


Week 6: The Patriarchal Order of the Family

A Sabbath Family Bible Study

 **Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:22–33; Genesis 18:17–19; 1 Corinthians 11:3 (KJV)**

With Commentary Throughout

Ephesians 5:22–24

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.”

Commentary:

Paul makes it clear that the family is not an egalitarian democracy but a **patriarchal** structure ordained by God. The husband bears the responsibility of headship—just as Christ leads the Church, the man must lead his household. Submission is not slavery, but sacred order. It reflects the Church’s loving submission to Christ and brings peace, clarity, and strength to the home.

Ephesians 5:25–27

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it...”

Commentary:

Biblical patriarchy is not tyranny. The patriarch leads in love, sacrifice, and sanctification. He sets the tone of holiness and provides spiritual leadership. His authority is to reflect Christ’s—strong, protective, purposeful, and deeply loving. He does not wait to be served but takes initiative for the family’s good.

Ephesians 5:28–33

“So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies...”

Commentary:

The husband and wife are not identical, but they are one. The husband's duty is to cherish and nourish his wife—spiritually, emotionally, and physically. His leadership is not harsh but caring. The wife's submission is not degrading but dignifying. Both roles reveal divine order and gospel truth.

Genesis 18:17–19

“And the LORD said... For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD...”

Commentary:

God chose Abraham not only for his faith but because he would **command** his household. Patriarchy is about active leadership—teaching, disciplining, and governing the home in righteousness. The father's role is to direct the family in obedience to the Lord. This is covenantal leadership, not passive cohabitation.

1 Corinthians 11:3

“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.”

Commentary:

God's order is hierarchical. Even within the Godhead there is headship: the Father is the head of Christ. This divine order flows into the home. The man is under Christ, the woman is under the man, and the children under both. Rebellion against this order is rebellion against God Himself.

**Discussion Questions for All Ages****Young Children:**

- Who is supposed to lead the family?
- Why should children obey their parents?
- How can you help bring peace to your home?

Older Children & Teens:

- What does it mean that the husband is the “head” of the wife?
- How can a father lead in a godly way? What happens when he doesn’t?
- Why is the world’s view of the family different from God’s design?

Adults:

- What responsibilities does headship place on husbands?
 - How can wives submit biblically while still using their gifts for God’s glory?
 - In what ways can we restore the patriarchal order in a culture that despises it?
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Psalm or Hymn to Sing

Psalm 128:1–4 (KJV)

*1 Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways.
 2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.
 3 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.
 4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.*

Commentary:

This Psalm is a picture of the patriarchal household: a fearing, working father; a fruitful, joyful wife; and children flourishing around the family table. This is God’s blessing on order, obedience, and fear of the Lord.

Optional Hymn: “O Give Us Homes Built Firm Upon the Savior”

*“O give us homes built firm upon the Savior,
 Where Christ is Head and Counselor and Guide;
 Where every child is taught His love and favor,
 And gives their heart to Christ, the Crucified.”*

Family Application Points

1. **Honor Fatherly Leadership:**

Fathers should recommit to leading in devotion, discipline, and provision. If absent or passive, pray and plan for repentance and restoration.

2. **Teach Submission as Strength:**

Mothers and daughters should learn the power of quiet strength and joyful obedience—not as weakness, but as the very posture Christ displayed (Philippians 2:5–8).

3. **Establish Household Law:**

Like Abraham, the patriarch must command his household. Create or review household rules and routines that reflect Biblical priorities—Sabbath, chores, modesty, and hospitality.

4. **Bless the Table:**

Use meal times for prayer, instruction, and unity. Let the family table become the gathering point for building generational dominion and peace.

5. **Reject Feminist Lies:**

Discuss how feminism has undermined family order. Contrast its fruits (divorce, fatherlessness, rebellion) with the fruit of godly patriarchy (order, joy, legacy).

 **Closing Prayer**

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, we thank You for establishing the family in Your wisdom. We confess that our culture has rebelled against Your order, and we ask You to restore what has been broken. Raise up fathers who lead with courage and holiness, and mothers who submit with joy and strength. Help children to obey, grow, and one day lead families of their own. Let our household reflect the beauty of Your perfect design. May Your name be glorified in the patriarchal order You have given. In Jesus' name, the Head of all, we pray. Amen.