

Life Group Notes 10/12/2025

Sacred Order Week II: God's Order for Families—Mark Warren

No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time.

– Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our heart and guide our discussions.

Leaders: *please pre-read these notes and choose the direction that is appropriate for your group. Scan the detailed questions that follow the AI-generated study questions, to see if you want to add any more detailed questions.*

Be cognizant of your group's time and be sensitive. *Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.*

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 10/12. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another**

Important: At [the very end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week.

Footnotes are added to supply detail, and to enhance the study. Use at your discretion, and know any questions are welcomed. This week's footnotes cover:

1. [A brief list of woman leaders in the Bible.](#)
2. [On love covering a multitude of sins.](#)

The new format begins with a summary of the notes, followed by study questions. This week, notes in full detail can be found beginning on page 3:

Section I: Summary

Here's a **summary** of the *Life Group Notes for 10/12/2025 – Sacred Order Week II: God's Order for Families* by Pastor Mark Warren:

Main Theme:

God has a sacred design for families, rooted in biblical principles of **servant leadership, submission, unity, and spiritual covering**. Pastor Mark emphasizes that understanding and living out these roles is essential for healthy families, churches, and societies.

Key Points:**1. Responding vs. Reacting**

- Pastor Mark encourages believers to **respond thoughtfully** to challenging biblical truths rather than reacting emotionally.
- Life groups are meant to be safe spaces for discussing difficult topics.

2. Biblical Headship

- Based on **1 Corinthians 11:3**, the concept of headship is explained as a **spiritual order**, not a hierarchy.
- Jesus is the model for servant leadership—He led by serving (Luke 22:25–27).

3. Servant Leadership vs. Control

- Headship is not about domination but **covering and responsibility**.
- Men are called to lead like Christ—loving, serving, and sacrificing for their families.

4. The Role of Women

- Submission is redefined as “coming under the mission,” not inferiority.
- Women are equal in value but have distinct roles, illustrated in **Ephesians 5** and **Proverbs 31**.

5. The Role of Children

- Children are called to **honor and obey** their parents (Ephesians 6:1–3).
- Obedience brings blessing and teaches reverence for God.

6. Societal Impact

- Statistics show that fatherlessness correlates with societal breakdown (e.g., prison rates, homelessness).
- Pastor Mark warns that confusion of roles has led to disengaged fathers and overwhelmed mothers.

7. Restoration and Healing

- Families must reclaim biblical roles to restore unity and spiritual health.
- Fathers are exhorted to be **present, prayerful, and spiritually engaged**.
- The family is a prophetic picture of Christ and the Church.

Illustrations & Parables:

- **Umbrella Parable:** The husband’s spiritual leadership provides covering and protection.
- **Bird with Two Wings:** Both husband and wife must fulfill their roles for the family to “fly” properly.
- **Norman Rockwell’s “Sunday Morning”:** Used to illustrate the absence of spiritual leadership in the home.

Footnotes & Further Study:

- **Women in Leadership:** Biblical examples include Deborah, Anna, Priscilla, and Junia.
- **Love Covers Sin:** God’s love sees potential and future holiness, not just present flaws.

SOAP Study Plan (Daily Scripture Reflection):

- Scriptures from 1 Samuel, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, Luke, Hebrews, and more are provided for deeper personal study using the SOAP method (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer)

Section II: Study questions

◆ Summary Questions: Sacred Order Week II – God’s Order for Families

1. Responding vs. Reacting

- What does it mean to respond rather than react to challenging biblical truths?
- Why is it important to have a safe space like a Life Group to discuss difficult topics?

2. Biblical Headship & Servant Leadership

- How does 1 Corinthians 11:3 describe God’s order for families?
- What does servant leadership look like in the example of Jesus?
- How does biblical headship differ from control or domination?

3. Roles in Marriage

- What is the biblical definition of submission, and how does it differ from cultural misunderstandings?
- How does Ephesians 5 describe the roles of husbands and wives?
- What does “coming under the mission” mean in the context of marriage?

4. The Role of Fathers

- Why is a father’s spiritual presence in the home so important?
- What are the consequences of fatherlessness in society?
- What does it mean for a father to lead under God’s authority?

5. The Role of Children

- What promise is attached to children honoring their parents (Ephesians 6:1–3)?
- How does honoring authority help children learn to honor God?

6. Equality vs. Roles

- How can we distinguish between equality of value and sameness of roles?
- What examples of women in leadership can be found in the Bible?
- How has confusion about roles impacted families and society?

7. Healing and Restoration

- What steps can families take to restore God’s order in the home?
- How does unity in the family reflect God’s design for the church?
- What does it mean to “prophesy life” into your spouse?

8. Spiritual Warfare and Submission

- Why has the concept of submission become controversial in today’s culture?
- How does biblical submission bring blessing and shift pressures in the home?

9. Final Reflections

- What is the prophetic significance of marriage as described in Ephesians 5:31–33?
- How does the relationship between husband and wife reflect Christ and the Church?
- What is your personal response to Pastor Mark’s exhortation for spiritual leadership in the home?

Section III: Complete study notes

Pastor Mark began today’s message with a warning, intimating that we were going to discuss controversial topics. He told us to be careful to respond, not react.

1. What is the difference.
2. Do you tend to react first? Or to respond first?

He suggests that a safe response is, “God if this is true, if your Word is true, I’m going to do the work. I’ll be a part of my life group so I can discuss this. I’m struggling with this concept.” He says it’s good to have a safe place where difficult issues can be discussed.

1. Why does he suggest these issues be discussed in a life group?

2. Which issues are the most difficult to discuss? Explain.
3. What do you do when your friends say or someone in your circle says something that you do not agree with?
4. Do you have a strategy?

† **What does God really mean when He calls husbands the “head” of the home?**

Mark begins with 1 Corinthians 11: *3But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.*

1. Put this in your own words. What do you see?
2. Before Sunday, what have you thought about the concept of man being the “head of every woman.”
3. When “the head of Christ is God,” is Christ’s leadership diminished or enhanced?
4. Mark says, “From the very beginning, satan’s strategy has been to destroy families, which in turn destroys communities, which eventually destroys nations.” What do you know of history? Is this principle true? Explain?
5. The preamble of the US Constitution describes the purpose of the document “...to ensure the blessings of liberty unto our posterity.” Explain how that concept fits into God’s deliberate design.
6. How does family do that?
7. He says, “The family is the root of God’s design for healthy, growing, prospering societies.” How are families to live in unity and what is the purpose of this?

Mark says, “God designed the husband as head of the home. This really is the illustration of how Jesus led. And Jesus was the model for us as men.”

1. What can you explain here? How did Jesus lead?
2. Look up Luke 22:²⁵*So Jesus declared, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority over them call themselves benefactors. ²⁶But you shall not be like them. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines? But I am among you as one who serves.* How does this address God’s order?
3. Give an example, something Jesus did in the gospels, that illustrates what he’s saying here.
4. Give another.
5. If the one who serves is greater, who is the greatest in your household?
6. Have you ever tried to “out-humble” your spouse? Who won?

† **How do men lead without controlling, and how do women support without losing their voice?**

Mark says “God’s design for headship is servant-leadership, not domination.

1. Explain.
2. What is the difference?
3. Describe excellent leaders with whom you have worked, or whom you have seen.
4. He says, “God’s design for headship was never about control. It was always about covering. What does this mean?

Look up Numbers 30: *10If a woman in her husband’s house has made a vow or put herself under an obligation with an oath, ¹¹and her husband hears of it but says nothing to her and does not prohibit her, then all the vows or pledges by which she has bound*

herself shall stand. ¹²But if her husband nullifies them on the day he hears of them, then nothing that came from her lips, whether her vows or pledges, shall stand. Her husband has nullified them, and the LORD will absolve her. ¹³Her husband may confirm or nullify any vow or any sworn pledge to deny herself. ¹⁴But if her husband says nothing to her from day to day, then he confirms all the vows and pledges that bind her. He has confirmed them, because he said nothing to her on the day he heard about them. ¹⁵But if he nullifies them after he hears of them, then he will bear her iniquity.”

1. Describe the concept of covering in the Old Testament sense.
2. Mark says, “It’s not about hierarchy, it’s about harmony.” Explain.
3. Continue with Ephesians 5:²⁵*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her ²⁶to sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to Himself as a glorious church, without stain or wrinkle or any such blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹Indeed, no one ever hated his own body, but he nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church. ³⁰For we are members of His body.*
What do you see?
4. How did Christ love the church? How does the Word wash her?
5. What is the ultimate destiny of the church? What is her ultimate look?
6. Mark says, “Headship is about taking responsibility. It is not about superiority.”
Looking at what Jesus said, [above in Luke 22](#), does He agree with this statement?
Explain.

Pastor illustrated this concept with the parable of the umbrella.

1. What was the parable?
2. If the man holds the umbrella over the couple, who is sheltered?
3. Who is handicapped? Explain.
4. Using the passage from [Numbers 30, above](#), how does this illustrate the concept of roles in a relationship? How does the umbrella protect the wife?

Pastor Mark suggests that society has confused the concept of roles, suggesting that one role has been miscast as “more important than the other,” and we’re wondering why our families are struggling. “When husbands walk with Christ, his family walks under the spiritual covering of peace and safety.”

1. What do you see? Do you have a testimony?
2. How is the role of the husband more than that of a provider?
3. Why is the suggestion, “I’m doing my job as long as I’m bringing home the bacon...” inadequate? What is missing?
4. Mark says, “Your family doesn’t only need your paycheck, they need your presence.” What does this mean?
5. What does our presence in the home bring with it? List the benefits of a willing involvement.
6. What are the consequences of involvement withheld?

Look at this image from the cover of the *Saturday Evening Post*, May 16, 1959 by Norman Rockwell, entitled "Sunday Morning."



1. What do you see?
2. What does the son see?
3. What is not happening? Is this comedy? Or tragedy?
4. How soon after WWII were people noticing the change of leadership in families in America? What came next?
5. Why does the family depicted need the father's presence?
6. Has anything changed since 1959? Do you have a testimony?

Pastor prophesied over fathers, saying, "Fathers, be intentional, active, engaged, spiritually engaged, spiritually leading your family. Your wife needs your tenderness and your prayers. Your kids need your voice and your example. They need to see you, husbands, fathers, on your knees contending for your family in prayer. They need to see you with your Bibles opened up. They need to realize that you're leading under the authority of God's Word and His instruction."

1. Respond. What action steps do you see?

2. If you're the wife, what is your role in this exhortation?
3. Look at Ephesians 6: *4Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath; instead, bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.* What does this mean?
4. How do you correct children? Instead of wrath, what do you provoke children to?
5. Compare what Paul says here to Proverbs 22: *6Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.* What is the promise here?
6. Do you have a testimony?
7. How is "training up a child" like disciplining? Explain.

† **Why does the health of our families affect the health of our church — and even our nation?**

Pastor shared some stats:

- 85% of youth in prison come from fatherless homes.
- 71% of high school dropouts come from families that do not have fathers.
- 90% of homeless and runaway children grew up in homes without a father present.

Then he concluded saying, "Fathers, your role is so...so important. When fathers step back, societies begin to fall apart.

1. What is your reaction to these stats?
2. What have you observed?
3. Have you noticed any changes lately?

† **And what happens when God's design for the family is ignored or confused?**

Pastor spoke of the downside of the women's movement, and the confusion that came to biblical roles.

1. What roles can you name that have been confused?
2. Explain the nuance between "equality of value" and "sameness of roles".
3. What happens when equality of value is confused with sameness of roles?
4. What do you know of women in leadership in the Bible? How many woman leaders' names can you name? (See [footnote 1 below](#). How many names did you know?)
5. What was good about the women's suffrage movement? Should women be allowed to vote? Explain.
6. Mark contends that something unconstructive happened with the "Women's liberation movement." Do you remember what that was?
7. What did men begin to do? Look again at the Norman Rockwell painting. Does this help explain what happened?
8. What happens when one parent takes more of the burden than they were designed to carry?
9. Look at Deuteronomy 10: *17For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, mighty, and awesome God, showing no partiality and accepting no bribe. 18He executes justice for the fatherless and widow, and He loves the foreigner, giving him food and clothing.* What promise does the woman have when the father does not play his role?
10. Look at Galatians 3: *27For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.* Talk about equality.
11. Is Paul talking about equality of value? Or equality of role?

12. In this light, why is understanding the role and responsibility of each essential? What is different?
13. Mark says, "Instead of stepping up as servant-leaders, many men were stepping back, saying, 'Fine. I'll just be the provider.'" What was the result?
14. "Men felt unwanted, unneeded, unsure of how to lead without being labeled as oppressive or sexist, somehow no longer called to be doing what they were supposed to be doing." Do you have a testimony?
15. What is the result of this confusion?
16. He continues, "A generation of disengaged fathers, exhausted mothers and children without clear guidance has not been good for us." Has it only been one generation?
17. What has been the cost? How do we go about healing this divide?
18. What needs to be reclaimed? What steps do we take today? And after?
19. Mark uses the parable of the bird with two wings. What happens to flight when one wing is crippled? Explain.

Examine now the wife's role. Returning to Ephesians 5: Examine Ephesians 5: *²¹Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²²Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

1. What has Paul added to man's headship and woman's role?
2. What is the prophetic illustration that a biblical marriage provides?
3. Explain.
4. Explain this idea from a military perspective: Submission is the source of power and authority.
5. Look at 1 Samuel 15: *²²But Samuel declared [to Saul]: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obedience to His voice? Behold, obedience is better than sacrifice, and attentiveness is better than the fat of rams. ²³For rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft, and arrogance is like the wickedness of idolatry.* How is submission the key to wielding God's authority?
6. How is rebellion, then, an expression of weakness?
7. Why has "submission" become, as Pastor Mark suggests, "almost taboo in today's culture?" Describe the nature of spiritual warfare illustrated due to this change.
8. Again using Rockwell's illustration above, to whom is the man submitting? Is the woman in rebellion? What is happening to the children? Describe the confusion.
9. How does biblical submission become a blessing? What pressures shift?
10. Mark defined "submission" as "coming under the mission." Does that help increase our understanding? What changes when we understand this definition?
11. What is the mission? How is our posterity impacted by our submission?
12. What mission does the husband have? What mission does the wife have?
13. Pastor says, "This is about unity, not inferiority. Equal value with different roles." Does this help? How would you say this better?
14. Take a moment to examine Proverbs 31. Is the wife here a doormat? Explain.
15. Can you explain why there is no such chapter in the entire Bible describing the virtuous husband?

Now look at Paul's conclusion in Ephesians 5:³¹*"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 mystery is profound, but I am speaking about Christ and the church.*³³*Nevertheless, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

1. What do you see? Anything new?
2. What does "leaving father and mother" involve?
3. What does "becoming one flesh" involve?
4. How is the relationship husband and wife the prophetic embodiment of God's intention with His church?
5. Be gentle with your answers: Explain why the husband is told to love the wife, but the wife is told only to respect her husband?
6. Does love come easier to a woman? Does respect come easier to a man (thinking in terms of military service)? Explain your answer.
7. Under what circumstances can a spouse ignore verse 32? (Under what circumstances will God stop loving? Under what circumstances can the church stop respecting/fearing her Lord?)
8. Mark adds, "Jesus said, 'While they were yet sinners, I did everything I was asked to do.'" Explain.
9. He says, "You cannot point your finger at your spouse and say, 'You need to do this.' You can only turn to the Lord, and ask, 'What are you asking me to do?' That's it. Your goal is to prophesy life into your spouse." Your response?
10. Look at [footnote 2 below](#). How does "love cover?"
11. Was God lying about the Israelites when he told Balak, *"He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, Nor has He seen wickedness in Israel?"* Or is he actually prophesying the truth of what He foresees...what is yet to come?

Examining now the children's role, turn to Ephesians 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*"that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on the earth."*

1. What do you see?
2. What blessing comes with obedience?
3. Is there a pre-requisite to honoring father and mother? Or do you honor them with no requirements in return?
4. Mark says, "When children honor parents, they learn to honor God." How does that work?
5. What do you gain in insight when you honor those in authority?
6. How do children become disrespectful? How do they learn respect?
7. Pastor related a moment where he had difficulty submitting to leadership, and he heard the Lord say, "If you cannot submit to the leadership over you, how are you going to submit to me?" Explain.
8. Have you had similar experiences where you had to learn submission?
9. What does this mean: Hebrews 5:⁷*During the days of Jesus' earthly life, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him*

from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. ⁸Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from what He suffered? How is Jesus made perfect?

10. Explain the results of His obedience, Hebrews 5: ⁹*And having been made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.* What is the reward of our obedience described in this verse?
11. In 1 John 4 it says this: ¹⁹*We love because He first loved us.* ²⁰If anyone says, “I love God,” but hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹*And we have this commandment from Him: Whoever loves God must love his brother as well.”* Is this the same principle as Mark is expressing?
12. Explain. How does our behavior display the degree to which we are willing to respond to God?
13. Now summarize the sacred order that God has placed in the home. What are the essential elements?

Take the time to pray.

Follow up application:

1. Use the **Soap study below** to pursue your own understanding.
 2. Take an inventory of your own leadership in the home. How do you measure yourself? Use the Rockwell painting above as rock bottom.
 3. Summarize the essentials to a home that is ordered by God. What role do you have?
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Footnotes:

1. **A brief list of women in leadership in the Bible**—Women are not left out of leadership in the bible. [Here](#) (click or see <https://lightandgospel.com/prophetesses-in-the-bible/>) is a useful site to explore female leadership, prophetesses both good and evil, from the Old Testament, with a brief mention of those in the New as well. Deborah was righteous judge and ruler over Israel. Jezebel, an example of evil, was married to Ahab, king of the Northern Kingdom, and caused much harm. Her daughter, Athaliah married in treaty with Judah, the southern kingdom, murdered her own offspring and usurped for a time the very throne. Jezebel finds her manifestation in the prophecies of the book of Revelation. But it's important to understand that not all women in leadership in the New Testament are evil: the prophetess Anna was first to recognize the Messiah, after prophesying for decades without controversy in the temple prior to his birth. Priscilla with her husband Aquila taught Apollos the ways of the Holy Spirit. Phillip had seven daughters who prophesied, and Paul recognizes Junia as an apostle in Romans 16, although history knows nothing of her. Women, whom Paul says should “keep silent in the church,” are still acknowledged by him as able to prophesy...(as long as their heads are “covered.”)
2. **On love covering a multitude of sins**—One of the principles of the Bible is love having power to cover sins. Look at this [link \(click here\)](#) (https://www.openbible.info/topics/love_covers_a_multitude_of_sins) and explain

how that works. In Solomon's love song to the Shulamite, chapter 4 verse 7, he says, "You are altogether beautiful, my darling; in you there is no flaw." This doesn't speak of perfection, but of the lover's attitude toward his beloved. It speaks of how God looks at and sees His bride. Shortly after the plague of snakes in Numbers, Balak calls on the prophet Balaam to curse Israel. Rather than curse, Balaam blesses Israel in these terms: Numbers 23: ¹⁹*"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"* ²⁰*Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.* ²¹*"He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, Nor has He seen wickedness in Israel. The Lord his God is with him, And the shout of a King is among them.* Although God will rebuke his children directly, he will never allow another to speak ill of His beloved. That is the nature of God's love.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP method** (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—Write what God is saying. / **P**ray—Write what your response is.) to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: 1 Samuel 15:22-23
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 11:3
Wednesday: Ephesians 5:21-24
Thursday: Luke 22:26-27
Friday: Hebrews 5:7-9
Saturday: Ephesians 5:25-30
Sunday: Ephesians 5:32-33

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.