

The Grace Filled Life
“Instructions for Christian Households”
Ephesians 5:21-6:4
June 15, 2025

Sermon Points:

1. The Foundation: Gospel Transformation (Ephesians 5:21–33).

A. The Gospel Reshapes Our Hearts

- 1) Humbles us: We’re more broken than we think (Romans 5:8).
- 2) Lifts us: We’re more loved than we imagine (Ephesians 1:5).
- 3) Frees us: From selfishness (demanding our way) and neediness (craving approval).

B. Marriage as a Covenant, Not a Contract

- 1) God’s design: "Hold fast" (Genesis 2:24) like superglue—built on promise, not fleeting feelings.
- 2) Jesus’ example: Loved us first, even in our brokenness.
- 3) Practical response: Choose love before feelings follow (kindness, forgiveness, service).

C. Marriage as God’s Sanctifying Workshop

- 1) Reveals flaws: Marriage exposes one's own selfishness/pride (Proverbs 27:17).
- 2) Refines character: Clashes and sacrifices make us more like Christ.
- 3) Goal: A partnership reflecting Christ’s love

2. Practical Outworking: Submission and Love (Ephesians 5:22–6:4)

A. Wives: Submission as Active Trust

- 1) Not silence or weakness: Respectful engagement (e.g., "Rachel’s" story).
- 2) As to the Lord: Voluntary, honoring God’s design (Ephesians 5:22–24).
- 3) Practical steps:
 - Speak with grace.
 - Serve joyfully ("as to the Lord").
 - Clarify limits (no compromise of faith).

B. Husbands: Love as Sacrificial Leadership

- 1) Not control: Lay down your life for her holiness (Ephesians 5:25–27).
- 2) Practical steps:

- Study her heart (1 Peter 3:7).
- Lead her toward Jesus (prayer, spiritual growth).
- Cherish her uniquely (Proverbs 5:19).

C. Parenting: Grace-Filled Discipline (Ephesians 6:1–4)

- 1) Avoid extremes:
 - Over-discipline (harshness crushes) vs. Under-discipline (indulgence spoils).
- 2) Gospel-centered correction:
 - Explain, give fair consequences, restore with love.
- 3) Model repentance: Apologize when wrong (security in Christ frees us to admit failure).

3. Conclusion: Families That Reflect the Gospel

- 1) For all relationships: Singleness, marriage, parenting: all are arenas for gospel love.
- 2) Key challenge:
 - Heart check: Are you demanding perfection or resting in Christ's love?
 - Habit: Daily prayer, encouragement, and community (don't do family alone).
- 3) Hope: Your family is a living parable of Jesus' covenant love: flawed but being made new.

Personal Notes
