

The Christian Family in Biblical Perspective
Seven Essentials in the Christian Family – Essential #4
Servant Leaders & Sacrificial Lovers – A Display Of Christ’s Love For His Bride
Ephesians 5:21 – 6:4
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May 31, 2009 – Morning Sermon

Thank you for the opportunity to come back to our series The Seven Essentials of an Effective Christian Family all drawn out of Ephesians 5 starting at verse 21 which sets up verses 22 through chapter 6 verse 4. In this study we are looking at Essential 4 that is the Biblical Role of a Husband. I invite you to come back tonight to hear our teenage choir who are right now reaching out to a Baptist church in Oxford, Mississippi and will conclude our Lord’s Day with a concert here tonight. Be here to minister and encourage our teenagers tonight as they come back and do their tour ending concert tonight. And not only as Benny prayed do we want the children to come to Jesus, we want to let the children come to Jesus so go fill up whatever cars you have and let them come here about the fruit of the Spirit this week as we have our Vacation Bible School. Pray that God would bring a great harvest of fruit of souls to Himself.

Ephesians 5:21-6:4 says, **21** *submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.* **22** *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.* **23** *For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.* **24** *Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.* **25** *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,* **26** *that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,* **27** *so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.* **28** *In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.* **29** *For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,* **30** *because we are members of his body.* **31** *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”* **32** *This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.* **33** *However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.* **6:1** *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* **2** *“Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise),* **3** *“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”* **4** *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

The grass withers and the flower fades. This is the Word of God, it abides forever, by His grace and mercy may it be preached for you.

When I was in the 6th grade in Charlotte, North Carolina it snowed every Wednesday for 4 Wednesdays in a row. 24 inches of snow accumulated over that time period which was unheard of in Charlotte, North Carolina. I lived at 2120 Shenandoah Avenue. Our home was heated with an Arcola. Does anyone remember that? That is a steam heat from a coal furnace for those of you who don’t know. So my job every night before I went to bed was to go and get the coal shovel. Then I went to the coal pile that was in the garage and got two buckets of coal. I brought it into the house next to the

furnace to feed the fire all night so we would stay warm. A coal shovel was an amazing little instrument.

My mother told me on that Wednesday that it snowed, “Go get the coal shovel and shovel off the walkway.” So I went and got it and began to shovel the snow off the walkway. I began to think as I was shoveling that I could make some money, not at my house but at the other houses in our neighborhood. I went to my mom and said, “What do you think about me borrowing the coal shovel and go around the neighborhood to see if I can shovel off their walks for a dollar a walk?” My mother invented the term “ching, ching.” When she heard me she said, “How much are you going to charge?” I said, “A dollar.” She said, “What if they won’t do it for a dollar?” I said, “I don’t know.” She said, “You’ll go down to 50 cents, that’s what you’ll do.” I said, “Okay.” So I was going to go out and shovel the walks.

My mother who felt like you needed to prepare for everything said to me, “I’m going to script you. When you knock on the door son, say, ‘Hi my name is Ike Reeder’ then say this...” Write down what you think my mother told me to say next and at the end I’ll collect them and call out the grades. I’ll give you a hint. No one would tell their son today to say this. Now write it down. I’ll check with you at the end of the sermon.

(We have been studying the Seven Essentials of a Christian Family and Essential number one was that Truth Trumps Technique. This is not a series of sermons to give you techniques to control your husband. It’s not a series of sermons to give you techniques to control your wife. It’s not a series of sermons to give you techniques for marriage survival. No, this is truth about what marriage is, a wife is, a husband is, what parents are, what children are to be and it’s truth, God willing, applies in love and that truth and love enables us to commit marriage. Singles can take a look to see what kind of man God has called me to be to be a Christian husband or what kind of woman does God call me to be to be a Christian wife. What should I be looking for in terms of a Christian husband or a Christian wife? How can we minister to one another in light of a Christian marriage and someone is divorced or widowed, how should we be stepping in to help that person in light of all that God has packed into the whole dynamic of a Christian marriage? So truth lived in love trumps technique.

The second essential from this text is the text says we are to submit to one another and the first place that’s applied is marriage. This is submitting to one another in the fear of the Lord or in reverence to Christ and it’s the only time that phrase “reverence for Christ” is used in the Bible. He says the hallmark of those who are filled with the Spirit who reverence Christ is submission and the first place you see it is in the family. You see this by husbands submitting to their wives by loving and leading them. This is seen in wives submitting to their husbands by respecting and completing them and then parents submitting to their children by raising them in the nurture and admonish of the Lord through a father’s leadership. Then it is seen by children submitting to their parents by honoring, obeying and respecting them. This is how submission is worked out.

In the text Paul quotes from Genesis 2:24 when he says, “*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.*” So what have we learned? One plus one equals one and that makes marriage a miracle. And God joins the husband and wife together which is what Jesus said. From the beginning of creation God made them male and female and for this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife and the two shall become one.

Consequently, they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together let no man separate. It's not the marriage ring, it's not the marriage ceremony but God unites the husband and wife at the marriage bed upon the consummation of that union before God, God unites them. We have already handled the issue of divorce and what the Bible says about patterned adultery or patterned abandonment but let no man separate. I am not to separate myself from my wife, myself from my husband. I am not to separate. I am to commit marriage. One plus one equals one.

What's a marriage? It's a covenantal relationship where we leave and cleave, one man and one woman, one life. It is monogamous. It's heterosexual and it has been designed by God from creation. Stop right here with me. What is the reason God made marriage? If we believe marriage is not a social invention, it's not something that has developed culturally. It is something God designed in creation. Why did God design marriage? The immediate thing is obvious. God made them male and female and look at the way He made them physically, sexually, spiritually and psychologically. Clearly God made us different to properly image Him. He said, "Let us make man in our image." So God made man male and female, in His image and therefore these that are made in My image He has designed marriage so that they could be one as image bearers and it clearly has been designed to accommodate how God has created us. Some would say, "Harry that's obvious." Yes you are right. That's the obvious revealed purpose of marriage.

But according to Ephesians 5 there's another reason God made marriage. The obvious marriage is to accommodate and implement what He has designed in creation but there's a hidden reason why He made marriage that this passage reveals. Ephesians 5:31, 32 says, **31** *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."* **32** *This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.* Do you know why God designed marriage ultimately? He designed it to give the picture of what He would do to redeem a people to His Son Jesus. Do you know what I've done most of my life until this series of sermons? I have treated that text as if Jesus came and saved His bride from her sins and God said, "Oh my goodness, look, I have a wonderful illustration from creation that I can use to give a picture for this." Then I went back and reread that text. When God made us in His image and designed marriage for a creation purpose He also designed it for a redemption purpose. He designed it then to point to what He would yet do in His Son when His Son would come and purchase a bride. He designed marriage to explain the glory and majesty of our redemption in Jesus Christ as the bride of Christ. It was designed for that purpose. That has a lot of implications in terms of our relationships with in that.

Now what's the third essential we have already studied? The fourth one we will cover in this study. The third and the fourth one actually work together. When sin entered the world sin ravaged marriage. It ravaged marriage with a 'absent without leave husband' who was standing beside his wife and let her lead them into sin. This was a woman who was led and deceived in sin. Then the curse of sin came in which a woman now having a sin nature desires her husband's position to compete with him and to conquer him. Scripture says of the woman, "Your desire shall be for your husband to master him" and the sin curse upon men as they then rule or tyrannize their wives because of the fallen nature of sin. The man can tyrannize by ignoring or intimidating. So now Paul says what sin has ravaged redemption reclaims. Now instead of men who tyrannize we will have men who lead and love their wives as Christ loves the church.

Instead of women who compete to conquer we will have women who reclaim their God given role to image the Holy Spirit, the other Helper and Jesus, the Helper as a help mate to come along side of their husband. Just as Eve was taken from Adam's side the woman comes back along side of their husband, not to compete with or be conquered by or to conquer but to compliment and come along side. So what we found out is we need by God's grace daughters of Sarah who are fear less in submission and faith full to give respect and this is the third essential.

A woman may be thinking, "Sarah was married to Abraham and I'm not married to Abraham." You need to thank the Lord. All Abraham did was put his wife in a position where she could get used up by a couple of kings and a Pharaoh because he lied about her by saying, "that's my sister." That was a half truth and he made it a whole lie in order that he might save his own skin but she in spite of Abraham did not get her confidence from her husband. She got her confidence from the Lord. That's why the Bible says "Wives submit to your husbands as to the Lord." It is the Lord that is our confidence. The woman is fear less because the Lord will guide, guard and protect her. The Lord will even use your submission. Wives if any of your husbands are disobedient to the Word they can be won to the Word without a word as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior (1 Peter 3:1). This is a woman who is fear less in submission and faith full in respect.

The book of Proverbs is clear. A wife who shames her husband is like a cancer in his bones. Don't you love that Proverbs 31 woman? If there is ever a woman that anyone would stand in awe of it's the Proverbs 31 woman. She takes care of her husband, her children, has a real estate business, a clothing business, a garment business and a couple other businesses. She has servants that report to her. It is said about her that "Charm is deceitful, beauty is vain but a woman who fears the Lord shall be praised" and the bottom line is when her husband is at the gates every one speaks well of him because of her. Her life does not overshadow him but her life encourages and honors him. She doesn't compete with him, she encourages him. That's where we stopped in the last study. She has faith full respect and fear less submission for her husband.)

So what about men? There is our fourth essential. The text gives us two mandates for the Christian husband. Mandate number one is you are to lead your wife as the head of your wife. Ephesians 5:23 says, *For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.* So as Jesus is head of the body so is the man to be the head or the leader of his wife. So what should a husband be? He used to be the leader of his wife the way Christ leads, cares and saves His body. How does Jesus save His bride? He saves her in three ways. He is her Prophet, Priest and her King. He brings the Word to her - Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my life. It warns me of the evil way and points me to the right way. He is a Priest as He intercedes for her. Her every need is His great burden. He is her King. He is that benevolent shepherd King who would watch over her and care for her. He is that shepherd King that would do any and everything and all that He could for her. He is the head of his wife. Just as submission is not a sign of inferiority, headship or leadership is not a sign of superiority.

I would like to illustrate this by saying if we get in a car today and go down the road and there's a policeman that says, "Stop!" What do you do? You stop. You don't stop and say to the policeman, "Do you have more money than I have? Are your mother

and father more important than my mother and father? What kind of degree do you have?" You don't do any of that. You don't stop because the policeman is superior to you. You stop because that's his office. He is the civil magistrate and as a Christian submitting you submit to those in authority over you. It's not because of superiority or inferiority it's because of order. The same thing is true with headship, men. You are not called to be the head because of superiority but because of responsibility.

I want to illustrate this further from the Bible. In first Corinthians 11 you have the same concept of headship identified and then the whole dynamic is further clarified for us. 1 Corinthians 11:1-3 says, *1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. 2 Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. 3 But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.* So what does this have to do with what we are talking about here? Let me ask you a question. Why did Jesus come into this world to save us from our sins? He loved us. That's one reason but what's another reason? Another reason is because the Father sent Him. So Jesus submitted to the Father. Then Jesus ascends to heaven and He sends to us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit submits to Jesus and comes to accomplish what He is ordained to do.

How did we get created? The Father authored our creation. The Son accomplished our creation – by Him all things were made and in Genesis 1 the Holy Spirit hovered, superintended and ordered all of the creation. How did we get saved? The Father authored our salvation. The Son accomplished our salvation and the Holy Spirit applied our salvation. The Father sent the Son who sent the Spirit. The Spirit submits to the Son and the Son to the Father yet our God is One and the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are equal. It is not a statement of inferiority or superiority but it's a statement of calling, office and responsibility. So it is a wife's submission or a husband's submission to being a leader of his wife and a lover of his wife, is a call from God. It is not a statement of his superiority. Just as the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit are equal yet submit in the economy of Their work so it is within a marriage.

The second mandate is for the man to love his wife, to be her protector and her provider. I really believe this is the key. When I was coming along in the ministry it was basically thought of that if a home was loving you could thank the mother/wife. If a home had order you could thank the husband/father. I believe a husband and father affect order and I believe the wife affects the love in a home but I believe with all of my heart that a home without order is a sign of a wife who doesn't respect her husband and the result is seen in the children and how they will deal with authority. I also believe a home without passion, love and compassion is the evidence of a man who is not clearly, pointedly, pursuing and loving his wife. Therefore everybody in the house lives by entitlement and narcissism instead of love and sacrifice. I believe men should bring ardor to a home even as a woman would bring order to a home. Here men are called to lead and to love.

Then he gives two models for these mandates. How am I supposed to lead? Jesus gives us two models for leadership. By the way did you ever notice how Jesus kept having to reclaim leadership for His disciples in the Scripture? James and John on two different occasions did this and one of these happenings was at the last week before Jesus was crucified during the Last Supper meal. They were arguing over who the greatest was in the Kingdom and Jesus said, "The greatest are the least. The first shall be last. The

leader of all is the servant of all. If you want to be first come last.” That’s what Jesus teaches them and if the words aren’t enough at the Last Supper Jesus gets up and divests Himself of His garments and wraps a towel around Himself. Then He does the work of a slave that nobody had yet done by washing the feet of the disciples and said, “If I your Master do this for you, how blessed are you if you serve, love one another. Servant leadership is God’s call upon us.

When I graduated from Westminster South Seminary in Florida I stood in line with those who were graduating in 1982. As we walked across the platform I shook hands with the Dean, he put our diploma in one hand and after we shook hands he reached around and gave us a towel that had our initials embroidered on it. Then he said to us, “Now that you have graduated from seminary you are credentialed and empowered to wash the feet of God’s people. Go serve the people.” Leadership is called to be servant hood. Are we supposed to respect our leaders? Absolutely, but leaders don’t seek their exaltation. Leadership in the home and in the church seeks humiliation. A husband says, “I want to love and lead my wife. I want to lead her as a servant.”

What is another picture of leadership in the church? It is the shepherd. Jesus said, “My leaders are shepherds. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” Men, when we lead in a home we are leaders who are servants. I was just reading a biography of a great man of God and it was said of him at his funeral, “You all sat at his feet while he taught you theology. You saw him serve the Lord in his church. What I want to tell you is I saw him at home and there was never anything so menial that he would not do it for his wife.” That’s a servant’s heart and then there is the shepherd’s heart.

What does a shepherd do? A shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. Hirelings live off the sheep. Shepherds aren’t ranchers. Ranchers drive a herd. Shepherds lead the flock. The shepherd knows his sheep by name and his sheep follow him. How can you follow someone if they are behind you driving you? You follow them because they are out in front of you. The shepherd is in front. Why does the shepherd have a rod and a staff? He doesn’t use the rod and staff to beat the flock. He has the crook on the rod to rescue the flock when it goes astray and he has the point on the end to defend the flock if that bear or lion shows up. The shepherd is ready to tend and defend. That’s the leader shepherd – tending and defending, providing and protecting the flock and he is to be the lover of his wife. He is to love his wife as Christ loves the church and gave Himself up for her. It’s amazing to see in leadership that shepherds lay down their life and lovers like Christ lay down their life. Our wives aren’t there to make our lives. Jesus is our life and we are there in the name of the Lord for the Lord to do His work through us in the lives of our wives. Servants and shepherds are our models, men, which God has given to us.

I have three takeaways for this study. Harry, what kind of Christian man who has come to Christ, because the Gospel has called him to trust in Christ and been filled with the Spirit, is able to do this in his home? One man wrote a book who kind of summed it well. He called such a man the tender warrior. In the things that I do, I like to talk about men as sensitive and compassionate in relationships and strong and courageous like Joshua. You see men like this with David, don’t you? Was David strong and courageous? Was David a warrior? There was a reason they sung the song, “Saul has killed his thousands but David has killed his tens of thousands.” Ask Goliath if David

was strong and courageous. Ask the lion that showed up when David was a shepherd if he was strong and courageous. Ask the bear that wandered near his flock. You can't ask them because they are all dead but was he compassionate? Just read the Psalms and you'll see. He was a poet and a musician and you can see the depth of his soul in the Psalms. Of course our Savior with His bride is a picture of a warrior, who purchased her at the cross and yet the tender Savior who draws His people in and keeps them and nothing separates them from His love.

The phrase I like when such men framed and driven by the Gospel and filled with the Spirit is that they are lion hearted and lamb like. The woman/wife has fear less submission and faith full respect for her husband. So the man is lion hearted and lamb like. I didn't come up with this on my own. Other people have said it before me but most importantly the Holy Spirit has given this to us in the Scripture. Revelation 5:1-5 says, **1** *Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 And one of the elders said to me (John), "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."*

In other words the elder is saying, "Don't weep, I've got great news! There is One who is worthy to open the book, to break the seals. This One is the Lion of Judah. He has conquered sin, death, hell and the grave. This is heaven's Champion. See Him, He is worthy, John don't weep. Here is the One, the Lion of Judah!" John hears him. Then John turns to look at this lion and what does he see when he looks for the Lion of Judah? It's in the next verse, Revelation 5:6; *And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain...* When he turned to look for this lion he saw the Lamb who had humbled Himself that we might have life. Jesus is lion hearted. Nothing would stop Jesus from purchasing His bride. 2100 years ago He was suspended between heaven and earth and He is fighting the battle as heaven's Champion for His bride. He stayed on the cross with angels ready to rescue Him. He stayed on that cross even though there were mockers and blasphemers. He stayed on that cross and drank that cup to purchase His bride until He could say, "It is finished!" The Lion has conquered. How? He humbled Himself. He is the Lamb that submitted to death even death on a cross to pay for all of our sins.

Men, be lion hearted and lamb like. I'm not talking about the perversion of lamb like with the effeminate man that has become so popular in our culture. I'm not talking about the noxious notion of terminators and Rambo's. I'm talking about strength and heart. I'm talking about lion hearted, lamb like, filled with the Spirit, eyes fixed on Jesus, the Lion has saved you, the Lamb has died for you and now God is using you to provide for your family, to protect your family. I'm not just talking about protecting them physically. I'm talking about protecting them spiritually. When Satan comes your there to resist the Evil one, and say to him, "You can't have my wife, you can't have my children, our family worship, our witness for Christ, or my ministry. I am there by God's grace at that moment with my eyes fixed upon Jesus. I am lion hearted, lamb like for that moment." Yet we don't think more highly of ourselves than we are. What we are by the

grace of God with utter dependency we cast ourselves before Him who alone can give us the strength to the end.

When Jesus said, "It is finished!" He wasn't finished. Our redemption was finished but He wasn't finished. He would bring His bride to glory and no divorce, nothing shall separate Him from His bride. There are some things in here you just can't miss. I wish we could transport ourselves all the way back to this moment and just feel the counter cultural message that Paul is bringing. There is nothing more hated in the Roman Pagan world than the notion of submission. What you did was you manipulated and controlled and you can't get more counter cultural. I know today we are always grappling with this notion of not wanting to talk about these Gospel things and Gospel demands, submission and all of this. People may not listen. Well, let's get them saved and then we'll show up with this later. When the Apostle Paul steps into that pagan world that got turned upside down he knew the Gospel and its call was not only counter cultural, it was an affront to the culture. Do you think the men of the Roman Empire had any notion of what Paul was saying? You can't get more counter cultural than this.

Do you know how men in those days saw their wives and children? They saw them as objects for their significance in life. Paul just told them, "No, if the Gospel has got your life then they are subjects for you to lay down your life for." There may come a day where churches will no longer call us to the Gospel life in the name of Christ and our families but not this one. By God's grace, not this church. One of the things that God has designed to get the attention of the world are these kinds of marriages that speak of Christ and His bride.

I know what you are thinking. Harry, the text says to love your wife as Christ loves the church and I heard that but it also said to love your wife as you love your body. This could be a whole sermon in itself but I'll just take a few minutes. My whole life I have tried to balance that text in Ephesians 5:28-30 which says, *28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body.* I have done these gymnastics in a sermon where you sacrifice but love your wife the way you would selfishly love yourself. Then one day about two weeks ago it hit me. When I got married one plus one equals one. My wife and I became one therefore she is my body. Love your wife as Christ loves the church.

Do you remember when Christ dealt with Paul on the road to Damascus? He knocked him down and said, "Saul, Saul, why does thou persecutest Me?" As Saul ravaged the body of Christ, he was ravaging the bride of Christ and as he ravaged the bride of Christ, he was ravaging the body of Christ. Do you know what Luther's nickname for his wife was? It was prime rib, Katie my rib. What was he saying? He was saying we are one. To love your own body is another way to say love your wife. She is your body. Christ has joined you together. You are one, now love your body, your wife. She is your body. You are on your way now.

Now I have to answer the question I posed at the beginning of this study of what my mother said to me. She said you give them your name – Hi my name is Ike Reeder. Then she said the next question you ask them is, "Is the man of the house at home?" That's where I'm going to leave you today. When Satan comes calling this week for your wife and your children, "Is the man of the house home, who will lay down his life

for his wife, who will love his wife, who will lead with a servant's heart, who will lead with a shepherd's soul?" In the garden, Satan called, "Is the man of the house at home?" He was there physically because it says he was with Eve but he wasn't there for her. When Satan calls against the church, His bride, "Is the man of the house home?" we'll say, "Yes, nothing will separate me from my church."

Men, I plead with you. First if you have never come to Christ, come to Him. This isn't a technique. You have to come to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and He will make you a man of God to respond to the call of God, and not the distraction of the call of the world or to be a man of the world but by God's grace to be a man of God for His glory, He will make you such a man. If you falter He will forgive you. For every man or woman reading this today where the man of the home is not there then please go to Jesus Christ who is not only a Father to the fatherless and the orphan but will be a Husband to the one who is the widow or the one who has been abandoned. Go to Him and we as a church will by God's grace step up with the kind of leadership that can fill in the blanks but for those that are there the question is, "Is the man of the house home?" The answer is "By God's grace I am and for His glory I will be lion hearted and lamb like to the end and nothing will separate me from this bride and these children." Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You the privilege to provide, protect and encourage as men. Thank You for the privilege to know Christ as Lord and Savior, would You speak to our hearts now? To anyone and everyone reading this that has never come to Christ, you have a Savior who will deliver you into His arms and will give you everlasting life. Just confess, "I know I'm a sinner and I come to Christ today." But today, this Lord's Day, men, let's do business with God. God please work in my life. I'm a sinner and You're my Savior. I have retreated. Make me like the Lion of Judah to stand firm. At times I have stood firm with arrogance, make me like my Savior, Lamb like, so I can listen to my wife, hear my children and most of all submitted and surrendered to the Holy Spirit, filled with the Word of God. Lord, let me not be this worldly arrogant terminators or effeminate. Make me a man of God. Brothers, I want you to know we have men who by God's grace have known some measure of victory. If you would like to be discipled or mentored we'll take care of that but right now fix your eyes on Jesus, the Lion, the Lamb. Father, thank You for these moments together, may we rise up O men of God and have done with lesser things. Give mind, heart and soul to Christ the King of Kings, I pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.