

Ephesians 5:25-6:12

Section 1: Ephesians 5:25-6:4

Verse 25:

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, (Ephesians 5:25 ESV)

“Husbands love your wives” – this is a command

The word means selfless, unconditional love for our wife.

Standard of this love- how Christ loved the church

I: We are called to love our wife

- 1) Pray for your bride
- 2) Be attentive to your wife
- 3) Be faithful

He tells us how to love our wife in **verses 26-27:**

that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27so 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. (Ephesians 5:26-27 ESV)

The key word is “sanctify”- means “to set apart”

Husbands, our Lord is calling us to be an instrument in helping our wife to grow more and more like Christ.

We have a great responsibility. Is your wife more like Christ because of you or despite you?

II: We need to have a sanctifying love

Verses 28-30:

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30because we are members of his body. (Ephesians 5:28-30 ESV)

Paul is telling us **III: We need to love our wife like we love ourselves.**

- 1) **Be sensitive**
- 2) **This love is also courteous**
- 3) **Communicate**

Verse 31-32:

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." (Ephesians 5:31 ESV)

"Hold fast"- **this union is to be cemented together**

This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:32 ESV)

Verse 33:

However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Ephesians 5:33 ESV)

Men **love your wife.** Ladies **respect your husband.** Coming under her husband is how **a woman respects her husband,** this is to be done in an atmosphere of love.

Ephesians 6:1-3:

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²"Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." (Ephesians 6:1-3 ESV)

I: Why children should obey

1) "This is right"

2) This is a divine law

3) There is a promise

*Hear, my son, and accept my words,
that the years of your life may be many. (Proverbs 4:10 ESV)*

Children who obey their parents...

- Will be warned about harmful stuff to stay away from
- Will be spared the bad habits and bad friends which will shorten life
- Will develop healthy character traits, whereas disobedient children will adopt unhealthy character traits.
- A decision to respect and obey one's parents will change the direction of one's young life.

II: What is required to obey your parents

To obey your parents is to listen to what they say and then do it.

1) Listen and do

2) To honor them

We will outgrow the call to obey our parents, but we will never outgrow the obligation to honor them.

Verse 4:

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4 ESV)

"Don't provoke your children to anger," what does he mean here?

1) Not living a life of consistency

2) Not sharing your time

3) Not building your child up

- 4) Not providing for your family
- 5) Being bitter

How to raise our children

- 1) Discipline
- 2) Instruction in the Lord

But there is something else, see the word “Lord”- it means “master” but in Paul’s day it meant more than that, it meant a compassionate, caring Lord.

Section 1: Ephesians 6:10-12

Introduction:

The last three chapters of the book of Ephesians is all about how to live the Christian life. In other words, how to live a life that counts for God.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. (Ephesians 6:10 ESV)

Now we come to chapter 6 verse 10, see the word “finally”. Paul is saying “I have something very important to tell you. I needed to tell you the other stuff before I could tell you this.”

We are going to start in verse 12 and work back to verse 10.

Verse 12:

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12 ESV)

- 1) The first thing we must understand is that we are in a battle.

We-this means you. Not when you are old and gray, right now we are in a battle. If you don’t feel that you’re in a battle that means one of two things; you are not a Christian or you are captured.

- 2) Not against flesh and blood- this term is used 16 times in the Bible, and it describes humanity. Christians get this all mixed up
- 3) Wrestle

It's a battle for souls, for your children, for your home, your marriage, and this church.

4) Our enemy is real

Crafty enemy

Verse 11:

*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.
(Ephesians 6:11 ESV)*

“Scheme”- we get the word “method” from this word and it carries the idea of craftiness, cunning, and deception.

- a) What Satan is trying to do to me/what is this battle all about.
- b) *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8 ESV)* Satan wants to swallow your testimony.

How?

- 1) He gets us to make little things big.
One of his favorites, he wants us fighting and fusing because when we are and there is no unity- he wins.
- 2) He gets us to carry yesterday today.
- 3) He gets us to carry tomorrow today.
I'm so proud of folks who step up to the plate and though they have never done anything like this before they have the attitude “I'm in I to win it- let's get it on”.
- 4) He gets us to live apart from God's Word.
 - a. Laying on the curb does not usually come all at once. You start forgetting the joy of your salvation, the thrill of Bible study, the thrill of coming to church, and the thrill of serving.
 - b. Then sin creeps into our life and Satan gets a foothold, then we don't confess that sin, and he builds a fortress where he can operate from.
 - c. Then he builds partitions in our mind away from God-“go ahead and do that then Sunday go through the motions”- then before you know it he will take that and you won't even come to church except for Christmas & Easter.

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:11 ESV)

Take a stand. God calls us to take a stand.

That word when used in the military sense meant that you **hold a critical position.**

- **In our home**
- **Husband & wife take a stand in your marriage**
- **Take a stand- reference sin**
- **Take a stand at church**

Verse 10:

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. (Ephesians 6:10 ESV)

The way we stand firm is found in verse 10.

- 1) **Paul says "in his strength".**
- 2) Yielding everything in **your life to him; your hurts, your disappointments.** Give everything to the Lord **every area in your life.** In other words, don't give Satan an arm to grab onto in your life.

Greatest weapon- my obedience, my surrender, my submission.