

Carey Baptist Church 22nd of June 2025

Ephesians 5: 22 to 6: 4 - 'Family behaviours vs answer to prayers'

Thanks for the invite to share the Word of God in this lovely Lord's Day with you blessed people.

Firstly, let me also add my warm welcome to you all who are here in person and logged in online.

And then as a priority, I want to give Glory to God for these amazing children of God who are leading us in today's worship to God. Tamzin, Ruhama, Mizpah, Bhagya and Jemion. And to the music team, tech team and all who worked behind the scenes to make this service work well.

You heard the readings of the scripture and that was crystal clear. Was there anything that you did not understand? Yes, we did understand as they were written in plain language but what is the secret hidden in that passage of scripture where God reveals only to HIS children. Let's us have a look together as the Lord is going to reveal to all of us including me.

The Lord has named this talk as 'Family behaviours vs answer to prayers' where both are closely related. Did you know that? Let's have a look and since the children are leading the service, let's start with children.

Isn't it strange that God does not say much to the children. What does that say? I think they are alright! Children are just lovely and believes what God says unlike we adults who always need a reason to believe and want what we ask immediately.

Therefore, here is one of few verses addressing children. ***Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise. So that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.*** This is simple to understand but hard to practice. Sometimes we don't get this until we become a parent or an adult. We sometimes think our parent are 'old school' or may not get what they go through. I would urge the children to give their wise parents a chance even if you don't believe what they say.

So, what's the secret in here? First is that this is the first commandment with a promise. What's the promise of God? That is. it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth. Who would not want

this. Let alone parents, I will obey anyone if God promises this to me. What does it really mean? I personally think these are the prayers of children. The ask behind our Prayers is that it may go well with us and that we may enjoy long life on the earth. Isn't that true? So, children, if your Prayers are not answered or if you think they are not, then go back few verses and see if you are doing what God has asked you to do.

Before we conclude with children, I want to emphasise one more thing in this passage. Verse 4 says, "**Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord**". May be because of this verse, some mothers, not all, leave the disciplining of children to the male head. Have you heard when children misbehave, mothers saying to them "wait till dad comes home, you get from him" this brings kind of fear of the father. And the child keeps thinking and trembling what to expect when dad comes home when specially they've got few slaps from mom already.

Did you know that the Hebrew word used there was not 'Fathers' but 'Parents'. If you look at the word used in the book of Hebrews within the Faith chapter 11 verse 23, where it says, '*By faith Moses' **parents** hid him for three months after he was born*'. The same Hebrew word was used in Ephesians chapter six which is really not fathers.

So, you see, we have a much bigger role bringing up children. God is saying, DO NOT exasperate. Proverbs 22: 6 says to train children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it. Have we done our homework?

Let me tell you now, correct or discipline your children in PRIVATE, not in front of everyone BUT praise them in public, giving glory to God and you will never go wrong.

Now, who wants to go next? Husbands or wives? Since we say, Ladies first, let's look at what God says to the lovely ladies. "Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord" why does God says, OWN! Yes, we can submit to any husband, but the Lord wants you to submit to your own husband.

Does HE give any condition? No. So I leave it up to you. But you know what the beauty is? The Word of God says that you can win your husband to the Lord, without saying a word? If you look at 1 Peter

chapter 3 starts by saying “Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives”
You lovely God-fearing Ladies would know that this is so true because God cannot lie.

Ok, now let’s get on to our passage, what the Lord is telling us husbands to do. The Word of God says, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her” This is hard, isn’t it? But it should not be, because we are not doing it **but** the power of the Holy Spirit. Now, don’t you go and tell your wife that you could love her only because of the power of the holy spirit. That would make things worse. What I mean is that as per the Word of God, we should do everything in the Name of the Lord and acknowledge HIM in all things. For an example, each miracle performed in the Bible, God got the Glory. I may love my wife to bits and forgive for everything yet, it’s not I, but the Lord. HE the ultimate supremacy. You know the beauty in that is, that you won’t expect anything in return. Means, you won’t get disappointed. Just like the Ladies said to the Lord, I am submitting just because you asked me to do.

Gentlemen we don’t stop here as I am sure you must be thinking what’s the point! Here is one, may think it’s trivial but it’s true. You love her deeply attempting the love of Christ and she would not even look at anyone but will always look up to you and the Lord. But there is major secret in loving your wives, specially for the husbands who think it’s not worth. Specially for Praying husbands.

Do you feel your Prayers are unheard or not getting answered? Look at 1 Peter 3: 7 “Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.” You see now where the hindrance lies. It’s not that God is deaf, but we have hindered our own Prayers. Jesus Christ died and rose from the dead for you and me to be saved, let’s not that great sacrifice go in vain. God bless.