

TEXT: Ephesians 5:21-31

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 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. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church – for we are members of his body. For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

TITLE: WHERE ARE THE MEN

INTRODUCTION

WHERE ARE THE MEN? This generation is characterized by an absence of Spiritual Leadership.

**“Walk a little plainer, Daddy”, said a little boy so frail,
“For I’m walking in your footsteps and I don’t want to fail.”**

**Sometimes your steps are very plain and sometimes they’re
hard to see,
So, walk a little plainer, Daddy, for you are leading me.**

**I know that once you walked this way many years ago,
And what you did along the way, I would really like to know.**

For sometimes I’m tempted and I don’t know what to do,

So, walk a little plainer, Daddy, for I must follow you.

**When I'm all grown up you're just like I want to be,
And I'll have a child who will want to be just like me.**

**I want to teach my child to be brave, honest and true,
So, walk a little plainer, Daddy, for we must follow you.**

**T.S...The Family is so important that everything else should
revolve around it.**

**T.S...Stephen Farrer: "Leading a family through the chaos
of American culture is like being on patrol in enemy
territory."**

**T.S... Dr. Dobson: "We're at a crossroads in American
culture; men must make a new commitment to their
Family."**

ILL... Lewis Grizzard: "Real Men Don't Eat Quiche"

***Real men would never ask directions.**

***Real men would never call for a fair catch.**

**T.S... Let me offer a spiritual twist to these statements about
men:**

***Real men love Jesus Christ and desire to follow Him.**

***Real men love their wife/Help her in every way.**

***Real men love their children and spend time with
them.**

***Real men are men of commitment.**

***Real men don't commit adultery.**

BODY

I. COMMIT TO CHRIST (RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD); Ephesians 5:21

EXPL... *“...Submit yourself to God...”*

APPL... Military Term (To line up under).

APPL... Before the home is what it should be, every man must be lined up under God’s Authority.

ILL... Life and its struggles – Battles are difficult. If you line up under God’s leadership, you can surely win. Where are you lined up in this life?

II. COMMITMENT TO WIFE (RELATIONSHIP TO WIFE) verses 23, 24, 25

A. TO BE HEAD...(v. 23) TO BE OTHER ORIENTED

I Corinthians 7:4

“The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband; and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.”

EXPO...This word means – “Controlling authority” but control is exercised where two parts are complimentary to each other.

APPL...Spiritually we are equal in God’s eyes. In the family, God has a way of lining us up according to His will.

ILL... Lady of the House – Man of the House

APPL...What the husband cannot be – analogy not exact – (Christ is)...He is the Savior of the body.

IMPL...His authority is limited because of the higher authority of God.

T.S...How are you to be head _____ (Marks of Headship)

B. TO LOVE YOUR WIFE (v. 25)

EXPO...More than affection, romantic attachment or passion – it is the love which comprehends what God intends marriage to be.

APPL... Love that (protects), love that (provides), love that is willing to (sacrifice).

ILL... Move wives closer to the top of our priority list...You are the one that is to love: No one else can give your (wife this love – leave no doubts).

C. TO BE WORTHY OF HER LOVE (25-33)

**EXPO...We love our Lord *“Worthy is the Lamb...”*
*1 Thess. 5:24, “Faithful is He that calleth you, Who also will do it.”***

**III. COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN
(RELATIONSHIP TO CHILDREN v. 4 Chap. 6)**

**T.S... One of the greatest things you can do for your children is to love your wife...(Strength – Security – Share)
Self Image**

- A. To provoke not – Parental discipline must be – or the child will go astray**
- B. To train Spiritually**
- C. To provide physically**
- D. To be worthy**

CONCLUSION

- 1. Commitment to Christ**
- 2. Commitment to Wife**
- 3. Commitment to Children
(Priority)**