

**Text:** Ephesians 5:22-6:4

**Meaning:** Paul talked about Christ-centered family relationships

**Big Idea:** God wants our homes to represent Christ

**Objective:** Christ-centered homes

**Theme:**

### **Sciencing.com – SALMON MIGRATION**

Salmon swim upstream because it is part of their reproductive life cycle. Salmon are born in freshwater rivers, spend most of their lives in the ocean and then return to the place they were born to lay their own eggs. The main reason salmon swim upstream is to ensure the survival of their offspring. Salmon are born in fresh water, migrate to the saltwater ocean for most of their adult life and then return to fresh water to reproduce, or spawn.

As young salmon hatch in their home stream, they learn the smell of it. As they migrate downstream and into the ocean they may even memorize certain scents along the way. Even after being away for many years, when these salmon return to their birthplace as adults, they will use those smells to "test the waters" and find their home stream. If they swim up the wrong river, the familiar scent will fade and they will head back down to test another stream. Some studies have shown that salmon use the Earth's magnetic field to guide their migration. This helps them travel long distances and understand where they are going. The intensity and the inclination of the Earth's magnetic field helps the salmon orient themselves. This is a trait that is genetically inherited by salmon, which means they don't need to learn it from other fish. Many of the salmon that spawn in Seattle come from Alaska, but some travel from as far away as Japan. Some Atlantic salmon may even swim 200 miles up the river to find their preferred places to spawn.

**GOD IS CALLING US TO HAVE SALMON LIKE HOMES – TO SWIM UPSTREAM!**

### **READ EPHESIANS 5:22-6:4**

#### **EPHESUS WAS AN EPICENTER FOR SEXUAL BROKENNESS AND GENDER CONFUSION**

It is imperative that we understand the context of this passage in order to understand what Paul is telling us here. Keep in mind that the leading god in Ephesus was a female, Artemis. Her temple was one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world, and inside this Temple was the largest bank in all of Asia Minor. Not only did they worship a female, but she in essence controlled their wealth. This was feminism on steroids. Artemis was the goddess of hunting and fertility. So there were all kinds of immoral things that happened in the name of Artemis.

Every year, on the 6th of May (The supposed birthday of Artemis), Ephesians celebrated spring and the birthday of Artemis. During this festival, the main street of Ephesus - also called sacred way, was filled with massive processions of thousands of people holding Artemis' symbols and figurines. Dancing, singing and cheering, they would walk all the way down to the harbour where the statue of Artemis would be dipped into the water to restore her virginity. Once they processed with the statue back to the Temple the festival turned into drunken orgies and all types of sexual immorality.

So, in this culture women were objectified and glorified, and men were considered irresponsible and motivated by their own selfish desires and sexual gratification. It is under this backdrop that we have the directives given to husbands, wives, and children.

**WHAT PAUL IS SAYING IS OUR HOMES SHOULD LOOK VERY DIFFERENT FROM HOMES IN SOCIETY!**

This passage is not about husbands keeping their wives in line. This passage is about two mature godly adults serving one another and the purpose for which God created them – and then our children following our godly example.

This is not a passage to put women down and lift men up. It is a passage to correct the false feminism of the day and the irresponsible and toxic masculinity of the day.

THE PICTURE OF A GODLY MARRIAGE HERE IS **TRINITARIAN** IN NATURE – GOD THE FATHER IS THE HEAD – GOD THE SON SUBMITTED TO HIS WILL TO COME AND DIE AND BE RISEN FROM THE DEAD – YET THE TWO ARE BOTH GOD AND ONE OF THE SAME ESSENCE! THIS IS MARRIAGE!

**Marriage is HUSBANDS LEADING WITH LOVE – AND WIVES LEADING WITH SERVICE** – BOTH ARE LEADERS AND MUTUALLY SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND NOT THEIR OWN AGENDAS.

**Countercultural** – to reject the dominant values, behaviors, and cultural norms of a society.

Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount to let our light so shine among men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in Heaven.

OUR MARRIAGES AND OUR FAMILIES SHOULD STAND OUT.

#### **STATEMENTS FOR THE CULTURE IN THIS PASSAGE:**

GENDER IS PART OF GOD'S DIVINE DESIGN

MEN AND WOMEN ARE DIFFERENT

MARRIAGE IS ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN FOR ONE LIFETIME

APPROPRIATE SEXUALITY IS ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN FOR ONE LIFETIME

#### **PAUL DESCRIBES WHAT MARRIAGE IS SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE**

##### **1. DEVOTION OF MARRIAGE – VERSE 21**

Marriage works when we SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER OUT OF REVERENCE FOR CHRIST.

**SUBMIT** – MILITARY TERM MEANING TO LINE UP UNDER YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER – RESPECT THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

**One another** – speaks of a RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIP

Therefore the context for the section for wives, husbands, and children is to RESPECT THE CHAIN OF COMMAND.

JESUS IS THE COMMANDING GENERAL – WE EACH SERVE HIM – AND BY SERVING ONE ANOTHER'S BEST INTERESTS WE SHOW DEFERENCE TO CHRIST.

Also – ALL SOCIAL ORDER DEPENDS UPON OUR WILLINGNESS TO WORK TOGETHER AND COME TO AN AGREEMENT UPON AUTHORITY. GOD'S BEST FOR THE HOME IS THAT THE HUSBAND AND FATHER BE THE LEADER.

##### **WIVES – Submit to your husbands**

Why submit? – Because God's created order is that the husband should set the trajectory of the home.

HEAD – simply speaks of God ordained lines of authority  
Doesn't mean – the man is the brains of the home  
Doesn't mean – all that happens must go through Dad

Submission – is NOT SUBJECTION, headship is not dictatorship

Interesting here that the section for wives does not include an imperative, a command. The section for husbands begins with a command – **SO THE WEIGHT OF RESPONSIBILITY HERE IS ON THE HUSBANDS.**

**The idea is that when HUSBANDS LOVE – WIVES SUBMIT OUT OF TRUST FOR THEIR HUSBANDS.** So, just as the church trusts in Christ and responds to His love – so too a godly wife responds to the love of her husband.

**Trinitarian view** – CHRIST SUBMITTED TO THE FATHER BY DYING ON THE CROSS – GREAT DISPLAY OF STRENGTH WHEN WIFE SUBMITS TO HER HUSBAND – INSTEAD OF ARGUING, COMPLAINING, OR NAGGING A GODLY WIFE GRACIOUSLY SUBMITS TRUSTING IN THE HEART OF GOD AND THE HEART OF HER HUSBAND.

**HUSBANDS – SUBMISSION IS NOT DEMANDED IT'S EARNED!**

#### **1 Peter 3:1**

*Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives*

#### **HUSBANDS – Love your wives**

**Love – AGAPE**, self-denying, self-sacrificing love. Not love that the world promotes, this is a supernatural endowment from God that includes both affectionate feelings and sacrificial actions.

#### **HOW DO WE LOVE? LIKE CHRIST!**

How did Christ love us – EVEN WHEN WE WERE SINNERS HE DIED FOR US!

How does He love us still – THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION FOR THOSE IN CHRIST!

#### **Washing of water with the word - Artemisian festival**

#### **LEAD AS WELL – What is leadership?**

*Example, influence, humble service, communication, vision*

#### **NOURISH AND CHERISH – TO PROVIDE FOR AND TO PROTECT**

**Genesis 2:24** – *Predates the fall of man, before sin there was marriage and defined roles within the home*

#### **HOLD FAST – TO PERMANENTLY JOIN ONESELF TO**

Means we should be defined by our commitment to one another forever. When someone that knows me says my name Chrystal's name ought to be attached and when they say Chrystal's name my name ought to be attached.

COMMITMENT TO GOD FIRST, SPOUSE SECOND

#### **2. DESIRES OF MARRIAGE – VERSE 33**

##### **4 Purposes for Marriage:**

**EMOTIONAL** – It is not good for man to be alone

**SOCIAL** – be fruitful and multiply

**PHYSICAL** – Rejoice in the wife of your youth

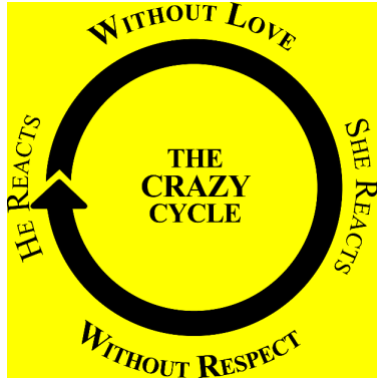
**SPIRITUAL** – Exemplify Christ

Paul leans into how God wired men and women and what we long for in a marital relationship.

#### **VERSE 33 – Husbands LOVE, Wives RESPECT**

SO THE REASON GOD SAYS HUSBANDS LOVE AND WIVES RESPECT IS BECAUSE THAT IS HOW HE MADE EACH ONE OF US. HE MADE WOMEN TO DESIRE LOVE AND MEN TO DESIRE RESPECT.

**Dr. Emerson Eggerichs – Love & Respect – PUT IMAGE BELOW  
ON A SLIDE**



### **3. DISCIPLINE OF CHILDREN – 6:1-4**

Children – YOUR DESTINY IS SHAPED BY YOUR OBEDIENCE

Fathers – DO NOT PROVOKE

Provoke – deliberately annoy or anger

Bring them up – same word as Nourish

**Discipline** – speaks of training our children intentional habits

**Instruction** – speaks of correcting the wrong habits

#### **Discipline and instruction**

When parents act right, kids have the best chance of acting right. A lot of times when our kids are acting up we have to take a step back and assess our parenting first then address the actions of our children