

***Recovering Biblical Fatherhood*** Primary text: Ephesians 5:25–6:4

Introduction: walking as children of light vs darkness in evil days (5:1–15); and the spiritual war (6:10–20) with worship as the equipment/equipping and the household as a primary battlefield.

**1. Husbands are God’s plan for wives**

1. The husband must learn from God to be a ruler and teacher. 1Tim 2:11–15; Gen 2:8–17, 3:6.
2. The husband must sacrifice himself under Christ to be a sanctifier. Eph 5:25–27.

**2. Fathers are God’s plan for children**

1. **All of repentance/conversion represented in this one component of it.** Mal 4:5–6 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”
2. Children to obey/honor both parents. Eph 6:1–2. But this follows the godliness of the wife and her submission to him, and the godliness of the husband and his ministry to her. Children are still required to obey and honor, but **the design for the home that is light in the darkness** is that the obedience and honoring by the children come in the context of producing the next generation of wives that are light and husbands that are light.
3. **God’s plan for prospering children in this life, but especially the next.** Eph 6:3. Originally a covenant promise, and therefore originally a promise about more than Canaan. Still a covenant promise, and definitely a promise that goes beyond this place and even many generations in this place. We hope for our present land, and would rejoice over the blessing that comes to it, but here is God’s prescribed path to the city whose builder and maker is God, to the better and eternal country in the new heavens and the new earth. Fathers, lead your homes in such a way that hopes that it will be a satellite-settlement of glory, and increasingly so across generations.
4. Because the discipline and instruction are not the father’s but the Lord’s
  1. Children receive it from the Lord. So show it from the Word.
  2. And their obedience is also “in the Lord.” Point them to Christ for all of it!

**3. God Himself is His own plan for each one.**

God’s plan is not husband-centered marriages, but husbands leading in Christ-centered marriages. God’s plan is not the father-centered home, but fathers leading in Christ-centered homes. But if you try to follow the plan without genuine spiritual life and vigor in the husband and the father, it will either fall apart, or (even worse!) become this corrupted caricature with a man who is not full of Christ at the center of the home. **By God’s design and under God’s providence, much depends upon the husband and father knowing Christ and walking with Him.** The power of an effective husband parent is drawn from a life with God in the secret place.

**1. First, as a husband**

1. How will he know how to love his wife with the Word if he does not love himself with the Word? Eph 5:28–29. Is Christ’s love to you just a mushy feeling? Or are His affections expressed by particular actions with a particular aim? Be full of affection to your wife, but do not tell yourself

that it is Christ-like love if it does not issue forth in similar actions with the same aim!

2. If she is bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh, failing to care for himself spiritually is failing to care for her spiritually. What does the care of your own soul look like? If you had to select for your wife a husband (as you might hope to do for a daughter), would you select one like yourself? If not, then what are you doing about it? And she, too, is bone of your bone and flesh of your flesh. It's not either-or, or even one-and-then-the-other. It's both at once! Are you really taking spiritual care of yourself, if you are not taking spiritual care of the one who is so united to yourself in this life?

## 2. Second, as a father

1. For the child to obey his parents "in the Lord," **the parents must be commanding what the Lord commands. Eph 6.1. This requires a father's heart shaped by the Word.** You will much help your children to do "obey in the Lord" if they have learned that it is just about always the Word of God that is behind daddy's thoughts, daddy's affections, and daddy's desires.
2. How will his discipline be the discipline of the Lord, if he himself has not been trained by the Lord? How will his instruction be the instruction of the Lord, if he himself has not been instructed by the Lord? Eph 6:4. This doesn't just mean that a father has obtained these things from the Lord at one time. It means that **a father must always be under the Lord's teaching and training.** It means that a father must always have **an active/ongoing communion with the Lord and dependence upon Him.**
3. The Deut 6:6 prerequisite for the Deut 6:7–9 household.
4. The home as a 1Tim 2:8 place.
  1. **I desire therefore that the men pray in every place, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting**
  2. **Male-specific word.** Your family is a place. **Lead your family in prayer!** If you do not know how, you must learn. But thank God that the church is a place where the men lead in prayer. Or is it? If not, it must become one!
  3. **Holy hands.** Not just hands that do no wrong (cf. Ps 24:4) but hands that are consecrated. Everything that they do is offered to God. Such are the hands that are to be lifted in dependence upon God.
  4. **Without wrath.** A knowledge of God that has a firm grip upon God in whatever providence brings. Such a man is not constantly having his fuse set off by his inability to bend the world to his own desire.
  5. **Without doubting.** It is necessary that you continually come to the Word, receiving it from the mouth of Christ, depending upon Him and His Spirit to keep the promise of the Spirit's ministry... that you be soft-hearted toward the Scripture but strong-gripped in your conviction of/by it to believe all that it teaches and do all that it commands!

**Conclusion: God's small-group ministry!** Of all his callings, there is no greater vocation in a man's life.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))

Ephesians 5:25-6:4 Husbands love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for her that he might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word 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. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife love himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church for we are members of his body of his flesh and of his bones. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife. And the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery. But I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Nevertheless, let each one of you in particular sow, love. His own wife as himself. And let the wife see that she respects her husband, Children. Obey your parents in the Lord for this is, right? Honor your father and mother. Which is the first commandment with promise. That it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.

And you fathers, Do not provoke your children to Roth. But bring them up in the training. An admonition. Of the Lord. Amen, that sends this reading of God. Inspired. And And Aaron twerked.

The family is a place of spiritual warfare. A place where spiritual warfare occurs and it's a place where Christian Victory. Uh, Christian progress in the spiritual war is displayed and demonstrated. Uh, I think many of us are probably familiar with the fact that Ephesians 6 teaches us about our battle, that is not against flesh and blood, but that is against spiritual powers and the armor of God by which he makes us to stand in that battle.

But perhaps, if your knowledge of the book of Ephesians, Uh, isn't so thorough. You don't remember that this battle actually does not begin in chapter six in the book of Ephesians. In fact, in chapter 5, you have the fact that God has dear children verse one and they are to walk in love verse 2, but especially those who were once Darkness.

Are now the light of the world and are to walk as children of light. Uh verse 8 and in that section, then walking is light walking as those who have awakened having No fellowship with the fruitful Deeds of Darkness. And then, In verse 15. See then that you walk circumspectly.

Being careful of every angle of life, not as fools but as wise Redeeming the time because the days are evil Uh, and then he addresses public worship. Being filled with the spirit and the use that God makes of particularly singing in the public worship. Of the reasons that we would only want to sing what God has put into our mouths, because we're supposed to be admonishing one another with words by, which the Holy Spirit fills us.

And we'll hear more about that in the second talk tomorrow morning. When we find that Christ himself is the singer. Especially in the public worship. Which is why. We are to submit to one another. And fear of God, don't let anyone take verse 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God and say, see everyone submits to everyone and just use that to erase the wife submitting to her husband.

From verse 22. Through 24. No. It's true husbands should submit to their wives. When we are singing God's word, In fact. Uh, whenever your wife. Reads or tells you something that is straight from the scripture. You submit to that scripture, not saying you're submitting to The teaching of your wife.

But there's those wonderful times, and A good 40, 45 minutes, depending on what we're singing and how long Lord's Day Afternoon when I and the other Elders who are in attendance, Are submitting. To two and three-year-olds, who are sweetly singing, the Psalms that they've come to know and love, and we're admonishing one, another, with God's word, and the word of Christ is coming to dwell in us richly into Spirit.

Showing us. And so public worship and you would know that from looking at the armor of God as well. And We won't take the time to do that. Now is one of the great ways in which the spiritual warfare is waged that we would be filled with God's spirit as God's children that we who are light in Jesus Christ.

Might wage war against Darkness. Um, But then the other place where in the Intervening text between these. Two Warfare texts is not just the public worship but especially the household. He he spends a couple of verses. On one aspect of public worship and he's going to come back to things that are part of the warp and woof of public worship.

When he gets to the particular parts of the spiritual armor, there's not a Diminishing of public worship by comparison at all here, but there is a very strong emphasis on the household for our purposes since we are coming in this second talk. To think about recovering biblical fatherhood we are sticking especially to The father's role.

And responsibility as husband. In chapter 5 verses 25-33 and then in interaction with his children. In chapter 6 and verses. Uh, one through four. And what we see here, what we hope to see in our remaining time this evening are three things. First that, husbands are God's plan for their wives.

Second that fathers are God's plan for their children. And third that God himself is his own plan. For each one. And that should encourage you, if you are A wife without a woman without husband if you're a child without father that the one who especially uses husbands Uh, four wives is himself a husband to the Widow.

And the one who especially uses fathers, their children is himself a father to the orphan. In fact, in a house where the husband is not ministering under the Lord is not himself. Uh, Independence upon the Lord and submission to him and exercising. His ministry to his wife and to his children as a servant of Christ.

They may have. A man. That they are married to. Or that they are dependent upon. And have been begotten, by But they would still be spiritual widows. And spiritual orphans. Indeed, we live in a day. In which spiritual widowhood. And spiritual orphanhood. Is epidemic. In the church. Now, where there is no husband and when where there is no Father, Um, Those who have the the spiritual Ministry in the church, the elders ought to take More and more frequent, and more particular care.

Of the souls and those who have the material Ministry in the church, that's how the diaconate that was the occasion upon, which the diaconate got started in the church. Should have. More frequent and And more intense, more careful material Ministry. And, For those who are husbandless. And Fatherless. But we have done something in the church.

Where we have? Hopefully. Well-Intended desire to be as helpful as possible. But often I think if we examine our own Hearts in our own actions, There is a great Temptation. For us as individuals to want to be necessary to someone. And there is a great temptation to churches, corporately.

To make themselves more necessary or more essential or to take for themselves, a role that God has not assigned to them. And so, we have things like Women's Ministries and children's ministries and youth Ministries and they're not all the same. Understand. That's something we can talk about in another context.

You just don't have the time to do. All the distinguishing that we need to do. But the primary and the first women's ministry, For married, women is husbands. And for unmarried women, as fathers, And, The ordinary and primary. Children's and youth ministry. As the parents in the home. And then, of course, also, The preaching.

The whole mean, all of the means of Grace in the public worship and the shepherding and Teaching Ministry of of the pastors are for the whole family. Every once in a while. Um, talking to another Minister, who wants to know what we do at Hopewell? He says, so you don't have anything for children.

And I just, yeah, just no. We we have the teaching for children, and we have the public worship for children. And we have congregational interaction for children. And we have Psalms saying, almost entirely for children. They make up the bulk of the requests and sing at the top of their lungs and, and The ministry in the home, day by day, which We try.

To do whatever we can to facilitate it is for children. There's nothing hopeful that isn't for children.

But husbands are God's plan for wives. Fathers are God's plan for children. And God himself. Is his own plan. For each one. First then husbands are God's plan for wives. This is something That we learn. In Genesis 2, but it comes up. When Paul is instructing Timothy, there's Uh, there's nothing new Under the Sun.

Uh, first Timothy 2 is not there because women generally submitted in that culture. Uh, no. What God said? Uh to Eve and well she wasn't Eve yet to the woman in the curse. That her desire would be for her husband, but he would dominate her. Using the same language so that we would understand what is being said there.

He's not saying the headship Is a consequence of the followers using the same language. You would use a handful of verses later with Cain saying sins, desire is for you, but you must rule over it. It's the same verbs, the same construction. Uh, and so ever since the fall, Because God's design in the family is for the husband to rule and to teach Uh, in the home and God's design.

Then for the church now is for not all the men generally to rule all the women and all the men generally to teach all the women. But because God's design is in the home is for the, the husband to rule. And to teach it is only men whom he has called to the office of ruling and teaching in the church.

Although unqualified unordained men also should not. Rule and teach. Uh, in the church. Uh, but when When this was a problem in Ephesus and one of the things that Timothy was supposed to be setting in order in part by ordaining, a new batch of Elders. Uh, Paul writes to him.

In first, Timothy 2. Uh, beginning in verse 11, let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence, Four. Adam was formed first. Then Eve. And the Adam was not deceived but the woman being deceived fell into transgression.

Nevertheless, she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith love and Holiness with self-control. In other words, if if she Fulfills. The part in God's plan, for all of his work that he has assigned to her, she will have a great and glorious office. Although not glorious in the eyes of men yet, like we heard in Mr.

Manton's letter at the beginning. Of the first talk. Great and glorious. Just as much as God's producing by Union with Christ the effects. Of our Union with him, law of Holiness self-control. As part of the work that God does and we would not Demean sanctification because it is not justification.

And so we do not demean any part. Of the work that God does. But this argument that Paul uses, If it wasn't obvious enough that he's addressing a problem, they had in Ephesus, Okay, so if we have a problem with it today we don't just say oh well Ephesus was a different culture and Paul was telling him to do what they did in Ephesus.

No, he was telling him to stop the Ephesian Christians from doing what the Ephesian Christians were doing. And, If that wasn't obvious enough, that this is not Merely cultural but something that is for all people at all times. He uses an argument that goes back to Genesis 2 and Genesis 3.

For Adam was formed first and then Eve and Adam was not deceived but the woman being deceived fell into transgression. Now what he's saying here is that ruling and teaching is something that is established by God in the creation. It's something that unfallen man has in his family. The husband is God's plan for the wife from the first husband that he made and the first wife that he made.

He's not saying here children. Like, Like some of you might do or maybe I'll just say, I used to. I had two brothers. We're two and a half years. Apart. Uh, there were favorite seats in the vehicle and you would race to the car and you would get to pick your seats according to who touched it.

And, of course, the oldest brother who came up with the rules. Also happened to be the fastest and always got the seat that he wanted. He's not saying, haha, Adam was first, he had dibs Ruling and teaching is expecting us to know something about Genesis 2. So if you have a copy of the word of God, invite you to turn to Genesis 2.

And you see, The Lord not just breathing into Adam's nostrils in verse 7, but then showing Adam. Showing Adam. What ruling and teaching is like, what leading and teaching is like, he's demonstrating Covenant headship. Before he makes Adam a covenant head. Yahweh God, planted a garden, Eastward in Eden and there.

He put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground, Yahweh God, made every tree grow. That is Pleasant to the sight and good for food. Now obviously, this is Accelerated thing, but this is not the origin of trees. The Lord had done that a few days earlier in the creation hedentee.

And so don't think that Genesis 2 and Genesis 1 are somehow in conflict with one another. No. It was these specific trees in this specific place for this specific, man. And Adam is learning here because he doesn't know it yet, but he's about to become a covenant head. He's about

to be charged with the care of his wife and for his specific wife to provide the specific things that are good for her in the specific place that he makes for her.

And so he's learning this from God out of the ground, Yahweh God made every tree growth that is Pleasant to the sight and good for food, even even that phrase, that that which she needs, as someone who in the image of God is made to enjoy Beauty. Your dog may be very affectionate and loyal.

Uh, it does not ponder the meaning of life. It does not wonder about its creator, it was not created to know him. And it doesn't care anything about beauty. You make a dog house if you're making it beautiful. That's for you. Not not for the dog. But he make a house for a wife.

You should care that. It's beautiful. She was made to appreciate that, which is beautiful. One of the reasons that she worked so hard, Uh, in decorating and appointing and keeping the home in a pleasant way. So that It's not just a relationally Pleasant place to come home to but even just a visually Pleasant.

To come home to. It's because this is how God created us. Well. We can't take that much time on every, uh, every verse I'm sorry. Um, every he made every tree grow, that is Pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil, the tree of life, sacramental tree Is good and right, but but we will not invent sacraments between us and God but there are things that That are meaningful between.

You and your wife, that's a part. Of of The headship, the leadership that God modeled for him. Now, a river went out of Eden, to water. The garden from there, it, parted and became Four. Riverheads. The name of the first is pichon and is the one which skirts the whole land of Havill, where there is gold, the gold of that land is good Dellium an Onyx Donor there.

Uh, name of the second number for Gehand is the one which goes around the whole land of cush. The name of the third, the hedeco, and then Fourth the Euphrates. And so there's a provision for that which is needed for life. There's provision for that, which is needed for work.

There is raw materials. For him to to be usefully employed. Then Yahweh God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to

The. It's not tend and keep it. There's a There's a gender difference between the word garden and the particle that most English translations are translating as it, uh, even to the point where Many lexicans will say of the word Garden, we know it looks male but it must be female because But the particle there is a it's just generalizing the verb.

Uh, so It's the, it's the vanilla verbs for Serve and Obey or worship and obey. So he puts man in the garden to worship and obey. Um, And Yahweh. God. Comanded the man saying of every tree of the garden you may freely eat but of the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil, you shall not eat from the day that you eat of it.

You shall surely die so children. Pop quiz. Who received the instruction from the Lord. Who was there? Was the woman there yet. She wasn't there yet. And yet she was supposed to keep this instruction, wasn't she? And so Not only was the Lord modeling for the man, how to be a covenant head, his headship and Leadership in in providing not just things, but Beauty and opportunity for service and all of these other things and I realize we Didn't go through the the rest of it as in as much detail.

But he, Made it plain that the man was to teach his wife. It would have to be from Adam. That Mrs. Adam learned. Which is the tree of life that we may eat of that is sacramental of our covenant that we are in with God in the the garden and which is the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil that we Mustn't, eat of And so, when the Apostle says, I do not permit a woman to rule or to teach for Adam was formed first and then Eve,

He's expecting us to know Genesis 2. And that this is God's plan. Husbands are God's plan for their wives. That's why. A husband sacrifices himself for his wife like we heard in our primary passage Uh, this evening. Uh, he is to do so under Christ. Uh, for the same purposes that Christ.

Does for his wife. Sorry, I'm trying to read. Or speak and flip, and it's not working. Right. Husbands ought to love their Husbands love your wives. Just as Christ, also loved the church and gave himself for her. So husband is to love his wife, sacrificially. Most people who I think who, Who read this passage?

See that? Understand it? But he's not done talking about how Christ loved the church. Christ. Also loved the church and gave himself for her that he might sanctify her and cleanse her. That he might sanctify and cleanse her with. The washing of Water by the word. Christ's death for us is necessary unto.

His cleansing us Christ's dying for the church is necessary unto. His cleansing the And that is how Christ has loved the church. And that is how a husband should love his wife. He cannot die for her. But he can certainly live for her and give himself up for for her.

And he cannot by virtue of his own power. Cleanse her with the word. But surely, he can teach the work. And meditate upon it with her. And trust our heavenly husband to cleanse that part of his body that is this man's wife by the word. A husband must sacrifice himself under Christ to be the sanctifier.

Of his wife. Husbands are God's plan for wives. That's all the time we can spend on it. Uh, fathers are God's plan for children? You know, it's interesting the entire Ministry of John the baptizer. Uh, although to use the theological categories of the last four or five hundred years, who could refer to him as John, the Presbyterian, Um, the entire Ministry of John, the baptizer is summarized in a very interesting way at the end of the book of Malachi.

Now, in God's Providence, to us, at least to hope well. We've been thinking about John a lot, because we're in the Book of Matthew and not only did we have an extended, uh, Time thinking about him in Matthew chapter 3, but just just a few weeks ago, in Matthew chapter 11, the Lord Jesus called our attention.

To the ministry of John again. And Jesus called him, the Elijah that was to come. Well, this is how the Old Testament closes behold. I will send you Elijah the Prophet before the coming of the great and Dreadful day of Yahweh, and he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers, lest I come and strike the Earth with a curse.

Now. You read that and you remember that, Jesus said that. John was the Elijah to come and you say, wait a minute. I thought John's Ministry was saying, repent, you know, have have not the opinion of your mind changed, but the nature of your mind changed, that's what that repent.

Word is be converted for the Kingdom of Heaven. As a hand. Do not think that you can rest on. Uh, being a church member Because God turned God makes children of Abraham. Don't say we have Abraham as father Because God makes children of Abraham out of stone. And what



you need is not John who baptizes with water, but the one who's coming after him, who pours out his Spirit not water.

And who gives you that new mind, that new heart to produce this repentant life. And, Now, understanding what the ministry of John is we look at Malachi 4, verse 6. And we see the whole of Christian repentance, the whole of the change that Jesus makes in humanity represented by this component of it.

He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children. And the hearts of the children. To their fathers. Now, this God's original plan. That they would be fruitful and multiply that the father now who is a husband who is teaching his wife Now you have a taught wife who can be a mother who teaches the children, but the father, especially teaching the children.

And this is where we see, Jesus has crushed the Serpent's head. It's one of the many places that we see where Jesus has crushed the Serpent's head in the believer's life. Because as a consequence of sin, as a consequence of the Fall, you don't just have the the wife trying to rule her husband.

The way sin was trying to rule Cain, you also have grief and childbearing Lot more than A few hours of Labor and, you know, trying to Uh, trying to pass a bowling ball of fire. It is a much greater grief. To Bear sinful children. Who have to be commanded by God, to honor their father and mother.

Because the moral law that written on their heart, They corrupt and abuse. So he comes and he addresses them in their word as well. And the Apostle here in chapter six, he says children obey your parents in the Lord for this is, right. Honor your father and mother. Which is the first commandment with a promise.

This is one of the differences that God makes. When Christ comes, and he reigns not just in a home. But in the heart of a child, Children. Obey your parents in the Lord. Yes, that means the way the Lord says to do it. Yes, that means that your only hope ever for doing it is by Jesus Christ's own life, in you and on power and righteousness in you.

Yes, that means for his glory.

And one of the things that it means is that when you obey your parents in the Lord, You see the defeat of the devil? You see the turning back of Darkness. Now, you're not just a child of your mom and dad. You're a beloved child of God who walks in love.

You're a child of light. Who refuses to participate in darkness? Yes, there's darkness in your heart when Mom says to do it and you say I don't wanna or you just feel it in your heart that you don't want to. That's that's from the darkness. That's from the flesh.

That's from sin. But one of the ways that Christ displays his conquering, Of the devil. Is when he produces in our life. His own righteousness. It doesn't save you. It doesn't give you credit with God. It doesn't do any of those things. But oh, does it glorify the Lord Jesus?

As the one who destroys the Of the devil. Now, notice that the command for children to obey their parents And honor their father and mother. It's it's to both. The father and the mother. But it does go back up to the father, most of all. As the one who is leading and teaching.

Even his wife. It comes in the context of a Godly wife who is submitting to her husband, and a Godly husband, who is ministering the word to his wife. The design for the home. Is that is light in darkness? As children. Obeying and honoring. Because those children are going to be.

The Next Generation of The Godly wife. And The Godly. Husband. Now, God's plan. Uh, this is God's plan for prospering children in this life and especially in the next Uh, he quotes that, it may be well with you and that you may live long in the earth. Originally this was a covenant promise attached in Exodus 20 but even expanded upon In Deuteronomy 5.

And therefore it was originally a promise. Uh, not just about Canaan. That when you come to the land, you may live long in it and you may Prosper there. That was true. God attached. Those promises to The Obedience of the nation. The Obedience. Of the But that's not what the Old Testament Saints.

The converted Old Testament Saints. Were hoping in Remember what Hebrews 11 tells you? That Abraham was looking for. A city whose Builder and maker was God. That these Saints were looking forward to a better and eternal country. And the new heavens and the new Earth. And so God. God's plan.

For Covenant children. Is that they would trust in Christ. Be converted show their conversion in part by obeying their parents and honoring their father and mother. And that God would use this to produce a generation, a generation that flourishes. But not just a generation that flourishes for a few decades.

Or maybe a century in this world? But a genuine generation that will flourish forever in a new Heavens and a new Earth. And so fathers, you should lead your home in such a way. That you Will make your home a satellite settlement of Glory. Not merely that Middle Tennessee.

Would be transformed by the gospel and there would be some light here in the midst of the darkness for a while, or a great amount of light here, in the midst of Darkness for a long time. There's no amount of. Post-Millennial. And that's an abuse of that term. Um, There's no amount of that.

That can produce the Fulfillment of this promise. Because this promise is one that is eternal and perfect. God is bringing many sons to glory as we hope to hear about tomorrow. And fathers teaching their children. And for husbands teaching their wives who also teach their children. Is God's plan.

For those children. Scott's plan for prospering children in this life, but especially the next Now, when we get to verse 4, He says you fathers do not provoke your children to wrath. But bring them up in the training and admonition. Of the Lord. Notice that then that children are not only to obey their parents in uh in the Lord for this is right.

They're to obey their parents because they're receiving the training as from the Lord and the admonition as from the Lord. Is in the Lord. You must Point your children to Christ for all of it. Not only selves.

Inclined against you and is willful. And is repeatedly disobedient. You must come repeatedly not only with the gospel of Christ, of course, with the gospel of Christ, first and foremost, but not only with the gospel of Christ, and not only with their belonging to Christ and owing him. To believe in him owing him to obey him.

But also, with Christ, as the one who gave your particular particular child, his or her particular, mom and particular dad. The Lord has given me to you. And thus, their obedience will be in the Lord. But for a father, for a husband, to lead his wife this way and for a father, to lead his his children this way.

The husband must be in the Lord, the father must be in the Lord. God's plan is not husband-centered marriages. His husband LED marriages but it's christ-centered marriages. Lives submit to your husbands as unto the Lord. Not as unto the husband. The husband is not the Lord in that statement.

Yes, the husband leads and the wife submits But the home, the marriage is not about the husband. It's about Christ. And God's plan. Is not the father-centered home. But fathers leading in Christ centered homes. We should love the word patriarchy. It just means, father rule. Own it. Delight in the Lord who created it and designed it, and commanded it and blesses it and uses it.

But do not take a patriarchal home. And turn it into a patricentric home. Where the family's life is all about the dad. It's so easy to do that. But it's the discipline of the Lord. And the instruction of the Lord and children who obey in the Lord and wives, who submit as unto the Lord.

It's all about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Which is why if you try to follow the husband leading and father leading plan, Without genuine spiritual life and vigor in the husband and the father. Then it will either fall apart. Or even worse. It will become something of a blasphemy. Because you will rule your wife and you will rule your children.

But they will not be. Lead washed by Christ. They will not be disciplined instructed by Christ in your leading and your ruling. Oh, he, he may, he may bless them and work in them, despite you But what you're called to. Is that he would lead them and bless them and work in them through you.

And so if you've heard things that maybe you already believed and have caught your attention before and you you started to make commitments in your mind and your your heart for how things are going to be. Now in your marriage, how things are going to be now with your children and in your home The first thing.

That must be in place is how things are going to be now between you and the Lord. By God's design and under God's Providence, much depends upon the husband and the father knowing Christ. And walking with God in his word. If you do not have, Evening, and morning. Meditation upon his word and prayer in which you are walking with the Lord do not think.

That your reading and praying. Is somehow going to be the family worship that you are called to lead. In your home. The power of an effective husband. Is drawn from a life with with God in the secret place. The power of an effective father. Is drawn from a life with God.

In the secret place. Just look at. The passage, how will a man know how to love his wife with the word? If he has not experiencing Christ, loving him with the word, We said you should. You should love your wife. In the way and unto the ends that Christ has modeled for us.

How are you going to know what that is if you are not being cleansed? By the washing of water with the word. How are you going to lead her in having fellowship with the Lord? If you don't have fellowship with the Lord? How Dreadful it would be. If instead of morning and evening morning and evening, your family walks more and more together in fellowship with the Lord, you have an empty husk Of what worship should be but not actual fellowship with God.

And suddenly it's possible that morning and evening, morning, and evening, morning, and evening, you're inoculating your children against biblical Christianity. Because the name and

the shape of it is there but the substance isn't And they grow up and say yeah, I grew up in one of those patriarchal homes.

Christ's love to us. Men must not just be a mushy feeling. His affections are expressed by particular actions with a particular aim. We should be full of affection to our wives. But it is not christ-like love. If it does not issue forth. In cleansing them with his word. And we should receive Christ's affection to us.

But you are not embracing his love to you, if you are not coming to him. To be cleansed. By his word. And knowing your Redeemer, not only as the one who gave himself to take away the guilt of your sin once. But who is continually giving himself to you?

To take away the power and the presence of your sin. Until it's gone. When, you know Jesus's, love to you that way men. Then you are prepared to love your wife. As Christ loves his own body. Now, he uses this language and its wonderful language when we think about us in Christ,

Bone of his bone and Flesh of his flesh. Sorry of his flesh and And of his Bones here. But if you are so United to your wife men, As like First Corinthians 7 says, yeah. You lead in the house but she has authority over your body. And the two have become one flesh.

Then, if you fail to care for yourself spiritually, You are failing already to care for her spiritually. Not just, you won't be prepared to minister to her. But God, by the Covenant of marriage has joined her to you. And if it were possible that you could minister to her ever so well, But you did not care for your own soul.

She would be joined to one who is not obeying the word. And she a great part of who she is in Union with you. Will be spiritually, weak and dying and sick. The opposite of course, is also true. Let no, man. Read the Bible ever so much, regardless, if he prays ever so much.

Feels like he is so close to God does ever so much other service unto the Lord. And yet with his wife with whom he is one flesh. He does not care for her spiritually. He does not make room for her and enable her to have the secret worship that she needs to have.

He does not minister to her in the family worship and read. And pray for her and and with her. He's not spiritually. Well. He's United to one that he's completely spiritually. Neglecting And so, Being God's plan for the children. Begins by the husband being God's plan. For his wife.

And then, from that children, Obey, their parents plural. From that children obey or honor, not just father but mother Now for the child to obey, his parents in the Lord, the parents must be commanding. What the Lord commands. This requires fathers that your heart be shaped by the word.

You will help your children, much. To do their obeying in the Lord. If they have discovered by happy experience that almost everything. Daddy says, he has learned from the Lord. And the things that we don't know that he has learned from the Lord, we assume that he has Because that's just what we have found to be the case.

And how will your child's? How will your discipline for your children? Be the discipline of the discipline of the Lord, if you have not been trained by the Lord? This doesn't just mean that. You obtained from the Lord. What to teach your children? And you obtained from the Lord, how to discipline your children.

It means that you are actively in fellowship with the Lord. So that it is independence upon him and Devotion to him that you are, instructing your child. Give your child the instruction of the

Lord. And it is in fellowship with him independence upon him and Devotion to him, that you are, disciplining your child.

Not like a man disciplines an animal. Which can be trained by repeated pain. Not to do something. But as a Christian father, Disciplining a Christian child. Because the Lord whom you trust to use his word. In your child's conversion in your child's, sanctification is the Lord whom you trust to use his discipline.

And your child. And for your child, it's way more than don't just spank in anger.

All of this, what we have been getting at and what we said, we would come back to Is something we already saw in Deuteronomy chapter 6 earlier.

Before we get to, you shall teach them diligently to your children. We have and these words which I command you today. Shall be in your heart. Deuteronomy, 6, 6. For the For the husband. As a prerequisite for the sort of household, we heard about In the first talk. If God's word is not controlling your heart.

And the love of God is not filling your heart. Then you don't even have the prerequisites. I don't know how many of you have. I've been in an educational situation where there were classes that you want to take, but there are other classes you have to finish first. Those are the prerequisites.

Loving the Lord with your heart, all your heart. Having his word in your heart men. Is the prerequisite? For teaching your children diligently. It's a prerequisite. For talking about God's word with them, it's the prerequisite for having his word as A pound to the hand, controlling everything that your family does, and his frontlets between the eyes, controlling, how your family sees everything.

Now, we won't have. To consider fully the Um, The home as of first Timothy 2 8. Uh, That's where the Apostle says. I desire therefore that men pray in every place lifting up. Holy hands without wrath and doubting the word men. There is male specific. It means you should lead your family in prayer.

Your house is a place. The church also is a place You're to lift up holy hands which just doesn't just mean hands that are unstained. Or hands that don't aren't involved in immorality. It means hands that are consecrated. So, the man who leads his family in prayer, needs to be.

A man who everything he does is devoted unto God. Uh, without wrath and without doubting Without wrath. A man who is confident that God always accomplishes his plan? And so he's not constantly having his fuse set off by being unable to bend the world to his own plan. And a man without doubting one who has received and is convinced of the word of God and I wish we could have Um, All of those.

But we must be men who lead our families in prayer. And, There are prerequisites to doing that. Well,

In conclusion, the family is God's small group Ministry. Of all of his callings there is no greater calling or vocation than a man's life. Your job is how you provide for your family. You don't even necessarily need to have one that feels fulfilling. That is fulfilling to do it for Christ.

It is fulfilling to provide for your wife and children. But your job is just your job. Your wife, your children? Are a much higher calling. Than whatever you are doing. To provide materially for them. This is. And we must recover. Biblical. Fatherhood.

Forgotten the introduction to tell you why. We're doing this as arps. Well, I say recover biblical, fatherhood I'm talking about something that you find attached to the documents of the Westminster assembly. This is why there's a directory for family worship. This is why. Uh, there are helps. For the men who must lead their families this way to be the sort of man.

Who leads his family or who is able to lead his family this way. Let's pray.

Our Father, we thank you for your help. Uh, we have Come in weakness. And preached in weakness and listened in weakness. But oh Lord, we rejoice in our weakness. Because your grace is sufficient for us. And your strength is made. Perfect. In weakness, grant that? That would be the case.

Grant that we would. Not just here and think about things and agree with things. But that by your word, you would produce fruit. In our lives. We pray for, Those who are husbands and fathers. That you would help them. We pray for those. Uh, who are mothers and wives that you.

That you would so work. In their husband. We pray for the children. That not only would you blessed. Uh, the ministry of a father. Uh, whom you would use in their lives. But that, even for those who have not such a father, Uh, you would grow them to be.

A man who is a father like this? A woman. Who knows not to take. As a husband, any man who is not like this? And Grant that you would, Restore to us. Biblical fatherhood In our families across Generations, we ask in Christ's name Amen. Good night.