

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 117

The Family is a Precious Gift from God
Marriage Matters



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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior; you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Just tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior, died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. (Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



LESSON

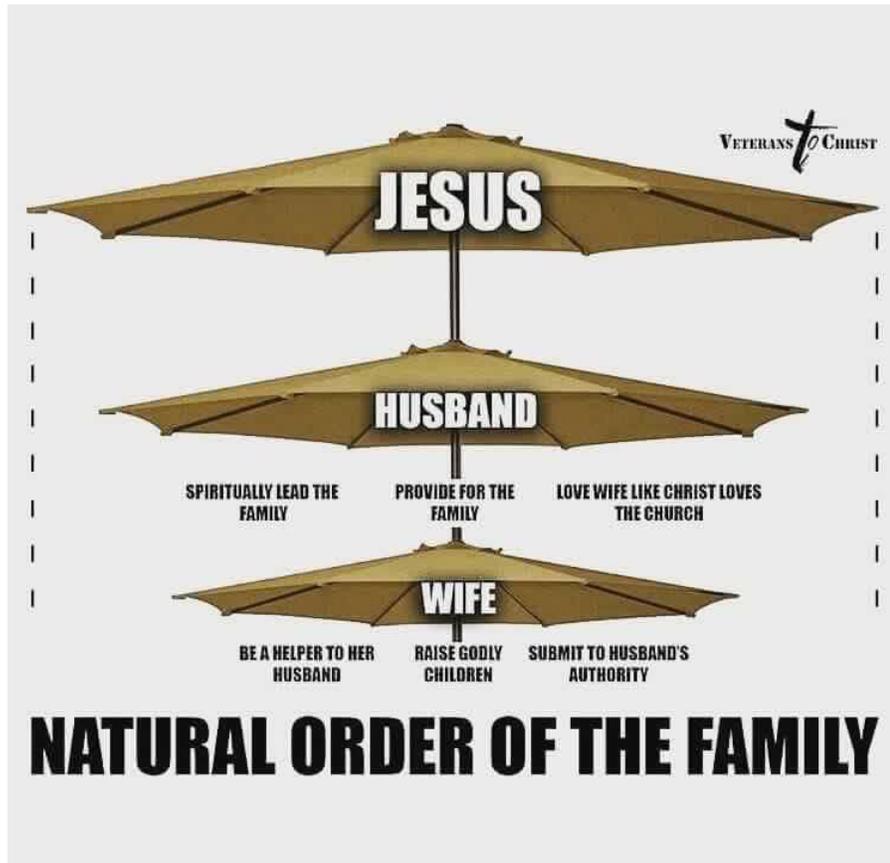
In our last lessons on practical living, we have been looking at the family, our precious gift from God. We have learned that our heavenly Father gave us the foundation of the family, that was designed just like our heavenly family, FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT.



And most importantly, we learned that God the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ to be born into an earthly family. You remember...Joseph and Mary. Joseph was Jesus' earthly father. God the Father is Jesus' heavenly Father, who sent Jesus here to save sinful mankind. This was, and is a part of God's divine plan for mankind...to save us, protect us, preserve us and teach us about His plan and what God expects from us as His family of believers.



God the Father's family plan is totally centered around JESUS! Just because it was DESIGNED PERFECTLY for Jesus to come to earth to save us, doesn't mean it will run perfectly for mankind, because all of mankind are sinners, even after we are saved.



Since sin is part of our daily lives, things get messy. You get that right? Are things perfect at your house? No, they are NOT. It's the same with all of us!

Just look at you own family and your friends' families. We all have problems!

Things like...

A difficult relationship with parents, brothers, and sisters; a difficult relationship with a teacher, or a coach; maybe even with your

parents who sometimes do not seem to be very loving. Maybe you wish things were better at times and you may even think: "It shouldn't be like this."

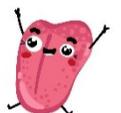
These types of things go wrong with people who are in our daily lives all the time. People who are close to us, people we care the most about, people in authority over us...and sometimes it's even us!



The point is that we are going to face heartache from our family. We just are. We are a sinful people, saved by God's grace through Jesus Christ, parent, child, husband, or wife. We will have difficulty getting along, not seeing eye to eye on things, holding grudges, somethings you just can't get over, being hurt...and on and on it can go, kids. God knew this so he gave us the Bible to teach us about it, to warn us about it, to help us rely on the Holy Spirit to keep it from happening a lot.



You know a wrong thing said to someone in our family can really hurt the relationship, maybe even for a long time. That little tongue of ours can get us into big trouble. But don't get upset, okay, because God has this all covered in His Word.

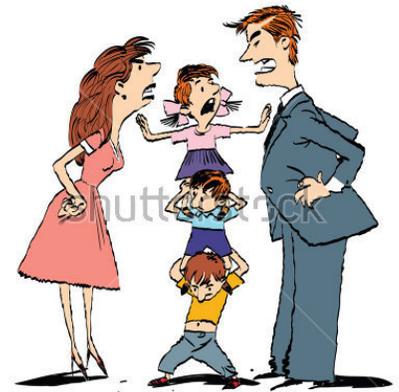


Let's look in Proverbs because it is so wise on this subject of the tongue, by the way: **Prov 18:21** "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit." Hopefully we'll use it for good, right?

It'll do you good also to take to heart what **James** has to say about the tongue in **James chapter 3**. It can be a restless evil and deadly poison. **James 3:8-10** "But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. (9) With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; (10) from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be this way."

How many marriages have been ruined by a tongue full of deadly poison? How many children have been hurt badly? How many parents have been deeply injured by what has been said in a fit of anger or selfishness. "**He who controls his tongue is a wise man.**"

Family life is close, warm, cozy, relaxed and it is so important to our well-being, and it is under attack.



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Just Married



Kids, the family life starts with a **MARRIAGE** and guess what? **MARRIAGE MATTERS!** The devil hates marriage and is the one who attacks it all the time.

And so now, we are going to move from the family in general to the important relationship that families rise or fall on: the relationship between the **husband and the wife**, which is the closest human relationship of all.

God talks about adopting us into **HIS** family, **HIS** household, in **Ephesians chapters 1 and 2**. You should sit down with your family and read these two chapters together. It is so important to see what God has given us. **Ephesians** is the place where God paints the most breath-taking picture of what the church means to Him.

So, it must be with the greatest importance that He devotes a good portion of that in **chapters 5 and 6** in **Ephesians** to teach us about family life, too. Christian family life is extremely tied to church life. (Church here, meaning the body of Christ...we are His body...all believers make up the church or

body of Christ and Christ is the Head of the body or church). Church life in our local church is pictured here.



"Does 'Amen' mean 'Send'?"

Don't miss that. What is going on in your family effects your local church group or congregation. Sometimes it is called the local assembly. **And** what's going on in the congregation effects your family, too. God designed things this way.

Watch this: Eph 5:15-21 "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, (16) making the most of your time,

because the days are evil. (17) So then, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (18) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is sinful, but be filled by means of the Spirit (let the Holy Spirit guide you), (19) speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; (20) always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; (21) and **be subject to one another in the respect of Christ.**

So far, this is talking about church life. Be subject (members of the body of Christ, Christians who are taking part in the life of the congregation) to one another in the respect of Christ.

But then notice the turn towards marriage and the family life here in Eph 5:22-6:4. "Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body (church). (24) But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything. (25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, (26) so that He might sanctify her (set her apart), having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word (Gospel), (27) that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless (a picture of a beautiful bride). (28) So, husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; (29) for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, (30) because we are members of His body. (31) FOR THIS REASON, A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. (32) This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. (33) Nevertheless, each individual

among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must *see to it* that she respects her husband.

Now this if for you, kids: Eph 6:1-4 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first of the commandment with a promise), (3) SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

And this if for you, Dads: (4) Fathers, do not aggravate your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."



And what is going on in this part of **Ephesians** is this: the apostle Paul makes this general statement to Christian families that we need to be subject to one another in the respect of Christ. That means we need to be willing to hear one another out. We need to recognize when someone in the congregation is led or gifted with authority and then, we need to let them tell us what to do and then do it.

The Lord wants us to be part of the other person's plan, too. Change what you were doing to line up with their needs. This is being flexible and under the authority of the church leaders. You have to see things from another person's point of view not your own. In other words, have each other's back, help one another. That's loving your brothers and sisters in Christ. **FAMILY!**



That's the general principle, the general command. What follows here though is how this general command applies to the important close relationships that we have in life...family and others.

So, how do we follow the general command in the church to submit or give in to one another? Well, Paul and the Lord say this: to be able to obey the command to submit to one another in the local church, it must first start with doing this in your families.





A major part of living the Christian life happens in our kitchens, in our bedrooms, in our schools, ball fields, doctors' offices, community in general. And the very center of all of it...the MOST IMPORTANT THING is MARRIAGE.



MARRIAGE is like Christ and His Church. All believers are the BRIDE and BODY of CHRIST! We are all united in HIM.

Marriage is what is being taught here in Eph 5:22-33. Let's read it again! "Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. (24) But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. (25) Husbands, love your wives, just as

Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, (26) so that, He might sanctify (set her apart) her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word (the Gospel), (27) that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. (28) So, husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; (29) for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, (30) because we are members of His body. (31) FOR THIS REASON, A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. (32) This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. (33) Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband."

Healthy marriages are not only life-giving to the family, the children, the neighborhood, the city, the nation...healthy marriages are extremely important to and life-giving to our local church.

Now read it again. Eph 6:1-4 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), (3) SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. (4) Fathers, do not aggravate your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."



We can read and obey the Bible, God's Word.

Only after marriage is on the foundation, which is Christ, can there be two parents who are fully able to handle their children...together! This is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!!! God designed it like this because it is perfect. It WORKS!!! It takes **BOTH** a **father** and a **mother** to bring up children. This ALWAYS helps with the trouble or heartache that can come into the family (remember, it is under attack all the time). **However, when a child loses one or both parents, God calls on members of the local church to step in to help provide for the child's needs. GOD ALWAYS PROVIDES FOR THE BELIEVERS NEEDS!!!! ALWAYS!!**

Don't worry about these attacks. You can prevent a lot of this from happening by simply learning what God says about this in His Word. It's clear! Obey your parents and God's Word and you will have a very happy family life. Let God handle the problems when they come, okay?

And kids...listen to what Prov 1:8-9 says. It is so important. "**Hear, my son, your father's instruction and do not leave your mother's teaching; (9) Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head and ornaments about your neck.**"

More about Marriage and the family next time...stay in the Word EVERY DAY.

Close in prayer.

