

Theme: Christians are called to serve God in their families by loving and respecting their spouse, raising their children to love God and His kingdom, and honoring their parents, all with a view to being a blessing to the wider world.

## I. Intro – Calling Inside the Home

- A. Many think of calling in terms of what I do for work
- B. Few would think of family as a calling
- C. But Biblically it is a critical part of calling

## II. Family Relationships As A Calling

- A. Family relationships linked to God & Scripture
  - 1. Wives & husbands - church and Christ (vv22-25)
  - 2. About Christ & Church, but family too (vv32-33)
  - 3. Children & parents, Lord (vv1,4)
  - 4. Scripture governs marriage (v31)
  - 5. Scripture governs parents and children (vv2-3)
- B. This means family relationships are a call
  - 1. They are not of my design but God's
  - 2. I will answer to God for how I handle them

## III. God's Call For Wives and Husbands

- A. Wives - submit to and respect their husbands
  - 1. Wives submit - consistent NT call
    - a. vv22-24; Col 3:18; 1 Pet 3:1
    - b. Unpopular but clearly biblical

- c. Unique call to wives - not husbands
  - 1. Wives told this 4 times; husbands never
  - 2. Similar language all 4x - standard Christian teaching
  - 3. Relationship between Christ & church is model
- 2. Understanding submission biblically
  - a. Only between a wife and her husband - not to all men
  - b. Submission is not blind obedience (obey is different word)
  - c. Not about one person being superior - headship role
  - d. It is an attitude/posture of respect - v33
  - e. Answers to a man's deepest needs as designed by God
- 3. This is God's unique call for wives
- B. Husbands - sacrificially love and serve your wives
  - 1. Husbands love and serve sacrificially
    - a. v25 - love, give up yourself
    - b. Not just emotion - sacrificial actions in view
    - c. Answers to a woman's deepest needs as designed by God
  - 2. The standard - Christ's sacrificial love (v25)
  - 3. The basis - one flesh union
    - a. v28 - love as our own body, loving ourself
    - b. v31 - one flesh union of marriage
    - c. United as one in marriage - how could we not love?
  - 4. This is God's unique call for husbands

#### **IV. God's Call for Parents and Children**

##### **A. Children - obey and honor your parents**

1. Obey your parents
  - a. It is important for children to obey their parents
  - b. This is training for children to obey God
  - c. Proverbs speaks of rebellious children - trouble!
2. Honor your parents
  - a. This is commanded in the Decalogue - big deal!
  - b. This is lifelong - we must always honor our parents
  - c. This can be tough for some - but do what we can
  - d. For most - honor, speak well of them - and tell them

##### **B. Parents - raise your children in the Lord (v4)**

1. Don't exasperate or anger children
  - a. They should know they are loved, valued
  - b. They must be treated fairly, justly, & respectfully
  - c. They must be treated consistently
  - d. They must be treated properly for their age
2. Bring up in training & instruction of the Lord
  - a. We must teach them how to walk with God
  - b. Includes Scripture, prayer, service
  - c. If you don't know how - you must learn!!!
  - d. We must shepherd their hearts to be tender to God

e. This is not optional - it is our call from God

#### **V. The Call To Serve Others**

##### **A. We serve one another in the family in our calling**

1. It is really not about me and my happiness
2. I have a sacred call to serve the others in my family
3. Most problems arise when we lose sight of this

##### **B. We serve the world via our family calling**

1. Ultimately our family call goes beyond our family
2. God wants our family to promote the common good
3. God wants our family to be a base for the kingdom

#### **VI. Applying the Word - Law and Gospel**

##### **A. We have heard the law - pray and apply this week**

##### **B. I now proclaim the Gospel of grace**

1. If you have failed - come to the Table of grace
2. If you have done well - come give thanks for grace

#### **Called To Family**

Ephesians 5:22-6:4  
November 18, 2012  
Communion  
Psalm 115:14-15

22 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. 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 his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, 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. 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” — which is the first commandment with a promise — 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” 4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.  
Ephesians 5:22–6:4

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.  
Colossians 3:18

Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives,  
1 Peter 3:1

Calling refers to the specific tasks and responsibilities given to us by God, through which God works to serve our neighbors and promote the common good, restraining the effects of the curse and bringing blessing to every realm of life and every corner of creation.