

This Father's Day message has universal application. First for Fathers, but the applications are for all men, and then for all females to gain knowledge and apply it to living for the glory of God. Ephesians 5:22-33 is our scripture for today. You may want to open a Bible and follow along as I read, or perhaps just close your eyes and listen to the words as a message from our Heavenly Father through the pen of the Apostle Paul to you. Ephesians 5:22-33 {read} **22** *Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—30 for we are members of his body. 31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” 32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

In examining verse **22** *Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.* Return with me in your mind to Genesis 2 and the pristine condition of the earth without sin, the creation of man and woman and the perfect relationship they enjoyed. THEN

Genesis chapter 3 introduces us to satan and a partial description of his deceptive prowess. satan and his legions of demons have managed to get mankind to by in large believe they are not real, but only some imaginary harmless character and figment of our imagination!!!! Among the greatest shortcoming of instructions for righteousness through the ages has been the minimizing or disbelief in the strategic evil of satan and his heartless tyrannical, diabolical schemes. Among evil's realm of influence are delighting in diluting the truth, diverting the attention, discouraging the thoughtful, and disillusioning the naive'.

In Genesis 3:16 we find the consequence of the first sin: *To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."* Lay that along side the first verse of our scripture: Verse **22** *Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ...* And you understand the source from which this passage originates. /// Please note in that Genesis 3 passage the word "rule" of the husband is not like a master to a slave, but rather a benevolent, loving partner who practices

obedience to God and is themselves growing in faith and service to God's glory. That is the point of today's message.

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Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

Listen how the Message version deals with that 23rd verse: *-The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing. So just as the church submits to Christ as He exercises such leadership, wives should likewise submit to their husbands.{re-read!}*

Leadership – not lord, dictator, master or boss. Leadership means to set the pace, be the example, the benefactor of righteousness.

A significant key to understanding and followup service for “Father’s as Head of the Household” comes by looking at a two letter word that satan would have us overlook. REMEMBER WE ARE PROVING FROM THE SCRIPTURE THAT THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD IS TO BE the Leader – not a dictator or boss. The head of the household is to set the pace, be the example, the benefactor of righteousness. Let me re-read the first two verses, this time with special emphasis on that little two letter word: Ephesians 5:22-23 *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.*

Let’s take a moment and define that two letter word “as.”/// The word “as” is used to indicate by comparison the way that something happens or is done: a *synonym for “as”* means the (same) way or manner that something is done.///

In this context the word “as” is a qualifier, it means to be qualified as head of the household. There are parameters or guidelines as in the example of Jesus. The word “as” is a quantifier, it means there is a content of right response to be head of a household as in Jesus. And further, the word “as” has a consequence, either positive or negative depending on the level at which the husband has become “as”, or is in the likeness Jesus!

The difference between the cultural definition of the male being the head of the household and the scriptural “as” definition,- is monumental and totally shifts the focus from any sort of male dominance. /// to the male being patiently submissive to the model and example of Jesus Christ Himself. Culture allows for competition between husband and wife, but scripturally they are meant to complete each other. The more like Jesus a man becomes- because of the rendering of the word “as” - the more effective he is as the sovereign, sacred, submissive, partner, fulfilling the role, duty, function, character and purpose as the head of the household! For the husband/father “as Christ” head of the household, then we have an example in place, a model to follow, all with a proven procedure. That example is Jesus.

So specifically what does the “as Christ” head of the household act like?

Verse 23 *For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.*

1. Follow the model of Christ Jesus' example as head of the church. Which is defined in verse **25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.** Men there is no option, **“love your wives, and give yourself up for her!”** /// The Greek word from which that word love is translated is agape./// But men and women do you understand the absolute unlimited power of that agape love? Let me explain: the word agape describes the God like love for which the “as” word is to model. Yes there are other words describing love which seemingly our society has elevated them to be more important than agape. Those words are storge; = love of things, which is okay unless it becomes greed which in Col 3:5 is called idolatry which is a direct violation of the 2nd Commandment; Then there is the word phileo=friendship kind of love; that may very well be an honorable relationship. And finally there is eros or erotic non-responsible or accountable physical relationship which has become a raging disease fed and promoted definition of love by every demon, devil and anticrhist!!!. It was the fatal flaw of Sodom and Gomorrah and a host of others!

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love (agape) your wives, just as Christ loved (agape) the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love (agape) their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— MEN here is more of what the head of the household models from Jesus, under the agape definition of love:

1. *gave himself up for her* – Jesus gave us the model, of being willing, able and prepared to give yourself up for your wife and family.../// **DON'T MISS THAT PRIORITY**, wife, family, work, recreation ///wife, family, work, recreation!!!!
2. from the agape model of Jesus we learn the head of the household is **26 to make her holy**, - Jesus by the overflow of His own righteousness made it possible for the church to be holy. Men as head of the household are to overflow with righteousness for our wife and family to model.
3. from the agape model of Jesus: *In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.* Men, this may very well be the most difficult of all ///- for satan knows how vulnerable the male nature is beneath the cultural facade of masculinity and how the demons delight in causing us to depreciate our own accomplishments or effectiveness in life. **When we focus on our failures rather than on becoming more like Christ, the devil wins another encounter.** But being secure in the Lord is the surest way to love ourselves so we are effective in loving our wives and children. Our self love is the agape love which means to care for ourselves physically, mentally, and spiritually. /// When self depreciation creeps into our thoughts or language – **LET IT BE A SIGNAL** – you are facing a frontal attack from the

devil or a demon, and your only defense is Jesus with a mighty offense of faith to encounter and win that encounter with evil.

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4. from the agape model of Jesus the reason why all of this is so critically important for the head of the household;

A. verse **30** *for we are members of his body.* When we became Christians we became part of the body of Jesus learning, practicing and modeling His example.

B. verse **31** *“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”* That is easy to read, but we become easily distracted by satan to minimize what it means: /// Husband and wife, you are a team – one flesh means uniting their gender uniqueness, their spiritual giftedness, their passion for righteousness all under the umbrella of salvation to complete each other. Ecclesiastes 4:12 *Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.* Husband, wife, with Jesus are the three strands.

#5. from the agape model of Jesus: Yes it is perhaps a new dimension of being the head of the household and yes it may at first seem a mystery as the scripture says in verses **32** *This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.*

Christ and the church are the “as” mystery model for being the head of the household. And it is a mystery solved with the solution simply being that the head of the household is to be as much like Jesus as possible.

#6. from the agape model of Jesus: So the glorious consequence is verse **33** *However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.* It is a natural result of righteous obedience of the head of the household for the righteous wife to respect her husband because they are both learning the word, growing in faith and becoming “one flesh” completing each other.

Becoming an “as Christ” head of the household may be the hardest thing we men are called upon to do along with keeping our priorities in life straight – but the rewards of the effort for ourselves and others are eternal and more than worth the effort. Or as some sage has said, “if it is worth doing, it is worth doing well.” If you choose to be the head of a household, then by all means, do it well.

Invitation Hymn (please note the explanation on the inside bulletin cover)

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Words on back of bulletin

Father’s Day recognition and reading: An ode for Father’s Day

Closing Prayer

Benediction Chorus:

Isn’t He wonderful, wonderful, wonderful, isn’t Jesus, my Lord, wonderful! Eyes have seen, ears have heard, It’s recorded in God’s Word – Isn’t Jesus, my Lord, wonderful!

An ode for Father's day

Dear Dad, I thought of you today, but that is nothing new. I thought about you yesterday, and days before that too. I think of you in silence, I often speak your name. All I have are memories and a picture in a frame, Your memory is a keepsake, from which I'll never part. God has you in His arms, I have you in my heart. (I do not know the author)