

FAMILIES THAT... LIVE WISELY TOGETHER  
Ephesians 5:15-33 (ESV)

*Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk — not as unwise people but as wise —<sup>16</sup> making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. <sup>18</sup> And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit: <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music with your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another in the fear of Christ. <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, <sup>23</sup> because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. <sup>27</sup> He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, <sup>30</sup> since we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.*

Ephesians 5:15-33 (ESV)

❖ Families that live wisely together are built on marriages that acknowledge:

1. God DESIGNED and INITIATED marriage. (Eph. 5:31)

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." <sup>29</sup> And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. <sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

Genesis 1:26-31 (ESV)

*Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."<sup>19</sup> Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.<sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.<sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.<sup>22</sup> And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.<sup>23</sup> Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

Genesis 2:18-24 (ESV)

2. God calls husbands and wives to demonstrate SPIRIT-FILLED SUBMISSION to one another. (Eph. 5:15-21)

*"Spirit-filled submission means: In every way I relate to you, I consider you more important than me."*

Vance Pitman

3. God uses those closest to us to help us GROW in our ability to LOVE. (Eph. 5:22-30)

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...*

Hebrews 10:23-24 (ESV)

*Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*

Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)

*Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.*

Proverbs 27:6 (ESV)

*"Men, marriage is a call to die. Dying to self may involve sacrificing your schedule and even good ambitions. It means giving ourselves away for the good of your bride. It involves crucifying your flesh and resolving to be faithful to your bride not yielding to the temptations of lust, anger, and pride."*

Tony Merida

4. God has placed us in a relationship that is ALWAYS in PROCESS.

- a. Pursue her with...
- b. Pursue him with...

❖ Helpful Relationship Rhythms:

- a. Pray for or with your spouse daily.
- b. Date weekly.
- c. Escape monthly.
- d. Get away quarterly.
- e. Retreat annually.