

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

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23: 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.

24: 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

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

26: That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27: That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

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. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.”

29: *For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:*

30: *For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.*

31: *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.*

32: *This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

33: *Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.*

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, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

18: *Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?*

19: *For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*

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?

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: "A Christian Home" (Barbara Hart 1965)

Verse 1

*O give us homes built firm upon the Savior
Where Christ is Head and Counselor and Guide
Where ev'ry child is taught His love and favor
And gives his heart to Christ the Crucified
How sweet to know that though his footsteps waver
His faithful Lord is walking by his side*

Verse 2

*O give us homes with godly fathers mothers
Who always place their hope and trust in Him
Whose tender patience turmoil never bothers
Whose calm and courage trouble cannot dim
A home where each finds joy in serving others
And love still shines tho' days be dark and grim*

Verse 3

*O give us homes where Christ is Lord and Master
The Bible read the precious hymns still sung
Where pray'r comes first in peace or in disaster
And praise is natural speech to ev'ry tongue
Where mountains move before a faith that's vaster
And Christ sufficient is for old and young*

Verse 4

*O Lord our God our homes are Thine forever
We trust to Thee their problems toil and care
Their bonds of love no enemy can sever
If Thou art always Lord and Master there
Be Thou the center of our least endeavor
Be Thou our guest our hearts and homes to share*



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).

A Sabbath Feast Prayer: (Used later when the Sabbath Meal is Ready)

“Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your Sabbath - a holy day of rest, joy, and renewal. As we partake in this meal, may our hearts be lifted in gratitude for Your provision and peace. Let this table reflect the peace of Your Kingdom and the love that binds our household together in Christ. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”



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.