

CHÉ AHN MINISTRIES

HEAVEN ON EARTH FAMILY HEAVEN ON EARTH (Part 4)

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FIVE-WEEK STUDY IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

INTRODUCTION:

1. Ephesians is a circular letter. It was written by Paul in prison around 55-56 AD.
2. In my opinion, the book of Ephesians and the book of Romans are the most significant letters that Paul wrote.
3. The theme of Ephesians can be summed up in one verse, **Ephesians 1:10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.**
4. The book of Ephesians can be divided into two major sections. **Chapter 1-3 is our Heavenly Wealth in Jesus and Chapter 4-6 is our Heavenly Walk in Christ.** Keep in mind we are talking about heaven on earth and not when we die and go to a place called heaven.

HEAVEN ON EARTH FAMILY

INTRO:

1. In the beginning, The Godhead dwelt together as a family unit. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is called The Helper (John 16:7). It is the same word to describe Eve in the Garden of Eden. **Genesis 2:18**
“**And the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a *helper* comparable to him.’”**
2. In the beginning God created man and woman. **Genesis 1:27** “**So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth...’”**
3. God wanted man, who was made in the image of God, to create family by having as many children as possible. To fill the earth. Why? The Garden represented heaven on earth and God’s will is that heaven would permeate the whole earth.

4. This is called the law of first principle. We have to understand, when God created the world, he first created the family.

5. That is why the Enemy, who hates God, wants to hurt God by hurting His family. That is why from the beginning of time, the family has been under assault. (Next week I am going to talk about spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6, ending the five part series on Ephesians.)

6. Jesus defeated the enemy 2,000 years ago, but has also given us His Biblical, timeless standard to help us to restore the family and marriage as it was intended from the beginning.

7. The text for today's message is from Ephesians 5:21 to Ephesians 6:4. My approach to this passage is that I believe in the literal translation of this passage. I know some commentators and some pastors will read today's culture and family situation to interpret this section of the Bible with those lenses. But I take the literal approach to this passage. But, saying that, one still has to properly exegete the passage. For example, we are going to come into two general principles: Wives be submitted to your husbands in everything (Ephesians 5:24), and children obey your parents. Do we obey our husbands or our parents when they are commanding us to do something unbiblical, illegal, or something that violates our conscience? No. The key for submission and obedience is the phrase "in the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1).

TEXT: Ephesians 5:21-33 "Submitting to one another in the fear of God. ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless

let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

Ephesians 6:1-4 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: ³ “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” ⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

I. A WORD ABOUT MUTUAL SUBMISSION

A. Ephesians 5:21 Submitting to one another in the fear of God.

1. I submit to my wife in areas of her strengths and giftedness. She is extremely discerning. She takes care of the finances better than I, so she is in charge of our checkbook, paying the bills and budgeting.

B. 1 Peter 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

1. My struggles with submitting to authority. I have learned that before I can lead, I need to know how to follow. Before I can be in authority, I must learn how to submit to authority.

C. 1 Peter 5:1-3 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: ² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock

1. We are talking about servant leadership.

2. A word about women in leadership within HIM. We have women Senior Pastors and women apostles. By God’s grace, our movement is the only movement that I know of (and of course there are other apostolic networks that I am not aware of) that has commissioned women apostles and prophets consistently over the years. But these women leaders are some of the most submissive people that I know. That is why God has raised them up. E.g. Cindy Jacobs, Patricia King, Stacey Campbell, etc.

II. HUSBANDS LOVE YOUR WIVES BY LAYING DOWN YOUR LIFE FOR HER

A. Ephesians 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her...”

B. Ephesians 5:1 “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

C. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself (Ephesians 5:28)

1. The example that Paul gives us, as the role model of a husband to his bride is Jesus himself. He loved us so much that He laid down His life to serve us, and as husbands He wants us to love like Jesus.

2. Story about a feminist who came to a service when the pastor was preaching on the role of the wife and husband in the church.

III. WIVES, SUBMIT TO YOUR OWN HUSBANDS

A. Ephesians 5:22 “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”

B. 1 Peter 3:1 “Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives...”

C. Ephesians 5:33 “...let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband.”

1. We will get biblical results as we honor and obey the biblical standard.

III. CHILDREN OBEY AND HONOR YOUR PARENTS

A. Ephesians 6:1-3 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: ³ “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

1. My parents are both in paradise, but I have tried to obey them even as an adult. As long as they are not asking me to do something that I feel is not biblical, ethical or a violation to my conscience.

CONCLUSION: The restoration of the family and heaven on earth marriage began when Jesus died on the cross. We can never be the kind of spouse or parent or child that God wants us to be without first giving our lives to the God who loves us and allowing His power to change us. It is by grace we are saved through faith! Give your heart to him now.

