



## *Distinctively Christian Families*

### **Ephesians 5:22-31**

*What makes up the “DNA” of a Great Commission Church?  
Over the next several weeks we will explore the six commitments we believe  
make up a life driven by the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

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**Summary of Today’s Lesson:** The fourth commitment we want to make is to building biblical families through submitting our lives to Jesus Christ and being filled with His Holy Spirit.

1. All Christians are called to first and foremost be submitted to Jesus Christ (i.e. filled w/ God’s Holy Spirit).
2. Godly submission of wife to her husband is a refusal to *manipulate, control and dominate your husband*.
3. The confidence and security of men is built on the rock of respect from their wives.
4. A Husbands love for his wife should be: Sacrificial, Sanctifying & Efficacious.
5. The confidence and security of women is built on the Life-Giving love from their husbands.
6. A Spirit-filled woman who puts Christ first in her life *shows* that by honoring & respecting her husband as the church does so to Christ.
7. A Spirit-filled husband who puts Christ first in his life shows that by taking initiative and responsibility for the loveliness and well-being of his wife and home in the same way that Christ does this for the church.
8. Pastor Grant’s rule for singles hoping to be married: DON’T marry a Christian; marry a follower of Jesus Christ.

# Home Group Study Guide

## *Distinctively Christian Families – Ephesians 5:22-31*

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**Summary of Today's Lesson:** The fourth commitment we want to make is to building biblical families through submitting our lives to Jesus Christ and being filled with His Holy Spirit.

**Getting to Know Me:** (these questions are designed to get your group started and build community)

1. How did you & your spouse meet?  
(If not married: what is one quality you would want in a spouse?)

**Getting Started:** (these questions are designed to “prime the pump” and get the group thinking about the teaching on Sunday)

1. What was one principle/idea/thought that stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
2. For women: what stereotypes have you had to work through in relating yourself to Eph. 5:22?
3. For men: at first glance, what is your initial impression of Paul's call to Christian men in marriage? Positive? Negative?

**Digging Deeper:** (these questions are “text-based” and designed to help get the group talking about the Scriptures together)

### **Read Eph. 5:22-31**

1. How do we as Christians become “full of the Holy Spirit”?
2. For wives: what fears do you have about “submitting” to your husband? How will you overcome them?
3. For husbands: what fears do you have in taking initiative in loving your wife? How will you overcome them?
4. Agree or disagree: Men are ultimately responsible for the tone, attitude, and atmosphere of their home. What role do you think women have to play in this?
5. Agree or disagree: Dating relationships should always be spiritually equally yoked? Do you think there is a distinction in our culture today between a “Christian” and a “follower of Jesus Christ”? Why or why not?

### **Application:**

1. What is one area of your marriage (or dating relationship or singleness) that you feel God calling you to submit to Him in? How are you going to do that this week?

## *Helpful tips for Husbands & Fathers in learning Spiritual Leadership*

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1. Be patient with yourself! This is a long term process. Plead with your wife to be patient as well.
2. Read Eph. 5:15-31 each day and ask God to fill you w/ His Holy Spirit so as to enable you to love and serve your wife, children, etc.
3. Begin reading your Bible on a daily basis; let your family see you doing this. Share openly w/ your family what you are learning from God's word.
4. Regularly ask your wife how you can better serve her and the family. Be humble and teachable and listen to her answers!
5. Initiate prayer at family meals.
6. Make sure the kids get to bed at a decent hour Saturday night so as to best be ready for church in the morning (let them see YOU communicate this, not just your wife).
7. Pray w/ your children before they go to bed at night; ask God's blessings on their lives.
8. LEAD the way to church on Sunday mornings by demonstrating a positive, upbeat attitude about worship.
9. Ask the family what they thought about the sermon during meal times. What did they learn? What questions do they have?
10. Read books about biblical masculinity (Stu Webber; Dennis Rainey; Steve Farrar; John Piper; John Eldridge; etc.).
11. Ask your Home Group leader to do a study on spiritual leadership; meet and pray w/ other men in your group who share your same desire to grow in this area; learn to be humble and honest about your progress, struggles, etc.
12. Don't ever give up! See this calling as an adventure and a life-long challenge that will help leave a legacy for future generations to come that share your name!