

FAMILY: YOUR FIRST COMMUNITY

Whoever brings ruin on their family will inherit only the wind and the fool will be a servant to the wise.

Proverbs 11:29 (NIV)

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NIV)

1. The wise family SPEAKS LIFE to each other. (Ephesians 4:29)

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

2. The wise family FORGIVES each other. (Ephesians 4:26-27)

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold.

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NIV)

3. The wise family shows mutual LOVE and RESPECT to each other. (Ephesians 5:21-33)

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—³⁰ for we are members of his body.³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:21-33 (NIV)

4. The wise family helps each other GROW SPIRITUALLY. (Ephesians 6:1-4)

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” ⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-4 (NIV)