

# Discovery Group - Gospel Living

## (3) Family

### **A**ccountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

### **B**ible: Ephesians 5:21-6:9

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- Why do you think God designed the family the way He did? How is His design for families related to His design for the Church?
- How can you submit to the other members of your family?

### **C**ommit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

*Abide:* Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

Ephesians 5:21-6:9    Colossians 3:18-4:1    1 Peter 3:1-7

## Family

In the last study, we read that as followers of Jesus we are supposed to live a certain way within the body of Christ (the Church). This way of life is part of God's plan to make Himself known to all Creation through the Church. From the passage today, we learn that there is also a certain way we are to live within our own families. After all, the Church is a family and is built up of families. It makes sense then, that we make God known through the ways we interact with one another in our families, just as we make Him known through the way we live in church community.

Paul writes that each member of the family has a specific role to play. Wives are to submit to their husbands as to the Lord. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loves the Church. Children are to obey their parents, and to honor them. Fathers are not to provoke their children, but are to bring them up with discipline and instruction from the Lord. Since slavery was a normal part of the culture at the time this letter was written, Paul also addresses slaves and masters. Slaves are to obey and respect their masters, and try to please them. Masters are told not to threaten their slaves, and to remember that the Lord is Master of all and doesn't show partiality.

These instructions Paul writes are all part of the revelation he received from the Lord. It is part of the Church's household order that Paul received and was charged to pass on. Once again, the significance of this is beyond just having a nice family life. This is how we witness to the world about the love of Jesus.

The key verse in this section is 5:21. "*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*" All that follows is a description of how to do that. Whatever role we are in, we all need to learn to submit to all the others. We seek their good above our own. We seek to have their desires fulfilled before our own. We prefer one another. And we do this out of reverence for Christ. Again, this is all about Jesus. We lay our lives down for one another in our family because we revere and love *Him*. Because this is how He is glorified in our lives and in our communities and in the world. The sacrifice and pain of submission is worth it because of Jesus - we offer it to Him as our gift of love.