

The Centrality of Christ in the Family

by Keith Malcomson

This sermon emphasizes the importance of Christ being at the center of the family, highlighting the roles of husbands and wives in submission and love, the need for Christ-centered homes in a generation under attack, and the significance of embodying Christ-like qualities such as sacrificial love, respect, and submission in family relationships.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:22, Ephesians 6:1, Colossians 3:20, Genesis 2:18, Matthew 13:11, Malachi 2:14, 1 Peter 3:1, Proverbs 31:30

Topics: "Christ-Centered Families", "Sacrificial Love in Relationships"

Description

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Transcript

in Scripture. Will you turn here this morning to Ephesians chapter 5, Ephesians chapter 5 and we're going a bit further in this series on the centrality of Christ, the centrality of Christ. We are going to at the end of this message break bread together and you can come then and take the emblems but here this morning I want to preach from Ephesians chapter 5 on the centrality of Christ and then we're going to break bread together as a church.

Reading from Ephesians chapter 5 and my message here this morning, this is part 8 of our series and I want to preach to you on the centrality of Christ in the family. Last week we looked at the centrality of Christ in the church but here I want to sorry last week it was the centrality of Christ in the Christian life, the week before it was the centrality of Christ in the church but here I want to look at the centrality of Christ in the family. If ever we had to hear about a biblical home, a Christ-centered home, a home that's under the control of God it is now because I want to tell you never has the family, the home or the order of God been under such attack as in your day and in your generation.

Never has a young generation had such an attack upon it and you know when I see that, when I see the devil really making a bid for a generation I ask why, I really ask why, I go why is the devil so intent on destroying the very intricate fabric of this particular young generation? Why does he hate it so? Why is he so attacking it? Why is he leaving no room that either you're going to go to Christ or you're going to go to

hell? Why is it that it's becoming so intensive? Reading from Ephesians chapter 5 and from verse 21 here this morning, submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands as unto the Lord for the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church and he is the Savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ so let the wives be to their husbands in everything.

Husbands love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it for he that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word that he might present it to himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies he that loveth his wife loveth himself for no man ever yet heeded his own flesh but he nourisheth and cherisheth it even as the Lord the church for we are members of his body of his flesh and of his bones for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife and they too shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery but I speak concerning Christ and the church nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right honor thy father and thy mother which is the first commandment with promise that it may be well with thee and that thou mayest live long on the earth and ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Can we pray here together father and such an hour as this we do humble ourselves as the body of Christ as individual Christians as those seeking after you for salvation my God we submit ourself because we know that you're a God who loves us you're not just a God who demands the only commands you give us are those that are for our good to protect us like we heard this morning repent ye turn away our disaster lies ahead you're a God who commands us out of love you're a God who protects us who gives us instructions who warns us who shows us the dangers that lie ahead you're not a God you're not a tyrant you're not a God who abuses but you're a God out of bountiful love out of mercy out of your sacrifice and Calvary you go in search of a people and father I pray this morning that you'd show us oh God what a Christ centered family looks like that you'd burden our hearts that you'd give us a desire that our homes that our houses that our lives so God may be caught up in this that Christ would be the center of every single family in this church we pray for your grace because Lord the pressures are very great the flesh is against this the devil is against it the world the institutions of education nor God and even the legal system of our land are against this but we pray for grace that we in this hour might raise up a godly seed father if the parents of Moses could raise up godly children and an hour a dangerous hour and the evil hour a dark hour surely you can raise up children in this hour that are going to be utterly unique like Miriam Lord God like Aaron like Moses Lord God raise up life so God out of this hour then this generation in Jesus mighty name amen thank you Lord hallelujah I want to preach to you here on the centrality of Christ in the family that Christ ought to be the center of it the goal of the family if all you do is leave your Christianity in the church and don't bring it home you're gonna have real problems if you try to separate your Christianity and say that is for the church that is for ministry out there and you don't bring it into the home there are going to be very real problems I want to give you at least four and if I get carried away I might give you seven but I'll try and give you four points here this morning and my first point here in this scripture from Ephesians 5 is Christ revealed in the family do you know that the Bible teaches that God has a plan to reveal to manifest and to show Christ in the family this isn't something I'm just preaching this is the Bible this is a part of church life this is a part of the Christian life that Christ should be revealed or seen in your family look with me here in Ephesians chapter 5 and it says Paul we know has taught from verse 22 all the way through to verse 33 on the family he's talking about a husband a wife being joined in marriage and the

home that they raise up then over into chapter 6 he begins teaching about the children that come out of that family so notice here he's talking about husbands he's talking about wives he's talking about children he is talking about a family and right in the midst of this he says now hold on a second I am teaching I'm giving you real commands I'm giving you doctrine I'm giving you examples about the husband and the wife their attitudes their character how they treat one another how children are to treat their parents all of this I've done but don't miss and this is the most important thing Christ revealed in the family verse 32 reveals this that when you look at a family a husband a wife children that there's going to be something deeper God has a plan to reveal Christ in that family not just in the church not just in your individual life but in that family that gathers in a particular house and a particular address God wants to reveal Christ within that home within that family unit within that gathering of persons of the same bloodline look at verse 32 it says this is a great mystery but I speak concerning Christ and the church Paul has just been teaching about marriage the husband and wife and then he stops in verse 32 and he says this is a great mystery in other words when you look at a marriage a husband and wife when you actually look at flesh and blood and we know they're imperfect we know there's a lot of issues go on in families all of us that have come from families been a part of a family you know that there's real issues between brothers and sisters between children and their parents sometimes the parents are wrong a lot of the time children are not wrong almost all of the time all of us are wrong in some area so there's real problems but don't miss this that when you find God's order and God's commands being obeyed by a husband a wife or children in a family unit where you get people saying I want the order of God do you realize something is revealed there I'm not talking about a sinful home Christ isn't revealed there let someone abuse the commands of God reject Christ disobey the Word of God live a sinful life be selfish be proud be arrogant be disobedient do anything they want disobey the laws of the land let them do that and I assure you there's no Christ in that home there's no love as reflected in Christ there's no mercy there's no forgiveness there's no hope and I but I should I want to show you that as you see a husband and wife acting according to Christ it says in verse 32 this is a great mystery notice there is a mystery in a biblical home in a Christ centered home it is a mystery where you get a man and woman coming together and saying I want to obey God or I want to function as Christ in that home you know what happens this is a great mystery the word mystery is used 28 times in our New Testament it's saying here that when you look at the marriage bond there is a mystery what is the mystery of marriage the word mystery here is the Greek word *mysterion* it means something concealed something hidden something not known or that you don't easily or naturally see you need to be taught about this you could just think it's a marriage it's a home it's a family and you don't see anything else what a tragedy if Christians gathered in a home and we don't see Christ there you see you need your eyes open that when you see me love Candice if you don't see Christ in that you've missed something you see there's something hidden in my love towards Christ that most people won't say they'll go isn't that lovely isn't that quaint isn't that nice isn't Candice blessed no you've missed something here I'm talking about Christ being revealed in the family it is a great mystery this word mystery also means it doesn't mean just something that's hidden concealed and cannot be seen it also means that God reveals something to certain people in other words everyone cannot see this great mystery all people do not perceive it they do not understand it when they look at a Christian marriage some laugh at it others reject it some despise it and want to destroy it in our society today and believe me they do want to destroy Christian marriage now it's got into the government into legislation now it's becoming popular to attack the Christian marriage it's not just that they want to live their own life or do what they want to do you know what they hate the Christian marriage bond so we know that they do not see what is in a Christian marriage that it's lovely it's beautiful you see only those that God reveals it to can see a great mystery in a Christian marriage a mystery is something that means revealed it needs to be taught you need your heart

open to see it and that the purpose is not for it to remain hidden but that you'd say what is it that's a mystery about a Christian marriage where you find a real Christian marriage where you find real agape love real sacrificial love do you know what's behind that it's the person of Christ I promise you I would not love Candice the way I do if Christ was not in this home he is the mystery he is the secret he is the power that is not natural love I love her unconditionally I love her selfishly I love her in a sacrificial manner and you know what if you have eyes to see it in a Christ-centered family you are actually going to see in that home even in the attitude of the children towards the parents you know I can remember at six and seven and eight years old my thoughts towards my father there's once that he actually disciplined me and I wasn't guilty of that thing it's the only time I can remember him lifting a stick to me in all my childhood the one and only time and you know what at the time I was innocent of the thing he thought I was guilty of and I'm only a child I'm only a young boy I'm I can't even do my alphabet or my tables or anything else but I looked at my dad now when he's a good man he's an honorable man but he's got this wrong the facts aren't there I'm innocent but you know what I didn't resent that I actually understood that I didn't get angry or bitter at him I was a young boy and I go I know he loves me even though he's wrong in this I knew he was wrong I knew he was wrong and I used to lie in my bed at night and it went my family what wasn't perfect they loved the Lord Jesus Christ they weren't perfect I want to tell you but you know what I'd lie in my bed at night and I would cry tears eight years old nine years old and say Lord how is it that you loved me so that you'd give me such a father and such a perfect but I knew there's those being abused by their mother or abused by their father and here I was you know what as a child I could see there was something more in this I didn't just see people but I saw the hand of God it says this is a great minute mystery in verse 32 what is the mystery I speak concern in Christ and the church what is the hidden mystery of a Christian family or a Christ centered family what is this great mystery this thing that is hidden from the eyes of most that most in our world never discover they never know there's a secret to marriage they never realize there is a power there is a grace there's an influence that comes there is a way of operating that is beautiful that is lovely that is a blessing that will actually affect you for eternity he'll affect all of your children they're blind to it you know what the great mystery is when you see a Christian husband and a Christian wife Paul says I speak concern in Christ in the church I've just taught you what a husband and a wife ought to be I've just taught you about their attitude towards each other but you know what I'm not teaching about Christian marriage that's what he's saying in Ephesians 5 actually I'm not teaching about marriage I'm not teaching about the family or home there is something deeper here where you find this there is something far deeper what is it Christ and the church the mystery is there's a revealing of the relationship between the Lord Jesus Christ and the church if you find a husband functioning in a right way or a wife or children you actually look at that home you're gonna find Christ's relationship to the body of Christ to the church this word mystery Jesus uses it in fact 28 times it's used in our New Testament but Jesus uses it in Matthew 13 and verse 11 when he begins to teach his parables his stories he says the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven in other words all his parables were openly spoken their stories but hidden in those stories are spiritual truths that can save your soul their only stories you could say it's about scattering seed and being a farmer oh no this is about the salvation of your soul you could think that this teaching about a husband and wife it's all practicalities oh no it's something bigger this is about Christ and his church do you realize in the Christian family and home this is the first great point to have a Christ centered home Christ is revealed in the family the children can reveal the person of Christ the wife and the mother can reveal the person of Christ the father and the husband can reveal the person of Christ in other words there's a higher calling you think marriage is for you you think it's all about your satisfaction your needs being met your dirty socks being washed making sure a meal is on the table showing love and affection and cuddling together you think all of this is what marriage is about actually that's only the

surface they're all important all gotta be there but you know what there's a greater purpose in the family the deeper you fall in love with the Lord Jesus Christ the more you will love your wife the more you get sanctified and holy and walk with God the greater the blessing on your children is gonna be there is a great mystery hidden within this concerning the marriage bond it is a beautiful thing in Malachi it talks about the wife of that the about your wife being your companion the wife of thy covenant in other words marriage is a covenant relationship it's a binding agreement that you actually come into the entire Bible begins with a marriage and it ends with a marriage it begins with Adam and Eve God bringing Eve creating her out of the rib of his own side and bringing her to Adam do you realize in that story in Genesis 2 we have a picture of Christ getting his own bride you see where did Adam get his bride it was a work of God it was a sovereign work but he puts Adam to sleep opens up his side takes out a rib and from that rib creates a woman who becomes the first wife the first mother of all flesh do you realize that is a picture that first marriage not first wedding is a picture of Jesus Christ dying on the cross for the church do you realize when he was put to sleep he fell asleep he died on the cross his side was opened up the Bible says blood and water flowed and you realize of his blood and of his word that came forth out of him a bride was brought forth and you're a part of that bride you see where you get a real Christian family there's a revelation of God's plan of redemption God is seeking after a wife Jesus Christ is going to have a bride in this earth and in the Christian family we are to reveal something of that mystery God has a plan in the marriage it is to reflect God's love for sinners you know when sinners come into our home they ought to see Christ they ought to hear Christ it ought to be revealed through the persons in that family if you go into a Christ centered home you ought to hear the gospel there ought to be prayers there ought to be worship there ought to be a falling in love with Jesus you know I was in a preacher's home in America some years ago and I'd read about George Whitfield he traveled to America and when he was in America he stayed with Jonathan Edwards and he was just a young preacher and as he stayed in that home and he watched this old theologian who loved to read old dusty books and he had his little spectacles on and he would sit there in the evening and he had watched Sarah and Mrs. Edwards coming in and how they conducted themselves together they're an older couple and he said as he saw their relationship together the sweetness the love the respect the harmony the unity he said you know what I need to get myself a wife that's what he said he decided there that it is such a blessing when I go back to England when he went back he ended up marrying a Welsh widow and she became his wife he saw the beauty of it but you know what he saw Christ in it there was a revelation of the person of Christ you know some Christian households the bickering the fighting the gospel the competing and if you've got a sinner coming in there that say if this is Christ that this is a Christian home I don't want it God help us we do need something else the Bible doesn't only begin and finish with a wedding Christ's first miracle was performed at a wedding the Bible has a theme of biblical marriage or the home and you know what it's to reveal the person of Christ that's my first point Christ revealed in the home it is a great mystery God has a plan to raise up homes where you're gonna find Christ you'll find the gospel not on a church not on the high street but if you go to that home I assure you they'll lead you to the Lord Jesus Christ they'll say you can be born again round that dinner table they'll share with you testimonies of how they got born again second of all the family as a little church not only is the family to be a place where Christ is revealed but the family is to be a little church and Ephesians chapter 2 and verse 19 it says now therefore ye talking about born again believers you are no more strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the Saints and of the household of God do you remember when we dealt with the church here the centrality of Christ in the church and we looked at Ephesians we said that the church in Ephesians was a body it was a building and it was a bride the actual church when you look at it as a gather it's a body it's a building it's a bride but there's something else in the book of Ephesians it's called and Ephesians 2 19 the church the local church

is called the household of God again in Galatians 6 and 10 it's called the household of faith this word household in the Greek it means those that dwell in the same house that belong to the same family and that function together in the same place in other words it's on either blood relatives or people who have joined a family unit living in the same household they may not come from that family they may be adopted they may be a family friend or helper but you know what they are gathered in the same house they are that same unit do you realize though it's talking about a family or a home this word household used throughout the New Testament is used of the family unit you know when all the McNamara's get together it is something I want to assure you all in the place all at the same time you'll either have a revival or a riot when you get all these young cousins together it is beautiful it is wonderful to see all these cousins and they all get together and they're all having fun and they might fight along the way but all to be together in the same place I know they're one family I want to tell you no one else is like them they are a family unit all together dwelling together the Bible talks about the church being like a household in other words we're not only to be like a body and like a bride and like a building we the local church and how many times have I said that that we as a church LCC we are a family you know if someone comes in here and they don't have a family they're isolated they're alone they are going to find a family they'll find fathers in here they'll find mothers in here they'll find brothers in here they'll find sisters in here they're going to find a family unit of a warmth a unity oh there might be some robins along the way but I promise you there's going to be a family unit where we say you know through it all we may have problems along the way but through it all we stick together we stay together we go through together and I want to help you through your trials and troubles you see the church is a family or a household of faith that's what the Bible teaches but I want to turn that around and say not only is the church to be a family but the family your individual family or your household is a vital part of the local church listen the second point the family as a little church every Christian family if it is to be Christ centered should be a little church I don't mean it replaces the church I don't mean you stay at home and say we've had church with two people and we don't need a church I don't mean that I mean that the family as a part of the church all that we have here in the church it overflows into your home into your life Jonathan Edwards that great revivalist again listen to what he said every Christian family ought to be as it were a little church consecrated to God and wholly influenced and governed by his rules if you begin to think that your family ought to be a little church oh I know it's not everything but it ought to have all the marks of that church is their prayer is their preaching is their evangelism is their thanksgiving is their sacrifice is their love in the house of God all of this ought to be flowing over into your family into your home when we go to the scripture we see homes or families that became a great blessing we knew the apostle Paul was a single man he never got married he was never married and he both chose that for the sake of the gospel but you know what he found homes to go and dwell in we knew that Priscilla and Aquila sorry let me say that again Aquila and Priscilla were a couple who made tents Paul actually had a strong bond with them stayed with them and even later they started churches in their home twice over in the bible including the city of Rome the church in your home in other words that family unit become the beginning place of a church that God raised up a church do you remember that great preacher who was eloquent in the scripture that traveled the synagogues of that ancient world called Apollos he was a remarkable man he knew the bible inside out he had great power and eloquence when he stood to preach but you know what one of those sabbath days he went and preached in the synagogue and Aquila turned sorry Priscilla turned to Aquila and went we need to invite him for a meal I tell you husband we need to invite him back he's a wonderful man but there's some things he needs to do over dinner that day in the home there in the fellowship do you know what they began to teach him more clearly the things of the gospel in that home do you realize a mother at home a wife at home began to teach one of the great preachers of that generation and begin to show him the deep things

of the scripture Charles Spurgeon who began to preach the crowds of 1520 and 25,000 in his 20s one of the greatest preachers England ever produced do you know who affected him most his grandfather was a great preacher and affected him but that wasn't the theology do you know where he said he learned theology it was in the kitchen and it was the maid down there who used to make the breakfast and the dinner and the lunch and used to care for the home and the kids and he said he learned the truth about the new covenant from that lady he learned more from her than all the books of the Puritans he learned more from her than his grandfather who was a theologian that little lady he said she understood law and grace she understood the covenant made in blood through the Lord Jesus Christ do you see the power of a family as a little church when that church there's prayer there there's evangelism there the word of God is there saints don't keep it all here in the church let it break in on your homes let take your church home you know people bring their children to church and go I hope the preacher gets my child saved and puts my family in order you've got it back to front you are to come here to receive from God to take this back into your home you're going to say what we're hearing there I want it to function in my home I want this love this faith this preaching this ministry the home is to be a little church and you know that all the gifted ministries are to be raised up not just in the church but in the home the apostle Paul and Timothy and Titus twice over he says that a man is not qualified to be an elder or to lead in the church unless he has his home in order unless his relationship with his wife and his children and his children are set in order and if he has that in order then he can come preach to you but why would I want someone to preach to you if they don't have their home in order you see the family is to be a little church this is where you practice this is where you serve God if you can't love in your family there's no point coming in on a Sunday and smiling at us all and shaking hands saying God bless you brother and then you go home and you're a grumpy so-and-so and you're miserable to live with and there's no revealing of Christ and then Sunday again oh God bless you all don't we love the Lord and then you go home there's nothing there do you realize how many children have been destroyed by that they've been destroyed because Christ was not real in their home the Philip the evangelist rose up a home he was a traveling evangelist he got lifted up by the Lord and carried off to evangelize he was a man who saw cities change he evangelized multitudes he was empowered to do miracles but you know the greatest thing about Philip the evangelist is a few years later and he's not called an evangelist until then oh he's doing the work of ministry but he's never called an evangelist until he has daughters raised up in that home now he's married now he's settled with the home in Caesarea and you know what out of that home come four daughters who are virgins who prophesy they operate in the gifted ministry of prophecy they're prophesying it's one of the nine guests and they're virgins they've kept themselves do you see that out of that home men of God could go and stay there you know the apostle Peter stayed there in that home and I can just imagine the Bible it's noted down you go to that home you look at those girls and you go boy these are some girls I if I had a son I'd want him to marry one of these girls in this home they're virgins they've kept themselves on an evil hour they're gifted they're ladies but they're operating in the ministry of the Holy Spirit you see the family ought to be a little church it ought to be a place that's safe that's protected there's someone in this church I'm not going to give you all the details but listen carefully there's a family in this church and their daughter going to a school and that daughter is being taught and this is in the past taught Irish at school it's meant to be a semi-Christian school and the headmistress ought is meant to be some sort of born-again Christian or some kind of Christian and it's got a good reputation and it's very protected and very moral in many of its ways you would think that's a safe place to have your kid wouldn't you you'd go these are good people and it's got a good history and I went to the school and I can send our children to the school but you know what happened one day she brought back a book from school called the boy in a dress the boy in a dress but you know what it was the Gaelic or the Irish language book not the English book so it's written in the Irish

language they translated this book lots of books aren't in Irish language but this book is and it's in the schools the primary schools written by a man David Wallams who's written for those of eight to twelve years old and it was to present a healthy and acceptable hobby of dressing in a girl's dress for a little boy in this story this little booklet it talks about the little boy or the little girl whichever way it is going to their friend's house and their friend getting the boy to dress in a dress and saying don't tell your parents let's not tell your parents this is a primary school book going in amongst children under the guise of the Irish language in a so-called Christian environment do you hear what I'm telling you this is your generation it's happening in this area this is what's going on now you see if they weren't ashamed of us why are they doing it under the guise of the Irish language why are they doing it with these young children never have we lived in such an evil hour all this transhuman and not transhumanism but all this transsexualism boys dressing as girls changing your agenda in Scotland they say as young as four years old now you can choose what you are do you know what that is that isn't only crazy and foolish it is deeply wicked deeply wicked ten years ago if I would have told people this would happen they said not a chance ten years ago if I'd said this they would have said no way but you know what they don't realise is our society is changing this isn't just sin there's always been homosexuality there's always been fornication there's always been all manners of sin that's always been there but now it's changing this is far far beyond that you know what I'm telling you the family is to be a little church you need a set of fire in your homes you cannot keep Christianity to the church it's got to be in your home you you grandmothers you ought to be a testimony what a calling to be a grandmother in this hour to pray to witness to stand to bring a protection into that family home Lydia in the new testament she brought Paul the apostle into her home you brought the gospel to Philippi you're preaching on the streets you've been thrown in prison as soon as he got out of prison his back is bleeding you're coming to my house in fact it said she compelled him you are coming to my house you know why I want a man of God there my grandparents had a little room at the back of the house they called it the prophet's room and you know what any preacher that passed through that church they said that's a prophet's room it's for traveling preachers for missionaries on furlough for people in ministry who come through they're going to stay in that prophet's room that's what it was always called as a young boy growing up I always went that is the prophet's room third of all a Christ-centered man not only it's Christ to be revealed in the family not only is the family to be a little church in the earth but let me here give you two examples before I close a Christ-centered man and a Christ-centered woman I'm talking about the family see there's those of you who are single and I'm not discounting you in this I'm talking about everyone a Christ-centered man is a single man as well as a married man both in the family unit you see I wasn't married to 34 I got around an awful awful lot I will assure you I had a function as a teenager up through my 20s as a single man and I assure you my life was to be a Christ-centered Christian life wherever I went I always found a home I can remember in Scotland and Perth I would go up to the prayer meeting early in the morning and church as we gathered I'd go up to the prayer room and when I came down I would put my hand in my jacket pocket it was filled with sweets and I'd go I'm in my 20s and I'd go where did they come from and in the following week I'd leave I didn't deliberately leave my jacket there honestly and I'd leave my jacket there and I'd come down for from from prayer and I'd reach in and there's a whole pile of sweets in my pocket I'd look around and go who is doing this do you know there was an older white-haired couple in that church and they began they never preached they weren't in ministry he functioned in a normal job and you know what they adopted me in that church they actually said would you come back and stay with us for the weekend see I had no home of my own but they adopted me and brought me in and they took me to their house and they said see that room there that's Keith's room and you can stay here any weekend anytime you're coming through that's your if you ever need a way from ministry and from preaching and evangelism and the rest of the team and you come here and you'll come

and dine here and that's your little house and you know that man I felt like a little kid again as I put my hands in the pocket and there's all those sweeties do you know what that is that's people who understand what I'm talking about this Christ-centeredness of revealing Christ you may say you don't have much to give but one of our great marks is hospitality make your home a place for someone else maybe a sinner maybe a saint but third of all a Christ-centered man I'm not just talking about married men here I'm talking about maybe in a family unit you are a son or maybe you are a husband or maybe you are a father a Christ-centered man in the church ought to carry out into every realm of the home every home he's in he can be a Christ-centered man maybe he's a son make sure you're a Christ-centered son or a Christ-centered husband or a Christ-centered father and this hour in generation do you know what men are on that high street and we've seen it in limerick they're abusive of women they're neglectful they're adulterous the city of limerick they can't even be faithful to one woman and I'm telling you that is not love don't talk about love when a man cannot be faithful to you and committed to you I'm talking about what is normal in our culture 99 they are unfaithful they are drunkards they are liars they are authoritarian they're wimps they're weak they are followers rather than leaders they are yes men compromising you know what all of that is that is the utter opposite of what I'm saying here my third point a Christ-centered man give me a Christ-centered man you know a real man that's in Christ I mean in Christ and Christ is in him he looks like something he is not weak-willed he is not a wimp he is not following everyone else he is standing taking the lead and I believe again in the church we need Christ-centered men in this church and I want you to be Christ-centered men in your homes because if you're Christ-centered men in your homes you're gonna bring it into the church I don't want a Sunday morning Christianity it's no good for anyone I want men who are Christ-centered if you're single and you're in the home then grow up being a young man godly godly walking in Christ-centeredness here in Ephesians chapter five listen to what it says about a Christ-centered man I'm concentrating on the husband but listen I mean far more than that this is the mark of a real man in Christ verse 23 for the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church and he is the savior of the body here it is saying for this reason for the husband or for this very reason do you realize that the husband in a home in a family is to be the head this is biblical teaching this is the truth in Christ it's not an option it doesn't even matter if the wife is saved and the husband is not it doesn't mean the wife is the head because he isn't saved in fact Peter teaches the opposite he said you wife said you are saved and your husband isn't he's still the head and this is what the church gets so wrong it doesn't see the order of God and yet our generation they're so against this principle what is a real Christ-centered man he's going to be the head of that home it's non-negotiable it's not even a discussion point he is going to know the plan of God for him God's will for him is to be the head I don't mean he's to gain the head I don't mean he's to win it or to earn it or to fight for it you see if I am something I won't fight you about it I'll just smile you disagree and say you're a liar I'll just smile at you and say lies don't slip out of this mouth I want to tell you I tell the truth I speak the truth if you call me a liar why would I waste my time arguing with you if you are the head of a home if you are the man of the home and the bible says you're the head why would I try to fight my way into that position I don't grow into it I don't try to gain it I don't try to earn it you know what I am the head of that home if a woman takes up this role as the head of the home she has stolen it from the man and from God and she's in disobedience you couldn't be a Christ-centered woman who rejects this you may wrestle with it you may need sanctified in that area you may need to work through all the issues involved but you know what as a Christ-centered man you are going to be the head of the home what does that mean it means leadership if anyone's going to suffer you're going to suffer you know I don't have much respect for a man if someone broke into the house at night or you hear something at the back door or some man with a hood comes up the front door and you say go on you answer that door I have very little respect for that man you know what a real man and I'm not even talking about a

Christ-centered man I mean a real man you know what really disappoints me is how few real men we have and how few real women we have in this hour you see a real man will run towards trouble he will be the first on the scene he will protect a wife God help the guy whoever breaks into our house and who I think is going to harm my wife God help the man on the high street who I hope you're never there if a man lifts his hand to my wife I hope you're never there because you'll see a certain attribute of Keith Malcolmson that I hope is well hidden and only comes out in emergency you see I'm talking about a real man is marked by leadership by provision by protection if anyone's going to get hurt I will get hurt that is headship that's what it means to be head of the home I'm going to lead I'm going to go where it's going to be scary at times I'm going to carry the financial provision I'm going to care for this home wife don't you worry I'm going to carry the burdens I'm going to wrestle with fears I'm going to try and find the answers since it shouldn't be a wife at home that's worrying about those things if you're a Christ-centered man you want to carry the burden you want to lead the way you want to be an example don't start telling your wife or the ladies in this church what they ought to be you men are you Christ-centered men in this church you see I'm not talking about the women here the first priority is you are to be the head you ought to be carriers of responsibility you ought to be leading the way in prayer and evangelism in the will of God are you men in this church example of what the ladies are to become you say I'm putting the emphasis on you because the bible does an attack on the headship of the man in the home is an attack on the headship of Christ in the church there are many in the church today they say I don't believe that we're all equal and we are oh in Christ the grace of God makes us equal we are but it doesn't remove the order of the church it doesn't remove order in the family you know those who reject the headship of men in the family and home they are attacking the headship of Christ how can Christ be revealed in the home as the head if we destroy that in the home if the wife becomes the head she becomes the main provider she leads she takes all the risks she carries all the burdens isn't there a denial of the headship of Christ in that home aren't we losing a Christ-centered home there's something beautiful about a man being the head the husband is the head he receives information from the body you know a head that doesn't listen to the body's a sick head do you hear that a head that doesn't listen that body goes there's something wrong you know anytime I get a wee funny knee or a funny knee elbow joint and I go you know what I'm not going to use that arm for a wee bit and I'm just rest put your leg up don't don't go for a long walk don't do lots of chin-ups or anything else just rest that part of the body that's the head considering the body you know as a pastor as a preacher if I see you cannot manage something I want to ease things off I don't want to put burdens on you that you cannot carry and a husband does the same a husband who does not listen to the functioning of that home who allows stresses who makes demands who gets frustrated and yet doesn't take into consideration the problems he's not functioning as the head he also makes decisions he needs wisdom the head must decide and he gives direction and every hurt every need every pressure every idea he gives direction he carries a responsibility but listen to be the head you need to be a submitted man I'm talking about a Christ-centered man we've got a lot of people in the church say I'm focused on Christ because I talk about him and I pray about him and I talk about a Christ-centered life are you the head are you carrying burdens but listen are you submitted are you submitted as a man to the authority of Jesus Christ how can you be Christ-centered if you're not submitted to God what do I mean submitted a man under the authority of God if you're not under authority why would you think your wife should be or your children remember if you reject the authority of man in the home then the kids have the right to reject the authority of the wife it says in Ephesians 6 and 1 children obey your parents in the Lord this is children having Christ-centered obedience it's not natural obedience it's not worldly obedience children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right in other words even a child can learn in Christ if I follow my own selfish pride and arrogance I won't listen my parents but in Christ because of Christ through Christ I do want to actually obey I want to

follow authority has to be in the home if you do not practice submission why should anyone submit to you why why would your children listen to you if you can't listen to your husband if you can't listen to your husband the children would have every right to rebel against your authority and in fact I believe many husbands don't submit to God therefore their wives reject their authority if you're not submitted to God don't be surprised there's a rebellion in your home wives if you cannot practice authority and submission no wonder if your children do not listen to you exhorting children obey it means to hear under to be in a place under submitted to your parents where you can listen to them in the Lord as unto Christ that's where you're to do it it says in Colossians 3 and 20 children obey your parents in all things for this is well pleasing in the Lord you see the husband is to be a man if he's to be Christ centered he is the head of that home but also the great mark of his life is love you cannot be Christ centered as a man either as a son a husband or as a father without the mark of love love is the great duty of the husband towards his wife without authority or headship he cannot love as he ought to if a wife does not give the husband his God-given position his birthright of authority why would you expect that he ought to love you why demand of a man you ought to love me when you don't give him his rightful position you see authority and love flow together if you don't acknowledge authority then love is affected by that if you acknowledge the authority I promise you there is love that flows out of that in verse 25 it's a command of husbands love your wives love your wives notice the wives aren't told to love the husbands they are to love their husbands but you know what a husband doesn't demand a need as an essential that you love him but you know what a wife absolutely needs love the word love here is agapio it is God's love it is Christ centered love it's not natural love the only place you get the word agapio used that isn't in reference to God it's about the darkness in John chapter 3 and it's demonic it is so dark they love darkness rather than light and you know what that isn't a natural darkness when you see the darkness in our world at the minute that is not the love of darkness at this time is not natural it is demonic it is supernatural it is spiritual how men are loving darkness at this time but you know everywhere else in the new testament where you get the word agapio it is a love that isn't natural it's not human men you cannot love out of your own self if you think I've come to the end of love I'm impatient I'm harsh all of that we do have our limits if we rely on ourself we will come to the end of love we will not have love but you know what I'm talking about Christ centered love a love that comes from the heart of Christ we are to love dearly in a way that it pleases God and it's connected to God and has its source in God the word love appears here six times concerning the man love love is mentioned six times as the dominant mark of a real man you think a real man is the man who takes control abuses commands who doesn't listen that's not a real man the mark of a real man is this love we preached 12 messages on the family in the home about three or four years ago and I went through this and I showed how this love is sacrificial love it is selfish love it is sanctifying love it is sensible love it is sustaining love it is separated love and it is super abundant love the love of a Christ centered man is remarkable and I assure you if a man loves like this he shouldn't be shocked if his wife says I would desire to yield I want to submit I want to follow I want to listen the demand is not where you demand of a woman what she is to be to be Christ centered the man ought to take the lead and say if she never respects me never listens me never follows me never gives my me my position you know what I am going to love her in Ephesians chapter 5 the example given is Christ's love a Calvary it's a Christ centered man is one who imitates the love shown at Calvary he died for sinners those who rejected him and despised him but fourth and lastly a Christ centered woman what is a Christ centered woman I'll tell you what she's not I'll tell you what she's not see in this world in this hour do you know what a woman is on that high street in Limerick do you know what she's like she's a gossip she's a slander she's a leader she's butch she's immoral she's independent she's intemperate she's a manipulator in society in school in the workplace in politics in home in the church it's a sad thing that we have this invade in the church and now we have women in the church

they're not Christ centered anymore they don't obey the scripture they don't imitate the person of Christ you know a man is to imitate Christ in the home he is the great example of Christ down on the cross why would your children believe a Christ who died on the cross that you tell them about when you don't embody that when that love doesn't affect you when they don't see that sacrifice in the home they're going to doubt Calvary's love but also with a mother there's nothing more precious than a real Christian woman in this hour where are the real Christian women who embody and manifest the life of the Lord Jesus Christ you see you ladies are given in the church and home to embody what it is to respect the Lord Jesus Christ your life your attitude your words your actions your decisions you are going to embody what it looks like when a person submits to Christ who acknowledges God-given authority you see I'm talking about a daughter a wife a mother even if you're widowed divorced or single I'm talking about a Christ-centered woman I don't care if you're single here this morning you're to embody this truth of godly submission and of respect to Christ you ought to be marked by that in such a way that us men are convicted and saying that's what our heart should be towards the Lord Jesus Christ what you embody I wanted to imitate in a very real way notice that men and women when we go back to Genesis they are made at different times they are made in different ways they are made differently I know there's a shock to you this morning but just bear with me they're made with a different purpose from the very creation they were distinct do you realize before sin entered the world man was the head woman was made as a help this isn't a result of sin or the fall grace does not change the order of God men and women were both made with complementary roles towards each other they have similarity they have unity they have compatibility yet variety differences of roles and differences of function both have what the other does not have but the other needs remember the famous quote we've often said it in math from Matthew Henry listen to what he said the woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam not out of his head to rule over him not out of his feet to be trampled on by him but out of his side to be equal with him under his arm to be protected and near his heart to be beloved that's what Matthew Henry said 500 years ago wives what are you to be like according to Ephesians chapter 5 it says in verse 22 through to 24 about submission you are to submit to your husband as the church is to submit to Christ if you can imitate our as the church our submission to Christ that is your example whether you like it whether you don't like it whether it's easy whether it's hard you have one example the church submitted to Christ if you're convinced in your heart that the church should not submit to Christ should not come under his authority then cast away this truth but when you look at the church in Christ and you see submission this thing called submission then your heart should desire to embody this you are given as an example of the bride of Christ you are to embody certain attributes the word submit means to be subordinate to to obey to be under yield under one at one's advice or admonition it's a military term that you use in the army you know as an army for five years and the bible says this about submission everyone is submitted here everyone ought to be do you know i'm submitted to this church do you know i'm submitted to every person in this body it says here in Ephesians 5 21 submit all of you to each other in the fear of God we're all submitted you see no one escapes from this i am a submitted man i'm not only submitted to God i am submitted in all things in this realm of the church and even in the home i listen to my wife i have to make a decision is that why i want it to be painted pink let's look for some wisdom here i want this enormous picture on the wall let's have some wisdom here but since we need to have a hard attitude of submission all of us are submitted it says in verse 21 submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God you can only submit if you're in the fear of God we're told about husbands and wives submission and authority we're told about Christ and the church submission and authority in chapter 6 parents and children submission and authority then in chapter 6 masters and servants all of this is revealed even in the Bible it talks about the maids in home and their attitude towards the boss or the master do you remember in Naaman's home he was a Syrian general he invaded Israel he

took captives prisoners slaves one of those young slaves was a young girl taken away from her family taken away from her home who could possibly understand that why would God allow this to happen to her she's carried north into Syria into a foreign land with a foreign language and now she's a servant she's not in her own home anymore she's carried as a slave and there she is she becomes the maid or the servant of Naaman's wife she's brought in and said you're gonna serve her there's no promise of getting free there's no six-year service and then you go be your own person as far as she knows she's in a position you know that little girl embodied submission to authority I believe she was a godly girl because you know what she knew what a prophet of God was she believed God could heal leprosy she believed that God would have mercy on a sinner and when her master got leprosy and he was going to die from it that wee girl went to her mistress and say you know I know a man of God a prophet in Israel do you know what you're looking at a little young slave girl who submitted she's single she's not married she's not a mother she's only a young girl she's alone she's isolated from the house of God and her own family and her own land and her own language and you know what she's embodying faith in God she was a submitted girl every one of you has an important part to play do you realize if she wasn't a submitted to authority she wouldn't have cared about that man but she did care she wouldn't have had faith for his healing but she did she could have said God curse you but she didn't say that she could say they're abusing me she didn't say that she could have had a bargain and said if you let me go I can give you an answer she didn't do that you know what she says I know a man that can help you you see when we understood submission and authority the power of God comes but wives are not only to submit you know wives in submission is the will of God and the plan of God and the power of God and the purpose of God outworked but also there's respect let me finish on this respect in verse 33 says nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself and the wife see that she reverence her husband a Christ-centered husband loves his wife without selfish ambition even if she does not live up to he loves her and sacrifices for her what does the wife look like she reverences her husband the word reverence means to honor respect in fact it has a word of being in awe of not in bondage it's talking about a warmth of respect and of reverence you know what a man needs he needs respect you may not like him you may not like how he acts but he does need respect just like a man is to give love even if his wife does not live up to it a husband ought to be given respect you say well he's not worthy of it what's that got to do with it you're commanded to respect your husband in fact if you want to be a Christ-centered wife you are commanded give respect where respect is due don't withhold it we see this attitude even in Mary the mother of Jesus some of you grandmothers need to be cautioned you've raised your children either good or bad you've had your day of raising children now you get to look after your grandchildren do you reverence the authority of your sons do you respect the authority of a home you see there's been problem over the years where grandparents have fiddled in families speaking sticking their nose in manipulating that's a very dangerous thing to do it's a very dangerous thing you know grandmothers even Christian ones can take a place of authority they should never touch Mary who is the mother of Jesus has been given a position at Cana of Galilee of organizing the wedding she's responsible for the wine of all the preparations of organizing Jesus and the disciples arrive late in the day she's got everything organized but the wine has gone there's nothing more to drink she turns to Jesus and said Jesus there's no more wine you know what he says woman what have I got to do with you he's 30 years old Ian do you understand what I'm saying here this morning here's Jesus walking into the wedding and Mary's saying Jesus you need to do something about this what does he say mom I'm 30 years old woman what have I got to do with you you know what I believe it was for an hour here is Jesus a single man that is his mother but there's an hour and a time where Mary's got to begin to realize there's a changing of everything here I believe there's a radical change here you know what she says whatsoever he tells you to do you make sure you do it she's

responsible at that wedding the servants are listening to her you know what she says you servants listen to him she begins to acknowledge another authority to give respect where it's due you know a wife ought to respect her husband mothers as your sons grow up and get married you need to respect a different authority everything's changed that's not the son that you reared and brought into this world there is an absolute another authority a family you cannot override that you see I'm saying this because I've seen mothers who and I've seen it with my own eyes godly mothers but they're not being Christ-centered do you know what to do the father in that home he says don't give them sweeties leave them alone do you know what the mommy says and she's so filled with love oh no sure sure just give them sure just let them sure let them do whatever you know what that is that is not Christ-centered respect that is actually since I'm telling you that a Christ-centered family and home operates in a certain way it is certain attributes anyone could say they're centered on Christ Christ is the center of my life he is my goal well then bring it into your home bring it into your relationships bring it into your marriage bring it into your life I do not only want a Christ-centered life and a Christ-centered church but I want a Christ-centered family I want families making up this church where Christ is the center of all things will you stand with me morning hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah praise you oh god as we come to break bread together we're going to close break bread remember the death of the lord Jesus Christ since as a family we are the church we are a family meeting together listen to what it says about the husband and the wife being an example it says there that the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church and he is the savior of the body therefore as the church is submitted or subject unto Christ let the wives be of their own husbands and everything husbands love your wives even as Christ also loved the church as we break bread we are a family we are a family this church is an actual family we are to embody that and reflect the reverence the love the respect the submission the authority all of this is to be in the local body a way of operating on order and all those things loving each other caring for weaknesses taking the lead the responsibility do you know who's the head over this family if this church is a family a home a house do you know who has authority do you know who carries that ultimate authority it's the lord Jesus Christ he loves this church as a family he is the husband man he is the head he is ruler over it he is in absolute control he is the one that's to provide for this church he is to love you to the point of death and he did that he is to sacrifice for you he is the one that provides all of your needs but you know what he's looking for submission that we would submit to his authority that we would give him reverence as we break bread since he is has done it he loved you with a perfect love but as we break bread here as the family of God do you know what your duty is to the Lord Jesus Christ is to reverence him give him that place of ultimate respect to acknowledge him to submission to him are you submitted here this morning as the body of Christ he's the head of this home are we submitted because I promise you if we're submitted to him there's going to come divine miracles in the midst of us if you haven't come and taken already please come and we're going to take of the bread and the wine together at home as well make sure

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