

God's Plan for the Home

Ephesians 5:22-6:4

Genesis 1:27

Genesis 2:21-24

Hebrews 13:4

I. The Wife's Role (vv. 22-24).

A. In the home, much of the care of children rests upon the wife. The Lord chose not to overburden her, so He placed the ultimate responsibility for the household upon the shoulders of her husband. She is to submit to him as the leader in the home, even as the church follows the leadership of Jesus.

B. The husband is the protector who must be willing to die for her, even as Jesus gave His life for His bride, the church.

II. The Husband's Role (vv. 25, 28ff).

A. Christ like love. He must love his wife so much that he would die for her. His role calls for self-giving and understanding (1 Peter 3:7).

B. Equivalent love. He must love her as much as he loves himself, caring for her as he does for his own body. Marriage expert David Mace explained, “Love must be fed and nurtured, constantly renewed. That demands ingenuity and consideration, but first and foremost, it demands time.”

III. The Child’s Role (6:1-3).

A. Paul is not saying that parents are infallible, but that they have experience that can help the child; they also have responsibility to God for the child. For this reason, God commands that children obey their parents, in the Lord.

B. With the commandment comes a promise—that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth. This is the only one of the Ten Commandments to carry such a promise. Children who have parents that will lovingly discipline them are blessed indeed.

IV. The Parent's Role (6:4).

A. Notice that in each case, there are reciprocal duties. For the wife, submission to a savior; for the husband, love unto death; for the child, obedience to parents; for the parent, understanding unto children. You cannot isolate one person's responsibility from the other's response.

B. Martin Luther said, "Spare the rod and spoil the child—that is true; but beside the rod keep an apple to give him when he has done well." The father is told not to provoke the child to anger. This may be done in several ways (e.g. overprotection, favoritism, discouragement, neglect, and outright cruelty). Instead, love and understanding can bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Gen. 1:27

1:27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Gen.2:21-22;24

2:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

2:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.