

HUSBANDS WHO ARE LIKE CHRIST

God challenges every husband to pattern their leadership after the leadership of Christ. Are you trying to learn?

Ephesians 5:25, 29, 33 teaches husbands to *love their wives just as Christ* does His people, His church, by nourishing and cherishing them. This may be a husband's most difficult assignment, requiring him to make decisions which are in his wife's best interest—not which merely make him or her momentarily happy.

This means he must nourish her—providing her every *need*. By coming to earth, Jesus denied His preferences, accepted new duties, and made decisions based on the Father's will (Matt. 26:39). Likewise, husbands must make decisions which may not please themselves but are best for their

wives. Considering her physical, emotional, and spiritual needs must factor into each decision he makes.

He also must cherish (value and protect) her. Jesus does this by telling us of His love for us, keeping His promises, and protecting us from Satan (Jn. 10:11-17). Do you do these things? Viewing pornography tells her that you value other women more than her, violates your wedding vows, and makes her vulnerable to Satan's attacks (temptation to hate or leave you).

Contact us with comments, questions, or to request a free CD of a sermon on this topic

Theme: God's Family Plan

- **Husbands Who Are Like Christ**
- **Wives Who Are Like the Church**
- **Parents Who Are Like God**
- **The Family of Christ**

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WIVES WHO ARE LIKE THE CHURCH

In Ephesians 5:24, God instructs wives to act toward their husbands “just as” the church does toward Christ. Consider two ways that should be true.

“...let the wife see that she respects her husband.” (Eph. 5:33) Do you respect your husband? He deserves respect because he is God's appointed leader, not because he is a perfect leader (yes, he knows he isn't perfect). Wives who “settle” disputes by calling their father, shouting, or pouting have not learned respect.

“Wives, submit to your own husbands” (Eph. 5:22). Many churches will not preach this anymore (does yours?). Scripture could hardly be more plain, but when ladies who claim to follow Jesus remove this from their vows and lives, the word of God can be blasphemed (Titus 2:5). This does not mean that the wife is inferior since we all submit to someone every day. When you pay taxes or meet a work deadline, you are submitting. God has entrusted the wife with duties significant enough to prove that this is no insult.

For further study, contact us and request a CD of a recent sermon by this same title.

PARENTS WHO ARE LIKE GOD

Since God has no wife, why does He identify Himself as and teach us to call Him “Father”?

God identifies Himself as “Father” because His care for us is similar to that of earthly parents for their children. Are you looking for advice on how to be a better parent? Learning more about God’s character and care for us will help you better understand how to care for your children.

Teach what is good Our little ones have no knowledge of good or evil (Deut. 1:39). Parents who are like God, teach them to know the difference (Deut. 30:15; Heb. 5:14). Parents who teach their children “good behavior” without including God as the author of what is good fail their children. Children must learn how to know what is good. Your idea alone is not enough and without God, you have no answer.

Give what is good Jesus made this exact point (Matt. 7:11). What is good to give? Physical needs (1 Tim. 5:8), words of praise and rebuke (Eph. 4:29), punishment (Prov. 23:13), limited amount of “wants” (1 Tim. 6:9), proper affection (Ti. 2:4)—all that nourishes their body, mind, and spirit.

In the end, what will matter most is whether we each obeyed our Father, Creator. He is waiting for you to return to Him (Luke 15:20-24). Contact us if we can help.

*“The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the just.”
(Proverbs 3:33)*

You are invited to:
Sunday AM
Bible classes: 10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship: 10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship: 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes & Worship: 7:00 PM

THE FAMILY OF CHRIST

Words of Truth And Reason this month has focused on various relationships and responsibilities related to the home. Hebrews 3:6 says Jesus is head of His home (house, family). Who is His family?

His family is made of every individual who learns and obeys the gospel, and thus accepts God’s offer to remove his sins by Jesus’ blood (Rom. 10:16; Eph. 1:7). This family began in Acts 2 when the gospel began to go into all the world (Mark 16:15). Those who gladly received this message became the family of Jesus, were taught God’s teachings by the apostles, and all practiced the same things (Acts 2:41-42). This was repeated as the gospel spread into all the world. God never gave different teachings or different practices to the family of Christ.

Re-read this article and everywhere you see the word “family” replace it with the word “church” (1 Tim. 3:15). Then apply that today. Was that family part Lutheran, part Methodist, part Catholic, and part Baptist? No, so why do men view the church that way today? Thursdays at 1:00PM (4104 Harrison St.), a small class has begun studying the common question “Where did all the churches come from?” Your presence and participation in these classes is welcomed.

Questions from this month’s articles:

1. When a husband looks at pornography, what message does that send to his wife?
2. Since the wife is just as intelligent as the husband, why should she submit to him?
3. What has God taught us, that we need to teach our children?
4. How does God identify His people in the New Testament?

* Mail your answers to church of Christ—Quail Valley 4104 East Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501 OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have any Bible question, call us (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**