



## GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE FAMILY

“Be All that You Can BE...  
Wife & Mother”

*Ephesians 5:22-33*

Sept. 22, 2013 A.M. Worship

### 1. Follow Your Husband's \_\_\_\_\_ & Watch Your Marriage Grow

- Love Your Husband By \_\_\_\_\_
- Love Your Husband By \_\_\_\_\_
- Love Your Husband By Showing Him
- Love Your Husband By \_\_\_\_\_ Him
- Love Your Husband By \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Love, Nurture, and Teach Your Children and Watch Them Grow Into Dynamic Christians

- **The Greatest** \_\_\_\_\_  
Your \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Teaching \_\_\_\_\_  
Your \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Nurturing \_\_\_\_\_
- **The Difficult Challenges**  
\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_  
Be \_\_\_\_\_  
Be \_\_\_\_\_

### 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 husband 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. Husbands, tell your wives one area in your marriage where she is doing really well in and maybe one area you see where she needs to improve and then promise to pray with her and for her in that specific area. Write her 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 the area of loving, nurturing and teaching your children? 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. 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... Wife & Mother”*

**Ephesians 5:22-33**

September 22, 2013 AM Service

**ILLUS: 1950's Home Economics Text Book**

Yet many in our society today say it is dead. Won't work, shouldn't work.

**ILLUS: Quote from Salon Magazine**

I want to say loud and clear as we have since the beginning that family can work and in fact it must work. Our very society depends upon its survival. And we as believers must make certain that we are building family the way God designed it or we are headed for a mess.

Much of the reason today we can have such a difficult time discussing the subject of roles in marriage, submission, and so on is because of stereotypes put forth in the media and also the political correctness movement to make us a sexless, classless society with artificial equality. The move among us to today is to blur these lines, make us all the same, hence gay marriage, that is there argument we are the same, roles don't matter, its not about men and women. Our society is sick and confused and we are not careful it will creep into the church and into our marriages and into our homes and think well its not so bad, or that is so old fashioned, or so out of touch with reality, etc.

Much like the word love has truly lost its meaning in this world and it requires adjectives so to does marriage and roles in marriage in particular that of leadership and submission.

**ILLUS: Quote from N.O.W., National Organization of Women's president** said a few years ago that the call for submission on the part of women has no place either in the pulpit or the public square.

God designed roles for us in the family, He made it crystal clear so that there would be no guesswork involved. The problem comes when man tries to improve on it, tweak, make it fit us better, etc.

The traditional nuclear family as God designed it to be in not some new invention found in the 1950's. It was founded back in the Garden of Eden. God wants family to work, to succeed, to be all that God designed for it to be.

So this morning we come to talk to ladies. Now men don't zone out here. This is how you can help her, pray for her, and encourage her.

Ladies, I am not a lady obviously so I am no expert so I am relying heavily on the Lord this morning (as I should every time!), to share truth from God's Word and principles from His Word and from the perspective as a man.

### **Follow Your Husband's Leadership & Watch Your Marriage Grow**

- ✓ Mutual Submission is clearly taught in Scripture, [Ephesians 5:21](#)
- ✓ We are called as believers to submit to one another as well as in the family, even a parent to his child, not by abdicating that role, but by sacrificing for them, and loving and serving your children
- ✓ That begs the question, well what does this do with authority? There still must be leadership and authority as in the church as to government and to the family. The buck must stop somewhere!
- ✓ Many times husbands throw this phrase around to his wife and family, this is my house, do this for me, go get this, etc. This is my kingdom and I rule over it. That is simply not the heart of this passage and goes completely against what Paul is saying here.
- ✓ Men and women are spiritual equals in the sight of God, having an equal standing and privileges as a believer in Christ.
- ✓ Marriage is a partnership, 100% commitment from both sides, discussing things together, praying together and coming to decisions but there will be times where a final decision must be made and that falls in the lap of the man.
- ✓ As we talked about last week, men if we are doing our part, loving them passionately, serving them and sacrificing for them, all this comes a little more naturally. (Notice not naturally because it goes against our flesh.) Just a man to love his wife like he loves himself is hard, so to is true for wives to submit to their husband.

#### ▪ **Love Your Husband By Submitting**

##### ○ *The Matter of Submission*

The call is submit to your husband, not other men.

Not to be his servant or slave but to lovingly give of yourself to his godly leadership in your home. To follow him and trust him in where he is taking you and your family. To respect him. That in fact

is one of man's greatest needs is knowing that his wife and his children respect him.

**ILLUS: Bec and I coming here to MS** I value her input, I want it and need it, and she is such a blessing to me and I cannot think of many if any decisions we have not made together so that I can be all that God has called me to do, but ultimately it will be up to me, because the Word is clear, I will be accountable for it!

- *The Manner of Submission*

We are to do this as unto the Lord. It is God's call upon her life

- *The Motive of Submission*

It is the fact that is her God-given role.

- *The Model of Submission*

What a greater example than that of our Savior as he submitted himself to the cross for us

- **Love Your Husband By Praying (For Him)**

Could there be any greater thing you can do for your husband? I can tell you no. I love it when I know my wife is praying for me.

Sometimes she writes me notes, and lets me know what she is praying for me.

Many times we want to fix our spouse, but many times the greatest way to do that is to pray for them!! It seems like we need to tell them over and over again, remind them in case they have forgotten.

They haven't forgotten and typically the more you say, the more they hear it, the less they want to change, dig their heels in. Many times they may do it just to get you off their back and then go right back later and forget it all.

But oh if you pray, and the Holy Spirit begins a work in the heart and they respond, it will last!

Wanting to see them take the lead, pray for them

Want to see them turn off the TV and spend more time with you, help around the house, whatever, pray for them

Remember it takes time, you must be patient.

Even if your marriage is great, you still need to pray daily for your spouse, your children and your family **The Power of a Praying Wife**

- **Love Your Husband By Showing Him**

Remember, we talked about the 5 Love Languages a few Sunday nights ago, if you missed it a brief recap. Love Tank Touch, Words of Affirmation, Gifts, Acts of Service, Quality Time  
Show him in a way he understands. (Touch, will find it somewhere)  
Show him in front of others, say it in front of others, tell him I love you. (Even if you get no response back)  
Share those intimate moments with him and remember if his love tank is full then yours will be too.

▪ **Love Your Husband By Supporting Him (Sharing with him)**

Let him know you are behind him 100%. Be his greatest encourage and supporter in what he does. He needs to know that you are behind him and beside him cheering him on. Does it mean you do it blindly if you think something is wrong or not going to work. No. But you find the right way to do it, that he knows you are supporting him and that you are not against him.

You show me a man who has a wife who believes in him, and she shows and he knows it, there is nothing he cannot do!

God has called the wife to be his completer not his competitor

Share with him your feelings, your perceptions. Many times wives your husband cannot read your mind and does not pick up the things you do.

Talk to him, share with him, I have heard many men say I had no idea that was bothering you, that this hurt you, that you needed this from me, and so on. You support him by not being afraid to share with him.

There must be honesty in a marriage.

▪ **Love Your Husband By Staying**

Really no different for women than men, ladies do you remember that day when you said I do forever? I am sure there are times when ladies want to bail out, fallen out of love, don't feel the same way they once did, and so on. Even walking through the difficulties of marriage troubles, children, a spouse that is not a believer, we are called to stay.

There are certainly exceptions such as abuse, and sometimes marriage infidelity, although many times that can be worked through if both parties are willing and the one party is repentant.

Your husband needs to know that no matter what you are there, even

on his good days and on his bad days.

## **My Husband is not a Believer or walking with God. What do I do?**

### **I Peter 3:1-2**

1<sup>st</sup> if they are not a believer you are still called by God to submit to him.  
2<sup>nd</sup>, pray for him and by your submission and living that changed life in front of him will do more than demanding of him, nagging him, and or great sermon you can preach to him.

3<sup>rd</sup> Continue to let him know how much you love him and support him.

4<sup>th</sup> There are exception in cases of abuse and other instances as we talked about, but hopefully that would be rare.

If your husband is not a Believer but not taking that role of leading, what do you do? Because if you take it, why should he bother to take it back. The encouragement would be to give it back, to submit to him, and support him in his leading again. Talk to him about it. Encourage him and continue to pray for him but don't take up that role.

## **Love, Nurture, and Teach Your Children and Watch Them Grow Into Dynamic Christians Proverbs 31:10-31**

### **ILLUS: Definition of mothers**

#### ▪ **The Greatest Calling**

The greatest calling that God gives a woman (if it is a part of His plan for your life) I believe the Word teaches is to be a mother.

Could there possibly be any greater privilege than that of a godly mother? You have such an important role to play in the life of your children that simply cannot be measured. It is crucial!

And notice too, it is a calling God placed on you, not man.

Now as we have talked, men play a vital role in a child's life but the mother's role is as crucial if not more in the raising of those children.

Not only is the greatest calling but the greatest honor!

Could any of us ever repay the debt each of owes to our mothers?

I mean they might have told you often, I might have brought you into this world, but I also can take you out of it!

#### ○ **Your Loving**

Now people would say, of course I love them. There is no love like a mother's love that simply cannot be replaced. You only

have to see it when you mess with one of their children. Suddenly these nice and sweet ladies suddenly turn into demons!

Mom, your love for your children is crucial for them. To love them as Jesus has loved you and to show them how to love others.

**ILLUS: Football players hey mom, not Dad – P&G Olympic Ad**

Only by depending on the Holy Spirit can you truly love your children the way God would have you to love them. Our flesh will take over and we will want to do what is best for us.

○ **Your Teaching**

To teach them about God, to teach them about life. To teach them one building block at the time, and for you to do that and not let the TV do it. Now it can certainly help, but the greatest teacher of your children is you. Part of God's call is for you teach them. Now they will learn at church and they will learn at school, but what they learn from you, the lessons of life, not necessarily book knowledge, but life lessons, they must learn from you.

Teach them from the Word of God & about God's Word. [Deut. 6:4-9](#)

○ **Your Presence**

Being at home versus working. What does God's Word say? It Does not forbid women from working. I would agree with that. Some women are simply wired to work. Some couples agree that is what they want and it is up to each couple to make that decision for their family. With that said, I think the ideal would be for Mom to be able to be at home. There is no better person to raise your children than you. They need you and want you. Whether you work or not is not the bottom line issue, just the realization that is the primary calling on your life! Nobody can replace you! Don't feel guilty either way. If God has called you to work, then do that, and if God has called you to stay at home, do that. We are called to do it all to the glory of God as long as we not neglecting our primary responsibility of being a mother.

Of course remember, we are talking about mothers, not single women, women who have grown children, it is certainly different.

○ **Your Nurturing**

A wonderful word that really can be best accomplished by

mothers. Dads can do this, but a special part of being a mother is to nurture them.

The idea of bringing them up to maturity. There is such a sense of tenderness, kindness and deep affection with the word nurture.

That picture of a child with that boo boo, in his mother's arms.

The picture of nurturing that child's talents and abilities into the God given gifts that God can use later in his or her life.

The picture of a nursing mother bringing nourishment to her child.

#### ▪ **The Difficult Challenges**

There is no doubt that this wonderful calling and honor comes with incredible challenges as well. As we have said before, nothing worth having doesn't require something from us.

##### ○ **Sacrifice & Serve**

Being a mother requires one to be sacrifice themselves and serve their children, God's greatest gift and treasure

The call to sacrifice of yourself, your time, your energy, your sleep, really everything you are to help that child become that godly adult one day.

That call to sacrifice for some may be to stay at home with them.

It is certainly not easy staying with your children 24 hours a day. I did a week of it over Christmas one year, loved it, but I was ready to go back to work! It is demanding, challenging, sacrificial, and hard. I loved my wife all over again because of what she does.

Let me encourage you, if you God is calling you to do that, do it.

Make the sacrifice. In some instances, women must work to make ends meet, no question. Sometimes though people want a certain level standard of living that requires them work. Make the sacrifice, you can make it. Many times when you total up the cost to work versus the cost of staying at home, they can come really close. Now, you may have to cut some corners, buy clothes second hand, cut out certain expense, but I don't think you will regret it one bit. I have met women in recent years who feel so guilty for staying home, not helping their husbands or families any. That simply is not true, if you want to be there, and God has called you there, then you do it.



In the same vane, if God has called you to work, then do it, and don't feel guilty about it.

I encourage each of you to respond to God's decision for your life as a couple. Only you can do that with God's help.

○ **Be Consistent**

Another challenge is to be consistent. We want our children to love us, no doubt, but we must not let that interfere with being consistent with them. That is one thing children need and not knowing that they crave, consistency in their lives provides routine and a sense of safety and security. It also gives them boundaries so that they know where the lines are drawn and where they can cross them and where they can't. We want to give in because it is the path of least resistance, cause the least amount of fussing and trouble. What you start with them when they are little is so critical, so they as the get older there are fewer questions about what is expected and not expected. They know where Mom stands, and she cannot be pushed over nor can she be manipulated to give in to them.

○ **Be Patient**

Perhaps the greatest challenge of all to be patient. I will preach that one to myself. Oh a mother's incredible patience level. That carpet stain one more time, or couch. (I will have to have new everything one day!), or those clothes ruined from potty training, or that bad report card, or that relationship issue, or curfew issue and so on. No question here as with all the others, you will have to rely on the Lord

Bottom line, mothers you are needed, your role is crucial, your are irreplaceable and your children need you most of all to show them Jesus, His great love for them, and you have that incredible opportunity and challenge. Don't miss it because it will be gone before you know it!

**ILLUS: Erma Bombeck**

**ILLUS: "One Little Heartbeat At a Time"**