



Christ-Centered Family

A Christ-centered family is truly a foretaste of heaven. It is composed of a Christ-centered husband who submits to the Lord, a Christ-centered wife who submits to her husband and Christ-centered children who obey and honor their parents. While we cannot impose Christ-centeredness on others, we can model it by our own obedience to Christ. Our spirituality will be tested in the context of committed relationships, beginning right in our very homes.

Husbands (Ephesians 5:25-31). At the time of Paul's writing, whether in Jewish, Roman or Greek culture, women were not treated as men's equals but as mere possessions. The command to love your wife was therefore revolutionary. Only in Christianity are women and children elevated to their rightful positions in the Body of Christ.

Husbands are commanded to love their wives, just as Christ loved the church. What does this mean? Love is not a feeling, but a commitment. As Christ loved the church? The church, my friend, is you and me — a group of imperfect people called out by God to live godly lives. Because Christ loves us though we are not perfect, husbands ought to love their wives though they are less than perfect. This kind of love is a commitment directed towards imperfect people, and it involves self-sacrifice. Just as Christ gave Himself up for the church, the husband's love is to be sacrificial.

The love of God is sanctifying. Jesus died for us because He wants us to be sanctified. For the husband, this means seeking the best for your wife. You are her spiritual leader and your life must be her best example of a Christ-centered life. You ought to love your wife as you love yourself, nourishing and cherishing her.

(One suggestion is to communicate your love to her in her unique love language, as defined by Dr. Gary Chapman. Her love language may be words of affirmation, quality time, gifts, acts of service or physical touch.)

"For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church." This does not mean that the wife is a slave. The husband is not just a lover but also a leader. The Biblical definition of a leader is not a tyrant but a servant-leader. He assumes responsibility, not just authority.

Unconditional love. Sacrificial love. Sanctifying love. Satisfying love. This is the love Christ gave us. This is the kind of love husbands must give their wives.

Wives (Ephesians 5:22-24). "Wives, submit to your husbands in everything." Being subject to one's husband has nothing to do with inferiority. The Bible does not teach that women are inferior to men. Galatians 3:28 says, "There is no longer slave nor free man, male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." This deals with an assigned and God-defined role or ranking. It has to do with orderliness, avoiding chaos and disrespect.

Note, however, that your husband is not perfect. He will have flaws. Praying for your husband is the loving and respectful way of letting him become more Christ-like. This is better than pointing out and trying to correct his flaws. God is fully in charge. He has a master plan for you and your marriage. Trust the Lord and relinquish this need to control or to be in charge to His wisdom, love and design. He knows best.

Submit to your husbands as unto the Lord. As the wife, you have the unique responsibility and privilege of affecting the climate of your marriage. When you submit, you will see God's blessings. Marriage is not about giving your 50% and waiting for your spouse to give his 50%. It's about giving your 100% no matter how your spouse responds or behaves. Giving 100% is being your husband's help-mate. Ask the Holy Spirit to make you a life-giver alongside your husband.

Children (Ephesians 6:1-3). Children, you are commanded to honor your parents. This is shown through obedience and a respectful attitude towards them. Honoring your parents is ultimately obedience to God. When we were young, obedience to our parents was very important, even though some of their instructions seemed to us illogical or difficult. Honoring our parents is understanding their heart and what pleases them, without them having to tell this to us. We obey their instructions, for example, to clean the room or observe a curfew. It also means that when they grow old, we take care of and provide for them. Remember that honoring our parents is the first commandment with a promise (Exodus 20:12).

Parents (Ephesians 6:4). Parents, you provoke your children when you are over-controlling, negative, critical; when you compare your children to others and when you break your promises. Remember, you must adjust your parenting style and pattern it after Biblical principles. As your child grows up and matures, you must loosen your control. Give advice and pray for them. This allows them to become more Christ-like.

This year, let us focus on our family relationships. We are the light of the world. Let us be a positive influence. Pursue a Christ-centered family!

The CCF Vision Statement

Our vision is to see a movement of millions of committed followers of the Lord Jesus Christ meeting in small groups, transforming:

- ✓ Lives
- ✓ Families
- ✓ Communities
- ✓ Nations

For the glory of GOD!



Mission Statement

Our mission is to make Christ-committed followers who will make Christ-committed followers.

'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

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