

A Christian Father Eph. 5:25-6:4

Thesis: To help us understand the role of a father in the Christian home.

Introduction:

In the context of Ephesians 5:22-33, Paul is talking of the love that Christ has for the church (5:32). This kind of love should be seen in our marriages.

I. A Christian father is one who will love his wife (Eph. 5:25-33).

A. A husband is to love his wife “just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her” (5:25).

1. The word for love in this passage is “agapao,” a form of the word “agape” (Strong’s).
 - a. It is that self-sacrificial, all-giving love that a husband is to have for his wife.
 - b. Col. 3:19 - Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.
2. Paul gives us the example of Christ to help us understand this kind of love (remember: the entire context of this passage is about Christ and His church – Eph. 5:32).
 - a. Because of the love that Christ has for the church, He died for her.
 - 1) Acts 20:28 - Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
 - 2) Heb. 9:11-15 - But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. {12} Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. {13} For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, {14} how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? {15} And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.
 - 3) Jn. 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

- b. Husbands should love their wives so that they are willing to lay down their lives for her.

B. A husband is to love his wife as he loves “his own body” (5:28-29, 33).

- 1. We treat our bodies well (Eph. 5:29).
 - a. Most of us try to live as if our body is the temple of the living God, which it is.
 - 1) I Cor. 6:19-20 - Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? {20} For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
 - 2) II Cor. 6:16 - And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”
 - b. We would not even think of intentionally harming ourselves.
 - c. This is the way that we are to love our wife.
- 2. Again, this is the way that Christ loves the church (5:29).
 - a. Christ nourishes and cherishes the church.
 - 1) Christ left us with an example and the written word so that we would know how to live.
 - 2) Before He left this world, He promised to send the Helper to His disciples.
 - a) Jn. 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.
 - b) That Helper (the Holy Spirit) instructed the apostles in the things they needed for the church (then by direct instruction, now by the written word).
 - c) Christ has truly “given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness” (II Pet. 1:3).
 - d) I Tim. 3:14-15 (notice the example of Paul) - These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; {15} but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
 - b. Husbands should nourish and cherish their wives, just as they do with their own bodies.

II. A Christian father is one who will raise their children “in the training and admonition of the Lord” (6:1-4).

A. It is important to understand that this is a command, not an option.

1. We are sometimes quick to remind children of the command to obey their parents (6:1-3).
 - a. It is easy for parents to remind their children that they should be obedient to them.
 - b. However, it is extremely important to remember that there is a command for fathers to train their children in the ways of the Lord.
2. There will be many surprised fathers one the day of judgment because they did not teach their children the word of God.

B. God has always wanted fathers to be the primary instructor for his children (we have noticed this idea before, but because of its importance, it bears repeating).

1. Notice the command to Israel.
 - a. **Deut. 4:9-10** - Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, {10} especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, “Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.”
 - b. **Deut. 6:6-7** - And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. {7} You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.
 - c. **Deut. 11:18-21** - Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. {19} You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. {20} And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, {21} that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.
2. Just as Israel was commanded to teach their children, we are given the same responsibility today.
 - a. **Pr. 22:6** - Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.
 - b. **Eph. 6:4** - And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

- c. It stands to reason that if we want our children to be faithful to God, we will teach them the ways of God.

III. A Christian father can love his wife and raise his children properly only when he truly loves the Lord.

A. A proper relationship with the Father is extremely important.

1. When this relationship is in place, all other relationships fall into place.
2. A father must be responsible for his own actions before he can help his family be responsible for their actions.

B. A father cannot lead his family in the ways of the Lord if he himself has not followed them.

1. In fact, it would be hypocritical to do so.
2. It is extremely important to lead by example.
 - a. **I Cor 11:1** - Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.
 - b. **I Pet. 2:11-12** - Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, {12} having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Conclusion: