

## Sunday School Lesson for the Month of September 2018

# The Christian Family

(Ephesians 5:21-25; 6:5)

**(Sunday, September 2, 2018)**

### **I. The Biblical View of Marriage (Eph. 5:21)**

*“In the name of God, I, John, take you Mary, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live.”*

*“In the Name of God, I, Mary, take you, John, to be my husband...”*

*“Since John and Mary have consented together in Holy Matrimony before God and these witnesses, and have joined hands and exchanged vows and rings, by the ordinance of God, I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the Name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What God has joined together let not man separate.” AMEN*

It requires a lot of living and love to understand these sacred words. The home was divinely established and is the oldest institution on earth. Its purposes are companionship and parenthood. But the Biblical view of marriage is under attack – it always has been. Christian marriage is based on Ephesians 5:21, *“Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.”* The passage literally says, *“take your proper role.”* Each is superior in his or her proper role (v21).

*“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”*

We live in a rebellious age where nearly everybody seems to be rebelling against somebody or something. We read about it in the newspaper! We listen to it on the news station! We hear about it on the job and we see it demonstrated in the streets. I dare say that submission is one of the most difficult things for most people to accept. For others to submit to us is one thing, but for us to submit to someone else seems to be a very difficult thing to do.

- A husband submitting to his wife
- A wife submitting to her husband
- Children submitting to their parents
- Christians submitting to God

This is a clear command that we are to maintain a spirit of submission, not to do wrong, but to do what is right. What’s legal! What’s Biblical! What’s just! What’s proper! What’s moral as well as what’s healthy for us. It may not always be easy, but it is necessary if we are to please God. For marriage to be successful, there must be submission.

**(Sunday, September 9, 2018)**

**II. The Christian Wife (Eph. 5:22-23)**

These two verses have often been misunderstood, misinterpreted, and misapplied in so many marriages. It has created tension, frustration, heartache, loneliness, grief, jealousy, and resentment within the home. It has often led to alcohol and drug abuse and eventually divorce court. What is given to us in these verses is God's simple instructions for a happy, successful, loving, respectable, trustworthy, and solid marriage.

Statistics tells us that most marriages are on the rocks today instead of being, "on the Rock" and so many couples are divorcing simply because there is no biblical order in the home. If the husband loved his wife, even as Christ loved the church (**verse 25-we will deal with that verse later**), I don't believe that the wife would have any trouble submitting unto her own husband. But then on the other hand, if the wife was to humble herself and submit to her husband, then her husband wouldn't have any difficulty "loving" her either. The husband has no right to make a "slave" out of his wife and require of her unreasonable, ridiculous, unbiblical, and selfish demands and yet at the same time the wife has no right to become a lazy, slothful, nagging, gossiping, critical, condemning, demanding, foolish, stubborn, rebellious, vicious, ungodly, wicked, sinful, unfaithful, self-righteous, and spend-thrift either.

It was and is God's intended purpose that the husband be the "head" of the family. He is to make the final decision regarding things of great importance. He is to be the spiritual leader within the home. So many husbands have miserably failed in this area, and this has led to disarray within the family structure. If the husband was what he ought to be then it would be much easier for the wife to be what she was supposed to be.

I believe that if the wife has submitted herself to Jesus Christ and is allowing Him to be the Lord and Master of her life, then she will have no great difficulty submitting herself to her own husband. Remember, a successful marriage is not only "finding the right mate" but also "becoming the right mate!"

**(Sunday, September 16, 2018)**

**III. The Christian Husband (Eph. 5:24-25)**

As the church is to follow the righteous leadership of Jesus Christ, so the wife is to follow the "righteous" leadership of her husband. If her husband is leading according to the word of God, and leading with love, compassion, understanding, gentleness, faithfulness, integrity, wisdom, loyalty, honesty, and

godliness, as Christ is leading the church, then the wife has an obligation to submit to his leadership.

Verse 25 states, *“husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it.”*

We must first understand how Christ both loved, and loves the church before we can grasp an understanding as to how the husband is to love his wife. Christ “so loved” the church that He gave Himself for it. Without Christ, there would be no church, no body of believers, and no redeemed of the Lord. Christ so loved the church that He came to be its redeemer. He redeemed the church with His precious blood. He gave His life for the church.

So husbands, how much do you love your wife? Christ-like love is much more than just a dozen roses, or a box of candy, or a bottle of perfume, or even a kiss or a peck on the neck.

- When your wife is lonely, are you there to comfort her?
- When your wife is weak, are you there to strengthen her?
- When your wife is burdened, sad, discouraged hurt, frustrated, weary, challenged, or wronged, are you there?

### **Just how much do you love your wife?**

Do you love her enough to rejoice with her, to weep with her, to worship with her, to go shopping with her, to pray for her, to compliment her, to satisfy her intimate need, to be faithful to her, to listen to her, to be committed to her and to stand by her through difficult times?

If the husband really wants to know how to treat his wife, then he needs to look at how Christ treats the church.

If the husband did as much to keep his wife as he did to get his wife, and treated her just as well after they got married as he did before they got married, there wouldn't be as many divorces taking place as there are in today's society.

(Adults – Sunday, September 23, 2018)

## **Christian Children**

(Ephesians 6:1-4)

(Children & Youth) – Sunday, September 2, 2018

I. **“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” (Eph. 6:1)**

In these four verses the Apostle Paul addressed the subject of relationships between parents and children. So much of life is centered around some type of relationship within the family. A relationship will generally reveal what a person is “made of!”

1. Whether they are kind and considerate or rude and selfish.
2. Whether they are generous and out-going or stingy and egotistical.
3. Whether they are pleasant and friendly or critical and condemning.
4. Whether they are disciplined and well-mannered or slothful and indifferent.
5. Whether they are Christian in principle and practice or ungodly and vile.
6. Whether they speak wholesome and decent or vulgar and filthy.
7. Whether they are mean and impatient or loving and patient!

Whatever they are, a relationship will bring it out of them.

The Apostle is dealing here with the relationship between parents and children. To bring a child into the world is an awesome responsibility. It consists of multiple obligations, continued supervision, and a consistent discipline. Among the various lessons that a parent is responsible to teach their children, “obedience” is one of the most important. From the appearance of society today, it seems that many parents are failing terribly in this area. Without doubt, technology (cell phones, television) along with the availability of alcohol and illegal drugs has had a devastatingly negative effect on the parent’s ability to teach their children obedience. And, although it is a challenge, God still expects the parent to pursue this very important responsibility. Unless children learn to “obey,” they are only headed for trouble. The place designated to learn “obedience” is not in the school, not on the job and not in the courts, but in the home. This is not an option with God, but a command. Children may not like to learn obedience nor appreciate it at first, but without it they will only face misery, frustration, heartache, disappointment, failure, hardship, suffering, and possibly prison or death.

## **(Children & Youth) – Sunday, September 9, 2018**

If the child does not learn obedience and respect in the home, then how can one expect them to respect the laws of the land, to submit to the instructions of the teachers, follow rules of the game, obey the expectations of authorities, consider the desires of their future spouse, or honor the commandments of God.

A lot of children die young in gang fights, vehicle accidents, drug overdose, sexually transmitted diseases, alcohol related incidents, reckless behavior, and even suicide simply because they fail to learn respect and obedience. Rebellion is rampant among young people today. Many despise any forms of authority. They see parents, teachers, police officers, employers, or anyone else in authority positions as a threat to their rebellious, egotistical, indifferent, and wild lifestyles. Jails and prisons are overflowing with inmates who never learned to obey or respect other people or other people's property and possessions. They steal, they kill, they destroy, they injure, they lie, they victimize, they pervert, they corrupt, they rebel, they hate, they fight, they defy and it's all because they lack respect for others.

So, respect and obedience is a must, if our children are to mature into decent, reliable, dependable, considerate, and respectable adults in today's world.

## **(Children & Youth) – Sunday, September 16, 2018**

- II. **“Honor thy father and mother; (Which is the first commandment with promise) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.” (Eph. 6:2-3)**

You will never regret honoring and respecting your parents. You may not always agree with them, you may not always meet their expectations, and they may not always meet your expectations either, nevertheless, if you desire a good and clear conscience, you will need to respect them, respect their advice, respect their decisions, respect their knowledge, respect their experience, respect their possessions, respect their name, and respect their leadership in the home.

## **(Children & Youth) – Sunday, September 23, 2018**

- III. **“And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (Eph. 6:4)**

A parent is to discipline their child with firmness, yet with love, with

sincerity, sensitivity, conviction, compassion, determination, discretion, concern, straightforwardness, and self-control. Difficult to do ---- Yes! Impossible to do --- No!

Parents who have difficulty disciplining themselves, have a great difficulty trying to discipline their children. And, if they are not careful, parents can do their children more harm in the home than the church can do them good. The best form of discipline and training in doing what is right is by example. Don't expect the child to do any different than the parent. All of the teaching and the instruction a parent does will avail nothing if the child doesn't see the parent following their own advice.