

#RELATIONSHIPGOALS

GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE FAMILY: WIRED FOR RELATIONSHIP

EPHESIANS 5:15-33



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RESPECT AND CHERISH.

Ephesians 5:15-33

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives and Husbands

²² *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.*

²⁴ *Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ 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 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

God's Design for the Family...

- Think about the way you think about and live life: #TimeManagement – 5:15-16
Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,

Q: What is wise?

A: *making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.* – 5:16

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is – 5:17

- Don't let **alcohol** set the tone for your home – 5:18a
And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery,

- Be filled with the Holy Spirit – 5:18b
but be filled with the Spirit,

- Create an environment of speaking **life** and singing truth to one another – 5:19
addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

• Create an environment of **gratitude** to God and for one another – 5:20
giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

• Submit to one another because Jesus submitted Himself to a gruesome death to save you. So if we are following the Greatest Servant then we should be increasingly seeking to serve rather than **scheming** to dominate – 5:21
submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

• Understand God's economy for husband and wife: Equal value but complimentary roles – 5:33
However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Husbands...

• Husbands: love your wives with a self-denying love – 5:25
Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

- Headship is an opportunity to serve rather than a **license** to steamroll (Matthew 20:25-28).
- “[T]here are no shortcomings about the love of Christ for His Church, which is here prescribed as the model for the Christian husband’s love for his wife. By setting this highest of standards for the husband’s treatment of his wife, Paul goes to the limit in safeguarding the wife’s dignity and welfare. For the love of Christ is a self-giving love: He gave Himself up for His Church, and the natural inference is that there is no sacrifice, not even the sacrifice of his life, which a husband should not be prepared to make, if necessary, for his wife.”
– F. F. Bruce¹
- Protecting your family is often an accumulation of little decisions that point to or away from Jesus Christ.

• Husbands: nourish and cherish your wife by treating her as a valuable treasure – 5:28-30

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,³⁰ because we are members of his body.

Wives...

• Wives: **respect** your husband – 5:33b
and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

• Wives submit to your own husbands in order for him to become the man God has created him to be – 5:22-23

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

- The text does not say all women are to submit to all men.

- Allowing a husband to spiritually lead is an act of **faith** in God's divinely established structure for the home.

Q: What if my husband doesn't lead?

A: 1 Peter 3:1-2 *Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ² when they see your respectful and pure conduct.*

Action point

⇒ We can all teach the next generation about God's design for the family.

¹ F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Ephesians: A Verse-by-Verse Exposition* (Old Tappan: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1961), 115.