

I Am a Church Member - Session 5

As we near the close of this study, we have been challenged to rethink and recommit to our role as church members. Last session specifically challenged us to pray for our church leaders as they seek to follow God and serve God's people. This session will address how we can become influential in helping our families to become the healthy church members.

Ephesians 5:21 - 6:4 - New International Version

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church — ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

^{6:1} Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise — ³ “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” ⁴ Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

I Will Lead My Family to Be Healthy Church Members

The apostle Paul correlates the relationship between Christ and the church to the relationships between family members. Rainer writes, “...Just as we are supposed to sacrifice and love our families unconditionally, so we are to love those churches where God has placed us....We are to find joy in serving both our families and the church.” A part of building a healthy family is teaching your family to love Christ and the church.

The book of Acts provides many examples of individuals leading their family and friends to become a part of the body of Christ. Let's look at a few of these examples:

- Cornelius (Acts 10)
- Lydia (Acts 16:11-15, 40)
- Philippian jailer (Acts 16:22-34)
- Crispus (Acts 18:8)

In each of these stories from Acts, there were individuals who took the lead for leading their families in becoming members of the body of Christ. Likewise, as church members, it is up to us to be witnesses to those with whom we live. Here are some ways we can do that in our homes.

→ *Praying Together as a Family for the Church*

- ◆ It Starts at Home - Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- ◆ Hand Me Down Faith - 2 Timothy 1:5

→ *Worshipping Together as a Family*

- ◆ All Eyes on You: Matthew 5:14-16
- ◆ Home Missionary: 1 Corinthians 7:14

→ *Fall Deeply in Love with the Bride of Christ*

- ◆ Love Anyway: Matthew 7:3-5; Romans 5:8
- ◆ Put Out the Fires: Proverbs 26:20-22; Romans 1:28-32
- ◆ "Unconditional love means I will continue to fall more deeply in love regardless of the response. It means my love for the church will grow even as I may disagree with something or encounter disagreeable people." Rainer, 62.

Session 5 Pledge :

I am a church member.

I will lead my family to be good members of this church as well. We will pray together for our church. We will worship together in our church. We will serve together in our church. And we will ask Christ to help us fall deeper in love with this church be He gave His life for her.

Sign & Date