe your home is not as it should be. Maybe you need to seek help and guidance from the Lord. He is able to provide all you need. The greatest picture of the relationship of Christ with the church is seen in the biblical home. Christ loved the church enough to die for her. He gave His life to redeem from sin. If you are unsaved, respond to the Lord by faith and be saved today!