

book of the month | May 2025

Christian Home Paul Shirley

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.

Suggested One-Month Reading Plan **Avg 4 pages per day**

Week 1: Monday 5/5-Sunday 5/11

- Forward & Intro, 5 pages
- 1. A Spirit-Filled Family, 6 pages
- 2. Submissive Wives, 14 pages

Week 2: Monday 5/12-Sunday 5/18

- 3. Shepherding Husbands, 16 pages
- 4. Vital Union, 11 pages

Week 3: Monday 5/19-Sunday 5/25

- 5. Obedient Children, 11 pages
- 6. Faithful Parents, 15 pages

Week 4: Monday 5/26-Sunday 6/1

- 7. A Shepherded Family, 10 pages
- 8. A Tied Family, 8 pages
- 9. A Church Family, 9 pages

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.

Your pastor-elder,

Ben James

I would also encourage singles to read this book. If God may have marriage in your future, it is helpful to understand in advance what you are aiming for. Furthermore, reflecting on God's design for the home will equip you to encourage, pray for, and practically assist those in our church who do have families. *Jacob Hantla*

