

core commitment six:
FAMILY
ephesians 5:21-6:4



-- **Big Idea: Commitment to family is a critical component of commitment to Christ.**

- Core Commitment Six: We commit ourselves to family (1 Tim. 5:8).
- Gender roles in marriage are established upon the relationship between Christ and His church (v. 21-25).

1.) Wives image forth the CHURCH (v. 22-24).

- Wives are to submit to their husbands because they represent the church in the gospel.
- When wives live in faithful, respectful, and passionate submission to their husbands, the gospel comes alive in marriage.
- *Wives: If this church had the same attitude toward Christ that you have toward your husband, what kind of church would we be?*

2.) Husbands are an image of CHRIST (v. 25-30).

- Husbands are meant to lead and love our wives like Christ leads and loves His church.
- Husbands with the heart of Christ live to bless their wives.
- In building up their wives, godly husbands invariably bless themselves (v. 28-30).

- Godly husbands purposely live to love and lead their wives and children to the place of utmost joy, hope, and peace in Christ.
- *Husbands: Is Christ exalted and exemplified by the manner in which you love and lead your wife and family?*

3.) Marriage images forth the **GOSPEL** (v. 31-33).

- God, in eternity past, instituted human marriage to represent His Son's relationship to the church (Genesis 2:24, 2 Corinthians 11:2).
- There is no way to understand marriage, let alone make the most of it, apart from the relationship between Jesus Christ and the church.

4.) Parenthood images forth **DISCIPLESHIP** (v. 6:1-4).

- Children produced in marriage are an image of disciples made in the church.
- Just as obedient children submit to their father and honor their mother, true disciples submit to Christ and honor His church.
- Just as disciples grow in holiness and joy only through the instruction of God's Word, so also must our children grow in our homes.
- When we see the gospel vision of marriage, we see why a commitment to Christ requires commitment to family.

Summary

- The gospel is the key that unlocks the **MEANING** of family.
- Satan's assault on marriage is a surreptitious way to undermine the gospel and turn hearts away from our only way back to God.
- The great gospel by which we are saved is the very purpose of and operating principle for marriage and family.
- Every single moment of marriage is a moment to make much of our Savior and His great love for His church.

