



## GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE FAMILY

**"Be All that You Can BE... Husband & Father"**

*Ephesians 5:22-33*

Sept. 15, 2013 A.M. Worship

### 1. Love Your Wife in a Way That Will Make Your Marriage Exciting

- Love Your Wife with \_\_\_\_\_
- Love Your Wife with Purity
- Love You Wife with \_\_\_\_\_
- Love Your Wife with \_\_\_\_\_
- Love Your Wife with \_\_\_\_\_
- Love Your Wife Permanently

### 2. Lead Your Children in a Way That Will Make Your Home a Powerhouse for Christ

- Don't Frustrate Your Children
- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Your Children
- Give Your Children Plenty of Love
- Give Your Children Plenty of \_\_\_\_\_
- Give Your Children Plenty of \_\_\_\_\_
- Give Your Children Plenty of \_\_\_\_\_
- Give Your Children a Genuine \_\_\_\_\_

### Our Response:

1. The only way to have a love that will last a lifetime and a great marriage is to love the Lord Jesus first. Do you have that personal relationship with Him? If not, then why not do that today? Remember it is as simple as **ABC!** **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God's Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord (the Boss).
2. In order for your marriage to grow, you need to be plugged in to a church. If you do not have a church home, and God has called you to be a part of **Petal FBC**, then step across the line today and join! We need you and you need us!
3. How are you loving your wife right now? Take time to look and see where you think you are doing well and an area in your marriage that you know needs improvement. Commit to pray and ask the Lord to help you grow in that specific area. Make a plan on how you will do that this week.
4. Wives, tell your husband one area in your marriage where he is doing really well in and maybe one area you see where he needs to improve and then promise to pray with him and for him in that specific area. Write him a note this week and let him know that you are praying for the Lord to work in this area of your marriage.
5. Be willing to ask her to honestly tell you how you are doing in each of these areas of your marriage. Be open, transparent, and willing to listen and not feel like you have to defend yourself. Let this be a great place of growth so you can have the marriage you want to have.
6. How are you doing in leading, loving, and listening to your children? Is there one area you are doing well in? Circle that. Is there an area that you know needs improvement – put a box around that one and commit this week to pray about it and make a plan on what you will do differently.
7. Be here Tuesday morning @ 6:30 a.m. and bring someone with you to be a part of an Iron Sharpening Iron time.
8. Ask the Lord to bless this Series and be willing to be a part of a LifeGroup and go through *Honor Begins at Home* and *The Resolution for Men* or *The Resolution for Women*

# MAKING FAMILIES WORK: FAMILY FIRST

*“Be All That You Can BE... Husband & Father”*

**Ephesians 5:22-33**

September 15, 2013 AM Service

**Opening ILLUS: You Tube Clip of Guy Waking up From Surgery and Not Recognizing His Wife – Guys we need to be like this every day!**

We have different roles to play in the family as God designed it. Roles that are distinct and different and yet just as important as the other one. The man is called to be thermostat in the home, which determines and regulates the temperature in the home.

The incredible challenge and opportunity that God has given to every man. We are called to lead our homes as God would have us to do that and the way we do that is to serve them and love them. Not to dictate and expect things. It is not about raw authority, I pay the bills, this is my house, etc. That is the sinful and fleshy side of a man coming through

We lead by loving and serving and sacrificing. It is leading with tender and loving affection for his spouse and his family.

Men we all have room to improve in these areas whether as a husband or as a father. I know that I do, and probably most of us do. Whether we have been married for a long time or a short time, we need God's help to be the husbands and fathers He has wants us to be.

So how can we do that? Look at [Ephesians 5:18](#) We must be men that are full of only one thing, the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the only way possible to fulfill these roles set before us. I don't know about you, but many times I am overwhelmed at this calling to lead my family. And quite frankly we should be, if we stop and think about it, we have a huge responsibility on our shoulders placed there by God, and we must carry it well. Our wives and children are counting on it!

**ILLUS: Stat from 2005 – National Coalition of Men's Ministries**

## **1. Love Your Wife in a Way That Will Make Your Marriage Exciting**

- **Love Your Wife with Passion**

**ILLUS: Joe and Remembering Anniversary**

This doesn't mean just the sexual side of love, although that is certainly part of it, and not bouncing off the walls or yelling. But

to love her with a deep intensity. A love that begins deep in your heart and radiates out from there. That sacrificial love that Paul talks about in [1 Corinthians 13](#), that you love her with all that you are. To give of yourself, to give yourself away to her! This love is unrestricted, unqualified, and unconditional! We are not talking about feelings here but we are talking about love! We are called to die to self for the sake of our wife! It is sacrifice. It means we don't see plastered in front of the TV while your wife does everything else and you neglect your family and your God given responsibility! One day we will reap that which we have sowed! It's sacrifice! The Bible says here to love her like you love yourself!

- **Love Your Wife with Purity**

To love her and her alone, and to keep the marriage bed undefiled. Adultery is rampant, and the excuses for it are numerous! But God's Word is clear is to be for our spouse alone. We made a vow to do that. There are some who say well there are exceptions if both parties agree, folks let me crystal clear, intimacy is designed to be only between a husband and a wife!! **Students Pay Attention HERE** We also have to guard our minds as well not allowing things in there that would pollute our minds (Pornography being the biggest) and thus pollute our love for our spouses. – Men we are going to talk more about this on Tuesdays, later this Fall.

- **Love You Wife with Purpose**

We are called to lead our spouse and our family spiritually. We are called to be the priest of our house by being the example of godly behavior and lifestyle in front of his family. This can be a challenge for us sometimes, many men are hesitant to even pray in front of their wives. We must lead by them seeing us having our quiet time, talking about those things and sharing those things.

You are to set the spiritual tone in your house, to say, we are going to church every Sunday. We need to be ready, don't want for your wife to make it happen, to get you up, to get the kids up. Let her see and your children see that God is a priority and his bride the church is important in the life of your family!

Lead a Family Devotional or Worship Time – we will talk practically

about this in October and how specifically to do just that!

- **Love Your Wife with Protection**

We get the physical part of that – that’s why we’re men! More than that thought! To provide that security which most women long for. It is how God made them. That things will be taken care of, that the bills will be paid, that the job will be done. Also to protect your home from anything on the outside that would seek to enter and cause home even coming through that blessed TV.

- **Love Your Wife with Provision**

Our calling as men primarily but also ladies as well, that God placed inside of us to is provide for our families.

Also to love her by being a blessing to her, this provides really all that she need, more than any amount of \$\$ can provide.

By being considerate of her and her feelings, by still treating like you did when you dated her, opening that door, be willing to move that furniture for the 100<sup>th</sup> time. (Wives let your husband do them)

- **Love Your Wife Permanently**

We made this vow unto the Lord and to our spouse, this is it.

**ILLUS: Buying that wedding ring and saying my vows. Scary!!**

This is not some trial and error, if doesn’t work out we’ll end it, I’ll exchange her for another one, a better one, a prettier one, etc. Our wives need to know beyond any shadow of a doubt I am here to stay, to love you and care for even when it is hard and tough, I will not bail out!! **ILLUS: Don’t Blink Song**

- **Love Your Wife with Prayer** (For her and with her) (Book & prayer sheet of how to pray with her)

One of the greatest things you can do for your wife is to pray for her in your own quiet times and also to pray with her.

For some reason this is a great challenge to us a men, we are intimidated, unsure, not sure what to pray, etc. Why? I believe it is straight from the enemy himself, he knows and is afraid of the couple that prays together will stay together because of the great intimacy that comes from praying with and for your spouse.

**One of the best things that a father can do for his children is to love their mother**

## 2. Lead Your Children in a Way That Will Make Your Home a Powerhouse for Christ

God's Word is crystal clear no matter the world says that a Father has a incredible and irreplaceable influence over the lives of his children

- **Don't Frustrate Your Children** **ILLUS: A Dad & Unkindness or One who overindulges to make up for being absent**

- Not letting them try things and learn from their mistakes
- Applying correction without giving a reason or any affirmation leaves a child wondering what he did wrong and if he is really as bad as he seems to be at that moment.
- To not live up to what you are preaching to them or living in front of them.
- To live your unfilled dreams through your children and your desire to see them succeed push them into something they don't really want to do, or you make them think they do.
- Spending time with them without spending time with them. Our children can sense in us

**ILLUS: Story told of busy father Charles Francis Adams & His Son Brooks-**, in journal spent day fishing with my son, a day wasted. Found sons journal years later about the same day, spend day fishing with my dad, the most wonderful day of my life.

- **Train and Discipline Your Children**

Some of us jump, oh yeah I'll take care of that and beat until that scream! That is not what we are talking about. We are talking about training them up and using discipline when necessary to back that up, but always with love. (Hard to do, easy to say!)

Our children need to have a godly fear and respect of you, helps them have one of God, and also of other adults in authority over them.

**ILLUS: A Child desperately needs this** – still had it with my **Dad**

- **Give Your Children Plenty of Love**

Well of course I love them. Loving our children is not simply giving them what they want, but what they need. This love is the willingness to surrender that which has value in life in order to enrich the life of another. To spend time with them, Dad they want you!! To love them in a way that they understand. Be willing to

sacrifice your time and what you want and like to do for them!

- **Give Your Children Plenty of Affection**

Tell them often and show them by your touches, hugs, and kisses! I simply cannot overstate this enough for boys and girls alike, but in particular for Dads with girls, if they do not get it from you when they get to be teenagers they will find it in a boy!

- **Give Your Children Plenty of Encouragement**

To encourage them when they fail and they will, and sometimes we have to let them. That is the world in which we live.

To bless them, giving favor to them, expressing fondness and passing on faith. Speak words of blessing to them constantly, catch them doing good more than you fuss at the bad! Write them letters they can keep and have! **ILLUS: Dad's Letter**

- **Give Your Children Plenty of Joy**

Is your home a place where your children want to be, want to invite their friends over, a place that was safe, a refuge, a place where they can laugh and be themselves. Laugh together as a family, it will do so much good. **ILLUS: Times of that in my family!!**

- **Give Your Children a Genuine Faith Most Important of ALL**

Here again Dad, your primary role is to make certain that your children know Jesus. It is the greatest gift that they will ever receive from you!! You can't make them receive it or force them to, but you can show them, teach them, and model Jesus to them and one day lead them to the throne and listen to those precious words of asking Jesus into their hearts! It will make a difference for eternity! We must live it in front of them and not give them a picture they can't reconcile

**ILLUS: Guy Saying One thing But Doing Another**

Our children are watching us, what will we pass on to them?

**Quote: "My children will not remember the words of wisdom I've passed along over the years, nor will yours remember the good advice you've given. However, etched in their minds and planted in their hearts is a permanent picture of who you are and how you've lived before them! Dorothy Kelley Patterson**

**SONG: I've Been Watching You Closing ILLUS: Steve Barkun**