

Ephesians 5:21-6:4 – Part 2

The Role of the Wife and Mother in the Sphere of the Family

Introduction

- What dictates what is right concerning the structure of the roles of men and women in marriage?
 - Is it the culture?
 - Is it fear of how someone might take advantage of others?
 - Is it your heart and how you feel about the roles?
 - Is it the “thus saith the Lord” authority of Scripture?

Proverbs 21:9

Proverbs 21:19

Proverbs 25:24

- Undisciplined and contentious wives produce an unpleasant and undesirable environment
- Wives need Biblical guidance and divine enablement

Understanding the wife's responsibility to be submissive to her husband (5:21-24)

²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

- “submitting” – ὑποτάσσω (hypotassō): vb.; 1. obey, be obedient; 2. bring under control, put in subjection
- hypotassō is a military term
- A wife's submission is about God-defined structure and order, not about her essence and worth
- Submission is a matter of the will – the wife must choose to be submissive to authority in obedience to her Lord and Savior
- If a woman is not submissive (like to her father or others in authority), no man can change her, and unmarried men should avoid such a woman

Understanding the wife's responsibility to be submissive to her husband (5:21-24)

- If a woman does not have the quality of being submissive to the authorities in her life, she's not filled with the Spirit of God
 - Ephesians 5:15-21
 - What is the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - A worshipful musical connection with the Lord and others in the church
 - A consistently thankful heart for all that God is doing
 - Being submissive to the authorities in your life (wives to husbands, children to parents, bondservants to masters)
 - A woman who is not submissive to her parents is not filled with the Spirit and is not obedient

What are some of the other occurrences of the responsibility of a wife being submissive to her husband and his Christ-centered mission?

Colossians 3:18

- It is fitting in the Lord because this is what the Lord requires and enables
- You don't submit to a tyrant but to a husband who is going hard after God and the mission to ***make known the glory of God in all of life for the delight and satisfaction of all peoples***

1 Peter 3:1–6

- Peter presents the challenge of submission because a husband is not obedient
 - The husband's disobedience is not okay
 - If the wife wants her husband to be awakened to the truth, she needs to approach her husband with respectful and pure conduct
 - She implores her husband by speaking the truth in love, not with resentment and bitterness
 - Her husband is an image-bearer of God, and she needs to respect his God-given dignity
 - There is no need to fear when a wife trusts the power and presence of the Lord
 - Out of concern for your husband and Biblical oneness in marriage, if he continues in sin, you can seek the counsel and support of the elders of your church
- The wife can have respectful and pure conduct because the Biblical oneness and marital unity she seeks in marriage is a desire that honors the Lord

What are some of the other occurrences of the responsibility of a wife being submissive to her husband and his Christ-centered mission?

Ephesians 5:33 *However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

- God wants husbands to love their wives - Husband, you love your wife because you choose to love her, and empowered by gospel grace you are faithful, covenant-keeping, and steadfast in your love for her
- God wants wives to respect their husbands – Wife, you respect your husband because you choose to respect him, and empowered by gospel grace you are faithful, covenant-keeping, and steadfast in your respect for him

1 Corinthians 11:3, 7-12

- Women are not expendable but essential to accomplishing God's purpose in the role that God assigned to them
- The role God assigns a wife is to submit to and support her husband, not feed the two-headed beast

Titus 2:3–5

- A wife's priority must be the home (not her education, not her career, not her ministry)
- Her heart is focused on the household God entrusted to her care
- A wife is to learn to invest heavily in Biblical oneness

We must fight Satan's tactics

- The world the flesh and the devil are constantly attempting to invert the structure God established in His world
 1. God is to be honored as the Creator and sustainer of all things who is righteous and supreme over all
 2. God created the man, Adam, and put him in the garden to work and keep it
 3. God created the woman, Eve, as a helper fit for him
 4. God commissioned them to be fruitful and multiply and to take dominion over everything

We must fight Satan's tactics

- Turning the world on its head was the enemy's goal from the beginning

Genesis 3:1-19

- The creature deceives the woman (verses 1-5)
 - Satan deceives the woman into thinking God is holding out on her
 - The woman believes she knows better than God
 - Eve's desire to be in control is rooted in her false perception of competence
- Adam follows his wife rather than standing for the truth of God as a protector (verse 6)
 - Eve saw, desired, and took
 - Adam knowingly defies God and aligns with his wife
- Sin surfaces with self-righteous avoidance (verses 7-11)
 - Adam and Eve received insight they weren't ready to handle
 - God knew what they did, but He wants them to own it
- Failing to take responsibility by passing the buck (verses 12-19)
 - Passing the buck by blaming someone else goes back to our first parents
 - The curse God puts on women is the desire to take control
 - The desire to control that comes from a false perception of competence, is something every woman and wife battles
- Satan is still attempting to invert the structure of God's design

1 Timothy 2:11-15

¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵ Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

- The differing roles for husbands and wives go back to Adam and Eve and the order of creation
 - The differing roles are also connected to Eve being deceived
 - The woman's susceptibility to deception is not a temporary thing that will pass with time through cultural adaption, women's suffrage, feminism, sexual revolution, or gender neutrality
- “*saved through childbearing*” – A wife's faith is displayed by her willingness to embrace her submissive role as a wife and a life-giving mother
 - Bearing children does not bring spiritual salvation
 - Embracing her role as a submissive wife and life-giving mother is evidence of salvation

The role of fathers, mothers, and children in the sphere of the family (Ephesians 6:1-4)

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

- Children, you need to choose to submit to and obey your parents
 - Honoring your parents means inwardly and outwardly showing them respect
 - Inward grumbling and inward honor of their discipline and direction are detected by God
- Of the Ten Commandments, the one to honor your father and mother is the first one with a promise of blessing
 - Do you desire constructive and pleasant development in life?
 - Honor your parents
 - Do you desire to enjoy pleasant development long into life?
 - Honor your parents

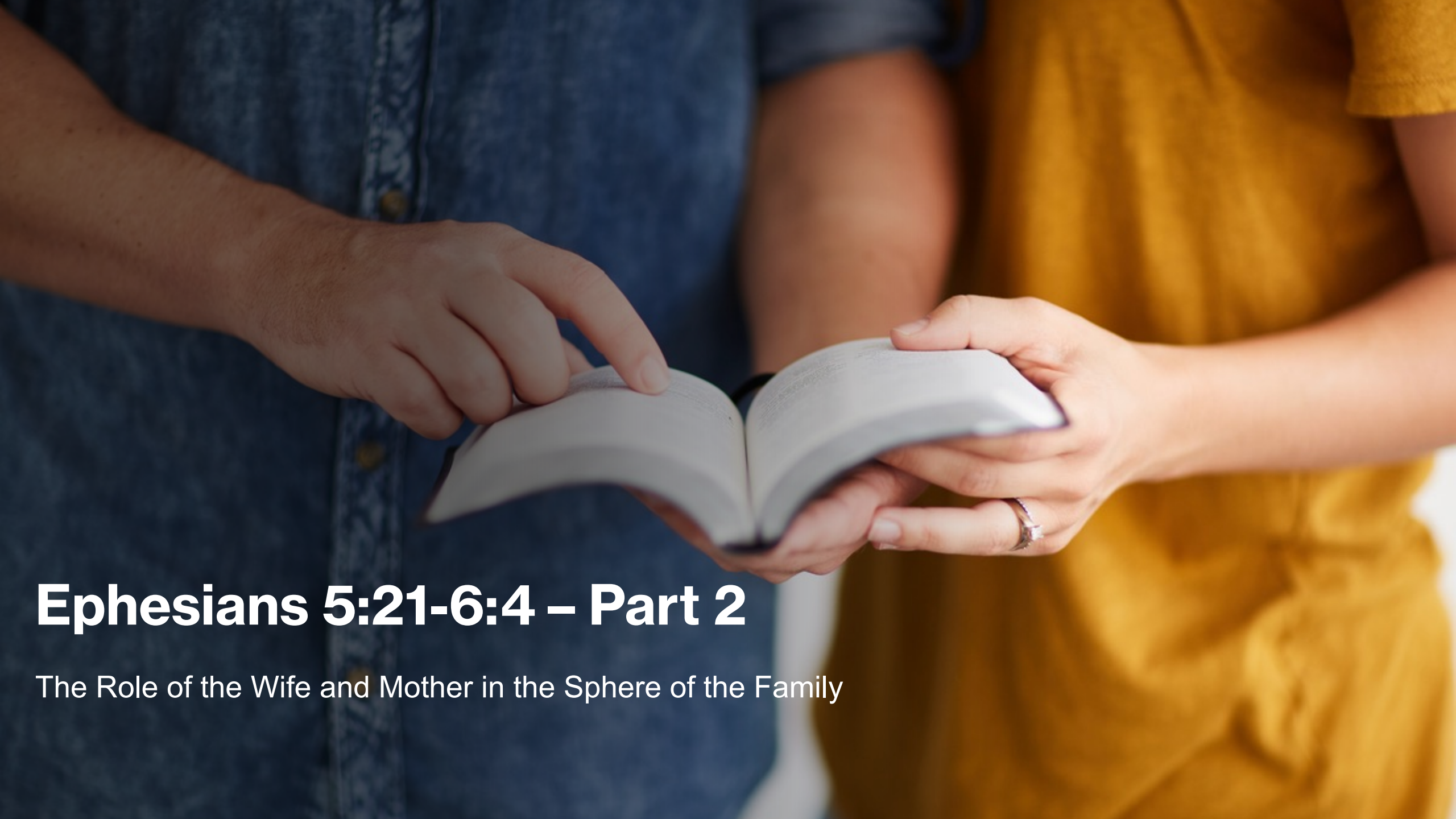
The role of fathers, mothers, and children in the sphere of the family (Ephesians 6:1-4)

⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- Fathers are listed first because they are leaders and representative
- Fathers, if the majority of your involvement is for reinforcement, you're not fulfilling your role as a father well
- What provokes children to anger is inconsistency, hypocrisy, and angered outbursts
- Dad, your consistent abdication to mom is not acceptable
- In an age of passive and distracted dads, men of God need to pray for divine assistance and get involved
 - Christian dads and moms need to unite
 - Mom, children need to see you model submission and respect
- May God inspire and equip Biblical parents in this generation and future generations!

Questions to Consider

- Why is understanding and promoting Biblical submission important?
- Does the frequency of the Scripture's teaching on a wife's submission to her husband show that the Scriptures have sexist human authors, or does it indicate something else?
- Why is detectible respect important for a wife to have toward her husband?
- If the enemy consistently seeks to invert God's authority structures, what should followers of Jesus be prepared to do?
- Moms, dads, children, what are the things God has revealed from which you need to repent?



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