

We want to end this week by going back over what we have learned. We have learned a lot in a short time.

We started out by looking at the family as being anti-cultural. As we have gone through this week it is obvious that the family is anti-cultural. We saw in Romans 1 the different stages that a people, a nation, goes through and we also saw where America is at today. It doesn't look good. The message of a Biblical family is not accepted. People hate it and do not want to hear it, even among those who claim to be born again. There isn't only opposition from the culture but also from many inside the church. A biblical family is portrayed as a threat to society, peace, and happiness. A biblical family is viewed as a drag on society.

We also learned this week about a Spirit filled, controlled, family. Ephesians 5:18. Again I want to stress this is not us getting more of the Holy Spirit but the Holy Spirit getting more of us. You cannot make a Spirit controlled person mad.

In verses 19-21 we see some of the results of being controlled by the Spirit.

One of the results we learned about is that we won't be arguing and complaining or debating or in competition amongst each other. We will put the needs of others before our own needs.

We will quickly forgive when others trespass against us.

When we are controlled by the Spirit we will submit ourselves one to another. Without being controlled by the Holy Spirit this is almost impossible. Submitting is to allow oneself to be in subjection to another. This is where our pride swells up and says no. I don't mind singing hymns and giving thanks always in all things, but I'm not submitting to her or his needs etc...

This is evidence that you are not controlled by the Spirit. This means that all those other things that you are doing you are doing in the power of the flesh. When you say no, the old man has just risen up.

Verses 19-21 are tuff verses. We have the influence of this present evil world against us and most of all we have our own fallen nature against us. This spiritual warfare isn't something to take lightly.

All these evidences go together.

The first person of the family that we looked at was the wife. Look in verse 22. She is given a specific command; submit.

submit- to submit oneself; to be subject; to be obedient. To place in order.

This is contrary to our nature. As a result of the fall the desire of the woman is to rule over the man; and in a marriage for the wife to rule over the husband. We saw the most important place for the wife to be is at home. This is her domain. Being home is not something to take lightly as we learned about the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31. We desperately need virtuous women.

Then we looked at the husband. Verse 25. Husbands are commanded to love their wives. We are to love with a biblical love not a Hollywood or postcard love. There isn't one thing in particular that should make us love our wives, we should simply love them for who they are, not what they can do for us. We are not to treat our wives as if they are inferior to us; she is God's gift to us. We are to love her as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it. We learned the husband is supposed to give his family the Word of God. He does this lovingly because it is beneficial to all and the Word of God gives stability to a home. It is also the cleansing agent in a home.

We are to love our wives unconditionally and nothing should be able to separate our love for our wives, and our families. We see this example with Jesus and His bride, the church.

The next thing we looked at this week was the children. In Ephesians 6:1-3 the children are commanded to obey. This implies receiving instruction and obeying it. We looked at many Scriptures about the blessings of obedience and the consequences of disobedience. Children are to honour their parents until the day we die. We implying we are all children.

Then last night we learned about raising our children. We are not to provoke them to wrath. We are to care for them and bring them up; raise them up; establish them; nurture them and admonish them. This is correction with discipline and on hands personal training. It is the parents God given responsibility to raise their own children. We also saw the blessings of obedience and the consequences of disobedience.

All of these commands implies to stop doing something and to start doing the opposite.

Wives are to stop not submitting and to start submitting.

Husbands are to stop not loving and to start loving.

Children are to stop disobeying and to start obeying.

Parents are to stop provoking and to start raising their children biblically.

All this is to be done as unto the Lord, or as it is the Lord we are doing all this for.

We have all this information, what do we do with it? Apply it. Don't deceive yourself into thinking that you are doing everything exactly right. I have talked to a few people this week and all have agreed that we are all coming up short. In some areas very short.

The first thing we need to do is confess this to the Lord. Confession is simply agreeing. You are agreeing with the Word of God. Wives confess that you have not been submitting; husbands confess that you have not been loving; children confess that you have not been obeying; and parents confess that you have been provoking. Confess this sin.

Repent; turn from this sin. Do what the Bible says to do. Wives start submitting; husbands start loving; children start obeying; and parents stop provoking.

This involves crucifying of the flesh. This is hard, and can be painful; but it is beneficial for all. God's mercies are new every day. We messed up yesterday and today, but we can get up in the morning and start over and strive to do right, as unto the Lord.

We can strive to be biblical. There are steps we must take to line up with the Bible. The question is what steps do I need to take? First thing is we must be controlled by the Holy Spirit. He will lead, guide, and direct us according to the Word of God. He will point us to Jesus Christ and not to ourselves.

It is by Him that we have the power to live unto the Lord. Strive to do what the Bible says. A good example here would be with the wife biblically keeping the home. You may not presently be in the position to clear cut quit where you are at and do this. But, you can pray and begin now to start taking steps to get where you need to be. This may take years, so start in that direction now. As soon as you can come home and keep your home, do it. Don't make excuses. Wives, start submitting to your own husbands today, husbands, we have no excuse, we are to start loving today. Children you are to start obeying today, and parents you are to stop provoking today.

We looked at two things that destroy a home; selfishness and unforgiveness.

Let's end this week looking at forgiveness. Unforgiveness is like a disease that spreads through the body. We all know we have made and will make mistakes. No one here is perfect. We can look at ourselves and say I've messed up so much there isn't any use in trying to do right; this is a lie of the devil. We can look at others and say they've messed up so much I can't forgive them; this is also a lie of the devil.

Just like how love is a choice, forgiveness is also a choice. This implies that unforgiveness is also a choice. It's not that you can't forgive, but that you won't forgive.

Matthew 18:21-35.

Forgiveness brings reconciliation; peace; joy; and it is being just like our heavenly Father. The offense against God is greater than the offense against you; so forgive and continue to forgive. Offenses will come every day.

As a Christian you have a choice to make. We are not spiritual robots. God has forgiven us and by the gift of the Holy Spirit we can forgive others and live unto Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:18

Be biblical, even if no one else is. It is worth it. Be thankful you have been caught by His grace. To God be the glory.