

At Grace Bible Church we place significant emphasis on God's calling on believers to faithfulness in our own homes. Maintaining a healthy marriage and raising spiritually-minded children is not easy in a fallen world. God has not designed the home to produce frustration, but rather to put His glory on display in a well-ordered, faithful Christian home.

In a brief, 105 pages, Paul Shirley shows how Ephesians 5:22-6:4 addresses the three most common causes of exasperation in the home—a family life not ordered according to God's Word, family members not growing in God's grace, and a family unit not plugged into the life of the church.

This short book is about the home, about marriage, about being a husband, about being a wife, a parent, a grandparent, a child, but perhaps more than that, it is about being a member of the church. *Understanding* God's plan for the home is critical not just for the family, but also for the life of the church.

This book has something for everyone, including a dedicated chapter for Dads on faithful shepherding, and another for Moms on shepherding your heart through the fatigue that is inevitably a part of a wife and mother's life. Shirley helpfully addresses the need to guard against the idolatry of the family and the importance of a family's need to be plugged into the life of the local church. In chapter 4, he includes some helpful instruction for parents of married children and grandparents about how they can best submit to God's order for the family in the lives of their married children.

The author provides a few helpful suggestions for how to read this book:

- Read it with your spouse and use the [questions at the end of every chapter](#) for discussion.
- Read it with your kids and give them a view of the family that confronts the sinful views from the culture they are growing up in.
- Read it with someone you are discipling and hold each other accountable on what you learn.
- Read it before the Lord with your Bible open and your heart humbly ready to submit.

I enthusiastically commend to you this book on the Christian family. Your time in this book would be aided tremendously by a daily reading of Ephesians 5:22-6:4. Spend thoughtful time carefully considering, praying about, answering and/or discussing the questions at the end of each chapter beginning in chapter 2.

— Ben James, **Pastor/Elder Intern**



Suggested One-Month Reading Plan

(Average 4 pages per day)

Week 1: Monday May 1 - Sunday May 7th

Mon: Introduction, 2 Pages
 Tue: Ch. 1 A Spirit-Filled Family, pgs. 3-5
 Wed: Ch. 1 A Spirit-Filled Family, pgs. 6-8
 Thur: Ch. 2 Submissive Wives, pgs. 9-14
 Fri: Ch. 2 Submissive Wives, pgs. 14-18
 Sat: Ch. 2 Submissive Wives, pgs. 18-22
 Sun: Ch 3 Shepherding Husbands, pgs. 23-25

Week 2: Monday May 8th - Sunday May 14th

Mon: Ch 3 Shepherding Husbands, pgs. 26-30
 Tue: Ch 3 Shepherding Husbands, pgs. 30-33
 Wed: Ch 3 Shepherding Husbands, pgs. 34-38
 Thur: Ch. 4 Vital Union, pgs. 39-43
 Fri: Ch. 4 Vital Union, pgs. 43-45
 Sat: Ch. 4 Vital Union, pgs. 45-47
 Sun: Ch. 4 Vital Union, pgs. 48-49

Week 3: Monday May 15th - Sunday May 21st

Mon: Ch 5 Obedient Children, pgs. 51-56
 Tue: Ch 5 Obedient Children, pgs. 57-61
 Wed: Ch 6 Faithful Parents, pgs. 64-66
 Thur: Ch 6 Faithful Parents, pgs. 67-69
 Fri: Ch 6 Faithful Parents, pgs. 70-72
 Sat: Ch 6 Faithful Parents, pgs. 73-76
 Sun: Ch 6 Faithful Parents, pgs. 77

Week 4: Monday May 22nd - Sunday May 28th

Mon: Ch 7 A Shepherded Family, pgs. 79-84
 Tue: Ch 7 A Shepherded Family, pgs. 85-88
 Wed: Ch 8 A Tired Family, pgs. 89-92
 Thur: Ch 8 A Tired Family, pgs. 93-96
 Fri: Ch. 9 A Church Family, pgs. 97-99
 Sat: Ch. 9 A Church Family, pgs. 100-102
 Sun: Ch. 9 A Church Family, pgs. 103-105