

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FEBRUARY 6, 2022

Dr. Gary Chapman



This week Dr. Gary Chapman, author of *Five Love Languages* (and several other books), taught from Ephesians 5 and 6 on what healthy families look like. Five characteristics are highlighted in this passage:

- Attitude of service
- Intimacy between a husband and wife
- Parents who teach and train
- Husbands who are loving leaders
- Children who obey and honor their parents

These characteristics, when lived according to God's will and guidance, lead to families functioning as God intended – mutual respect, unconditional love, shared responsibility, honoring each other and God.

SCRIPTURE

EPHESIANS 5:18-6:4

¹⁸ Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, ¹⁹ singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. ²⁰ And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²¹ And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. ²⁴ As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

²⁵ For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. ²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. ²⁹ No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. ³⁰ And we are members of his body.

³¹ As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." ³² This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. ³³ So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

¹ Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. ² "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: ³ If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth."

⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from Dr. Chapman's message?
2. Read Ephesians 5:18-6:4. Look at the 5 categories or characteristics of a healthy family. Which verses fit in each category?

CHARACTERISTIC

SCRIPTURE

Attitude of service

Intimacy between a husband and wife

Parents who teach and train

Husbands who are loving leaders

Children who obey and honor their parents

3. Look again at each of the characteristics along with the Scripture. Now add practical examples in each category.

CHARACTERISTIC

SCRIPTURE

EXAMPLE

Attitude of service

Intimacy between a husband and wife

Parents who teach and train

Husbands who are loving leaders

Children who obey and honor their parents

4. Look at the categories critically as far as how they are lived out in your own family. What needs improvement? What are practical changes that can be made to move your family forward?

5. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Praise God for the gift of family (whatever that looks like in your life). Ask him to strengthen those areas that are lacking in your family, especially the role you have. Pray for the willingness of family members to examine the dynamics and characteristics that can improve daily interaction, and move you closer to being the family God designed for you.