

**May 10, 2020**  
**Wisdom in the Family**  
**Mother's Day**

Scripture reading: Ephesians 5:21-33

Text: *“Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband” (Ephesians 5:33).*

*“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it” (Proverbs 22:6).*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A mother passed by his son's bedroom and was astonished to see the bed nicely made up and everything neat and tidy. Then he saw an envelope propped up on the pillow. It was addressed, “Mom and Dad.” With the worst premonition, she opened the envelope and read the letter with trembling hands:

*Dear Mom and Dad,*

*It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm writing you. I had to elope with my new girlfriend because I wanted to avoid a scene with you. I've been finding real passion with Sue, and she is so nice. I knew you would not approve of her because of all her piercings, tattoos, tight motorcycle leather leggings, and the fact that she is so much older than I am. It's not just her passion. She really gets me.*

*Sue says that we are going to be very happy. She owns a trailer in the woods and has a stack of firewood—just enough for the whole winter. We share a dream of having many children.*

*Please don't worry, Mom and Dad. I'm 15 and I know how to take care of myself. I'm sure we'll be back to visit someday so you can get to know your grandchildren.*

*Your son, Ken.*

*P.S. None of the above is true. I'm over at Tommy's house. I just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than the report card that's in my desk drawer. I love you! Call when it is safe for me to come home.*

If you want to know why mothers and fathers get gray hair..., that's why. Those who have older sons and daughters know it what it means to be a parent. Parenting—in fact, family life in general—requires great energy and strength, and we need wisdom and clear perspective in order to do things right.

Family is like a “graduate school of spirituality”. We can fake it at our workplaces, with our friends, and even at church, but marriage and parenting leave us no room to hide. My wife told me once: *“Who we really are, our true character is revealed with those who are the closest to us.”* It is in our families we encounter some of our greatest joys, but we experience things in the family that we would most likely not experience anywhere else.

My family has been an incredible gift from God. It brings me great joy, and when I'm away from my family I miss them terribly. Yet family may be challenging, too. We may be confronted with our selfishness, sins, and imperfection. It is where we can learn many things, for example, that we have faults that we did not even know existed. Still being with the family is one of the most wonderful things, but let us be honest, there are families where life is incredibly challenging, or there are family members with whom it is hard to get along.

Today, on Mother's Day let us look at what the Bible says about families, and especially let us examine what the Word of God says about marriage and parenting. The Bible talks about family life and the challenges of it on a practical way, and provides guidance in how to live a fruitful life and how to handle the challenges.

In order to protect our families and marriages, and to nourish and cultivate it, we need wisdom. And, let us be honest, we also need wisdom in managing the challenges successfully in the family and marriage.

For most of us the command is clear in how to nourish and protect our marriages and family relationships. The Word of God says this for the marriage relationships: *"Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband"* (Ephesians 5:33). When these two principles, **love and respect**, are found in a marriage then you have a growing and strong relationship. Our children will pay attention to and notice it when they see their parents loving and respecting each other and by this we set a good example for them. Therefore the Bible teaches this regarding our children: *"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it"* (Proverbs 22:6).

However, it will not happen by itself. If you live in a marriage, in a family then it is important to look for and find opportunities and possibilities when you can express to your spouse or your children that you love them. There are many possibilities to build our relationship with them. God gives us the wisdom how. Wisdom for those who are married and have children means that you do everything in order to protect and cultivate your relationship by loving and respecting each other by the help of the Lord Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

May the Lord bless us to grow in our relationships, and may the love and respect thrive in our lives. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
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Pastor