

# **Family Issues**

**Student Manual**

# Family Issues

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## Lesson 1 The First Family

### I. Why is it so important to place an emphasis on marriage and the family?

- A. Because the family is and always will be the basic \_\_\_\_\_ of society.
- B. Because God places a \_\_\_\_\_ on the family.
- C. Because as the family goes, so goes \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. Because the world is trying to \_\_\_\_\_ the family.

The traditional concept that corresponds with the biblical concept of family is "the group comprising a husband and wife and their dependent children, constituting a fundamental unit in the organization of society."

- E. Because cultural forces are \_\_\_\_\_ the success of the family.
  - 1. The busyness of our lifestyles
  - 2. The focus on materialism
  - 3. The excessive divorce rate
  - 4. The proliferation of electronic entertainment
  - 5. The dual income culture
  - 6. The TV model of family
  - 7. The educational system
  - 8. The culture of comfort
  - 9. The overall selfishness of the individual
  - 10. The "rights" movements that empower children
  - 11. The debt society
  - 12. The context of the last days (II Tim. 3:1-5).

*You should also know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control; they will be cruel and have no interest in what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act as if they are religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. You must stay away from people like that. –NLT*

### II. What is the foundation for the first family?

The foundation for the first family is \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 3:14-15).

- A. The pattern for the first family is found in the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
1. The Father reveals the nature of true \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut. 32:6; Ps. 68:4-6; 103:13; Pro. 3:12; Is. 64:8; Mal. 2:10; I Cor. 1:3).
  2. The Son reveals the nature of true \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 2:7; Is. 7:14; 9:6; Mt. 3:17; John 1:14, 18; 3:16; 17:1-7).
  3. The Holy Spirit reveals the “\_\_\_\_\_” side of God.
    - a. The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ over the face of the earth much like a mother hen would brood over her chicks (Gen. 1:2).
    - b. The Holy Spirit is the \_\_\_\_\_ much like the mother who comforts her young (Is. 66:12-13; John 16:7).
    - c. The Holy Spirit is the \_\_\_\_\_, dove-like member of the Godhead (Mt. 3:16, Compare Song. 6:9).
    - d. The Holy Spirit is the one who \_\_\_\_\_ to spiritual young (John 3:5, 6, 8).
    - e. The Holy Spirit is the one who brings forth the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
- B. The vision for an extended family was found in \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father (Gen. 1:26-28).
1. God desired \_\_\_\_\_ in His image.
  2. God desired His offspring to \_\_\_\_\_ to fill up the earth.
  3. God desired that His offspring would reach a place of \_\_\_\_\_ to reflect His character and nature.
  4. God desired to have an intimate \_\_\_\_\_ and communion with His offspring.
  5. God desired that His offspring would enter into a God-like \_\_\_\_\_ of ruling and reigning.
  6. God desired that His offspring would eventually qualify as \_\_\_\_\_ for the Eternal Son of God.

### III. What did the first family on earth look like?

- A. God began by creating \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 2:7-8; I Tim. 2:13).

- B. God created the \_\_\_\_\_ from the man (Gen. 2:20-23; I Cor. 11:9).
- C. Man and woman cooperating together brought forth \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 1:22; 4:1-2).
- D. God placed man in an \_\_\_\_\_ environment (Gen. 2:8-15).
- E. Man was innocent but \_\_\_\_\_ regarding sin (Gen. 2:25).

**IV. What was the purpose for which the first family was created?**

The primary purpose for the first family was to satisfy the \_\_\_\_\_ for offspring in His image.

- A. The first family was to be a reflection of \_\_\_\_\_ and character of God.
- B. The first family was to be a source of \_\_\_\_\_ and relationship for God.
- C. The first family was to be \_\_\_\_\_ and fill the earth with godly offspring.
- D. The first family was to exercise \_\_\_\_\_ over the earth to prepare for future ruling beyond the earth.
- E. The first family was to eventually be positioned to become \_\_\_\_\_ for the only begotten Son of God.

**V. What is a good biblical definition of the family?**

The family is the God-ordained basic unit of society having parental headship and discipline which is established for the purpose of enjoying common life together through working, caring, sharing, serving and ministering to God and others.

## Lesson 2

### The Restoration of the Home

#### I. What happened to the first family?

A. Mankind fell into \_\_\_\_\_.

When mankind disobeyed the clear command of God and fell into sin, six things happened.

1. Man became a \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 51:5).
2. Man's mind became \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 8:5-8; Col. 1:21; Tit. 1:15).
3. Man became \_\_\_\_\_ to sin (Rom. 6:17).
4. Man became \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Jam. 4:4).
5. Man became \_\_\_\_\_ in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1-2).
6. Man started on a course to \_\_\_\_\_ (II Th. 1:6-10).

B. Mankind fell and lost touch with the divine \_\_\_\_\_ for the family.

1. The first family lost the image and \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
2. The first family became \_\_\_\_\_ from fellowship and relationship with God.
3. The first family \_\_\_\_\_ their sinful nature to their offspring.
4. The first family \_\_\_\_\_ their dominion over the earth and became slaves to sin.

#### II. What effect did sin have on family life?

Sin precipitated a wide range of family problems which were not experienced from the beginning.

A. Sin introduced disrespect for and \_\_\_\_\_ against parental authority.

1. Ham showed \_\_\_\_\_ toward his father Noah by mocking him and not covering him with a garment (Gen. 9:20-27).
2. Rachel rebelled against her father Laban by \_\_\_\_\_ the household idols and then \_\_\_\_\_ about it (Gen. 31:19).
3. Reuben \_\_\_\_\_ God and his father by having sexual relations with his father's concubines (Gen. 35:22).

B. Sin introduced \_\_\_\_\_ among family members.

1. Cain \_\_\_\_\_ Abel because he was jealous of God's acceptance of Abel's offering (Gen. 4:1-8).
  2. Esau bore a grudge against his brother for \_\_\_\_\_ him out of his birthright (Gen. 25:29-34; 27:41).
  3. Joseph's brothers were \_\_\_\_\_ of him because of his dreams and because of the favor of their father toward him (Gen. 37:11).
- C. Sin introduced improper and unprincipled relationships in \_\_\_\_\_.
1. Lamech committed \_\_\_\_\_ by taking both Adah and Zillah as his wives (Gen. 4:19).
  2. Lot drank himself \_\_\_\_\_ and committed \_\_\_\_\_ with his daughters (Gen. 19:30-38).
- D. Sin introduced self-centeredness and \_\_\_\_\_ in marriage.
1. Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ about his wife being his sister in order to protect himself while putting his wife at risk (Gen. 12:10-20).
  2. Isaac did the same thing (Gen. 26:7-16).
- E. Sin introduced a lack of respect and love for \_\_\_\_\_ on the part of parents and relative.
1. Lot \_\_\_\_\_ his two virgin daughters to wicked men (Gen. 19:8).
  2. Laban tricked Jacob by giving him the \_\_\_\_\_ daughter in marriage (Gen. 29:18-30).
- F. Sin introduced \_\_\_\_\_ into the marital relationship.
- Rebekah \_\_\_\_\_ her favorite son, Jacob, to look like Esau so that he could receive the blessing (Gen. 27:5-17).
- G. Sin introduced \_\_\_\_\_ in the parenting process.
1. Isaac favored Esau while Rachel favored Jacob which resulted in \_\_\_\_\_ between the boys and their eventual offspring for generations to come (Gen. 25:28).
  2. Jacob \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph over the other sons because he was a son of his old age and a son of his favorite wife (Gen. 37:3).
- H. Sin introduced \_\_\_\_\_ between spouses.
- Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph into an adulterous relationship (Gen. 39:7).

### III. What is God's solution for the fallen condition of the family?

- A. God is very interested in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the home (Jer.31:1; Mal. 4:4-6).
1. He is interested because He has not forgotten His original \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. He is interested because the family is the basic \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church.
  3. He is interested because marriage and the family are a type of \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 5:22-33).
- B. God's solution for man's problem is \_\_\_\_\_, the place where Jesus died for the sins of all people.
1. The household of \_\_\_\_\_ was restored through life in Jesus Christ (Acts 10:1-2; 44-48).
  2. The household of \_\_\_\_\_ was restored through life in Jesus Christ (Acts 16:14-15).
  3. The household of the \_\_\_\_\_ was restored through life in Jesus Christ (Acts 16:25-34).
- C. Man is responsible to take full advantage of God's answer.
1. Men and women must first come into right \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
    - a. This means \_\_\_\_\_ of their sins against God and against other family members.
    - b. This means receiving Christ as \_\_\_\_\_ of their lives and their family life.
  2. Men and women must be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ what God has to say about family life.
    - a. This means searching the Scriptures for \_\_\_\_\_ about their God-ordained roles in the family.
    - b. This means seeking the \_\_\_\_\_ of those who are aware of God's guidelines for the family.
  3. Men and women must trust God's word over the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. Men often have \_\_\_\_\_ about how the family relationships should be.

- b. Women have \_\_\_\_\_ as well.
  - c. Children have an altogether different \_\_\_\_\_ from the parents.
  - d. Society has its \_\_\_\_\_ of how the family should work.
4. Men and women must put the word of God into \_\_\_\_\_.
  5. Men and women must desire and actively solicit \_\_\_\_\_ God in the fulfilling of their God-ordained roles and responsibilities.

Note: Some of the above material was extracted from a book no longer in print titled *Principles of Family Life*, which was published by City Bible Publishing and was authored by a team of writers including but not limited to the author of this teaching.

## Lesson 3

### The Covenant of Marriage

#### I. What is Marriage?

A. Marriage is like...

B. Marriage is the coming together of a man and a woman for the purpose of establishing a new home for the fulfillment of God's \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 2:24).

1. This process involves a \_\_\_\_\_ of father and mother.
  - a. Leaving father and mother has nothing to do with \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with one's parents or moving great distances from them.
  - b. Leaving father and mother involves making this new marriage relationship the \_\_\_\_\_ relationship of one's life.
2. This process involves a \_\_\_\_\_ of one to the other.
  - a. Cleaving to one another means that this new relationship is based on a lifelong \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Cleaving to one another means that this new relationship is based on an understanding that the commitment level will be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Cleaving to one another means that we are committing ourselves to one marriage partner for life \_\_\_\_\_.

C. Marriage is a lifelong partnership built on a commitment to \_\_\_\_\_ and to fulfill God's purpose for our lives together.

#### II. Marriage is a Covenant (Mal. 2:14-16; Pro. 2:16-18).

A. A covenant is a formal, solemn and \_\_\_\_\_ agreement or contract, usually under seal, between two parties.

1. The word "covenant" in the Hebrew actually comes from a word meaning "\_\_\_\_\_ " or "fetter" (Ezek. 20:37).
2. It literally means to bind two people together—the two \_\_\_\_\_.

B. We are living in an age where people do not fulfill their covenant commitments (II Tim. 3:4).

C. God Himself has entered into many \_\_\_\_\_ with man.

1. Examples include covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David.

2. All of God's covenants have \_\_\_\_\_ common elements that parallel the marriage covenant.

<b>God's Covenants</b>	<b>Marriage Covenants</b>	<b>Description of Elements of Covenants</b>
<b>Promises</b>	<b>Vows</b>	This is where commitments are made that form the basis of the covenant.
<b>Sacrifice</b>	<b>Death to Self</b>	A symbolic death must take place to ratify the covenant between parties.
<b>Seal or Sign</b>	<b>The Ring</b>	An enduring seal is used to reflect the enduring nature of the covenant.
<b>Feast</b>	<b>Feasting</b>	A time of rejoicing to celebrate the new relationship that is formed.
<b>Sanctuary</b>	<b>The Home</b>	A place of relationship where the promises of the covenant are fulfilled.

### III. God has provided the pattern for entering into all covenant relationships.

#### A. God's approach (I Th. 5:23):

When God enters into covenant relationship with man, He has an approach that produces \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **God's Order: Spirit → Soul → Body**

1. God begins His relationship with man by inhabiting the \_\_\_\_\_ of man (I Cor. 6:17).
2. God proceeds from the spirit of man to sanctify the \_\_\_\_\_ of man (Rom. 12:1-2).
3. God's salvation will eventually involve the redemption of the \_\_\_\_\_ of man (Rom. 8:23; I Cor. 15:42-44).

#### B. Satan's approach:

When Satan enters into covenant relationship with man, He has an approach that produces \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Satan's Order: Body → Soul → Spirit**

1. Satan begins his relationship with man by tempting him in the \_\_\_\_\_ or sense realm.
2. Satan desires to establish strongholds in the \_\_\_\_\_ of people.
3. Ultimately he desires to inhabit or \_\_\_\_\_ the spirit of man.

C. God wants us to build and establish marital relationships according to His pattern.

1. This means that we start with a union of our \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Then we move to a unity in our \_\_\_\_\_ of mind, will and emotions.
3. Finally we become \_\_\_\_\_ in marriage.

D. Covenant partners must first of all be one in the spirit.

1. This eliminates the idea of Christians marrying \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Before husband and wife are anything else, they are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

#### **IV. Relationships that do not follow God's covenant pattern face problems.**

When our relationship is based on \_\_\_\_\_, there are some negative things that can occur as times goes on.

- A. The relationship will decline as \_\_\_\_\_ declines.
- B. The couple will experience a low level of \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. The relationship will be open to more serious \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. It will hinder the development of true \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **V. The Solution to the problem is to repent and do what should have been done at the first.**

A relationship that is based on covenant love will take seriously all of God's admonitions regarding brother and sister relationships.

- A. We must \_\_\_\_\_ between each other (Jam. 5:9; 4:11; Rom. 14:23).
- B. We must always seek the \_\_\_\_\_ of the other (Rom. 12:10; Phil. 2:3).
- C. We must look for ways of \_\_\_\_\_ each other (Gal. 5:13c; I Pet. 5:5b).
- D. We must always seek to \_\_\_\_\_ one another (Rom. 14:19).
- E. In addition, we should:
  1. Bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2).

2. Exhort one another (Heb. 10:21).
3. Provoke one another to do good works (Heb. 10:24).
4. Comfort one another (I Th. 4:18).
5. Pray for one another (Jam. 5:16).
6. Submit one to another (Eph. 5:21).
7. Use hospitality one to another (I Pet. 4:9).

The prerequisite for covenant relationship must be a spiritual union.

*Now may the God Who gives the power of patient endurance (steadfastness) and Who supplies encouragement, grant you to live in such mutual harmony and such full sympathy with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may [unanimously] with united hearts and one voice, praise and glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah). Romans 15:5-6, Amp.*

## Lesson 4

### Role Relationships in Marriage

What is the difference between man and woman, male and female from God's perspective? Why did God create the sexes? How is the role of a man different to that of a woman? What happens when these roles are reversed? What kind of sex role awareness is needed if we are going to be restored to God's original plan?

#### **I. What are some of the factors that will be present in the latter days that will resist God's view of male and female roles?**

- A. The climate of the last days will be dominated by self-centeredness (II Tim. 3:1-5). People are going to be:
1. Lovers of their own selves – There will be a people who have a supreme regard for their own interests and activities with a total disregard for the rights and comforts of others.
  2. Covetous – There will be those who make the pursuit of wealth and materialism their main goal in life.
  3. Boasters – There will be people who go to great extremes to make you believe that they are something other than what they really are.
  4. Proud – There will be people who enjoy demeaning and putting others down so that they might appear to be above them.
  5. Blasphemers – There will be people who love to hurl insults and cutting remarks concerning God, His nature and character and toward other people who are made in the image of God.
  6. Disobedient to parents – There will be people who have little or no respect for God-ordained authorities in their life.
  7. Unthankful – There will be those who have absolutely no gratitude for anything that they have been so freely given by God and others.
  8. Unholy – There will be those who refuse to recognize even the ultimate decencies of life and seek to derive pleasure through shameful means.
  9. Without Natural Affection – There will be those who reject the normal kind of family love and affection that should exist between a husband and a wife, parents and children.
  10. Truce breakers – There will be those who refuse to enter into any kind of long term agreement that may require service, sacrifice and commitment on their part.

11. False accusers – There will be those who have so aligned themselves with Satan’s sin that they themselves begin to manifest his traits of antagonism toward the purposes of God.
12. Incontinent – There will be those who have given place to selfish pursuits to such an extent that they lose all self-control, restraint and power over carnal desires.
13. Fierce – There will be those who take on an animal-like savagery that lacks any trace of human sympathy in the pursuit of their personal aims.
14. Despisers of those that are good – There will be those that are literally hostile to virtue and to anyone who becomes a mouthpiece of righteousness.
15. Traitors – There will be those who make friends for selfish ends only to turn and betray them when their usefulness has ended.
16. High-minded – There will be those so inflated with self-conceit that anyone of a different opinion is looked upon as a fool.
17. Heady – There will be those who move, as it were, intentionally down a wrong path with no regard for the consequences.
18. Lovers of pleasures – There will be those who are ruled by their senses and animal appetites who become consumed with vain amusements and sensual gratification.
19. Externally religious – There will be those who have learned to go through all of the Sunday, religious ritual expected of them by society without having to deal with their need for personal repentance and change.
20. Inwardly empty – There will be those who live a lie, who hold up an external form but never really experience the life and power that comes with a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ and a conforming of one’s life to the ways of God.

B. The fruit of self-centeredness in our society is obvious. It includes:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ against God-ordained leadership and headship.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ and the pursuit of wealth.
3. Love for personal \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The “\_\_\_\_\_” generation.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ between the sexes and a confusion of roles.

## II. How did God establish role relationships in the beginning?

God had a master plan which involved the establishment of the first family. God's plan consisted of several things.

- A. Man \_\_\_\_\_ woman were created to reflect the true image of God (Gen. 1:26-28; 5:1).
1. God's image involves maleness \_\_\_\_\_ femaleness.
  2. In the Godhead we have a perfect blending of male \_\_\_\_\_ female characteristics.
    - a. The Father God has characteristics of love, concern, provision, protection, authority, strength.
    - b. Jesus Christ the Son patterns dependence, submission and obedience to the Father.
    - c. The Holy Spirit has characteristics of comfort, fruitfulness, nourishing and sustaining.
- B. Man and woman were created by God of \_\_\_\_\_ substance to fulfill a \_\_\_\_\_ goal and destiny (Gen. 2:21, 24; I Cor. 11:11-12).
- C. Man and woman were created by God to be \_\_\_\_\_ to each other (Gen. 2:18-20).
- But for Adam there was not found a helper meet (suitable, adapted, complementary) for him. –AMP*
- D. From the beginning there was perfect unity and \_\_\_\_\_ without the need for role clarification (Gen. 2:22-23).

### **III. What effect did man's fall into sin have on role relationships?**

- A. Sin introduced self-will and pride into the marriage relationship that necessitated a clear definition of \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 3:16-17).

*To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life."*

*Then he said to the woman, "You will bear children with intense pain and suffering. And though your desire will be for your husband, he will be your master." –NLT*

- B. Man was placed as the \_\_\_\_\_ of their relationship.

1. Not because:

- Man was \_\_\_\_\_ to woman.
- Man was more \_\_\_\_\_ than woman.
- Man was more \_\_\_\_\_ than woman.

2. But because:

- Man was created \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 2:18; I Tim. 2:13; I Cor. 11:8-9).
- Woman sinned \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 3:1-6; I Tim. 2:14).
- Man was physically created to be a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The male and female relationship was to reflect God's plan for \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 5:32).

C. God's role arrangement was designed as \_\_\_\_\_ until the process of redemption was complete (Mt. 22:30).

D. Ultimately in God's plan the feminine gender will \_\_\_\_\_ the nature of mankind as the church becomes Christ's bride (Eph. 5:26-27; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:2).

#### **IV. What are the distinctions between men and women that help us to understand their role distinctions?**

There are many differences between men and women besides the obvious. Some of them include the following:

A. There are \_\_\_\_\_ differences. Women are physically designed to \_\_\_\_\_, while men are physically designed to \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Their metabolism is different.
2. Their skeletal structure is different.
3. Their internal organs are different.
4. Their blood content is different.
5. Their brute strength factor is different.
6. Their heart beat is different.
7. Their lung capacity is different.

“Refusal to face the differences between men and women borders in intellectual \_\_\_\_\_.” --Tim LaHaye

B. There are \_\_\_\_\_ differences

1. Their sex drive is different.

2. They are aroused differently.
3. A woman perceives sex as what has gone on all day, while a man sees sex as what happens in the bedroom.
4. Women respond slowly sexually, while men tend to respond quickly.

C. There are \_\_\_\_\_ differences.

1. Women tend to be more \_\_\_\_\_ or sensitive, while men tend to be more interested in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Women tend to be more personal and \_\_\_\_\_ oriented, while men tend to be more detached and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Women tend to be more interested in \_\_\_\_\_, while men tend to only want \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Women tend to want to \_\_\_\_\_ life on the road, while men tend to turn everything into a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Women tend to define themselves through \_\_\_\_\_, while men tend to define themselves through their \_\_\_\_\_.

**V. What is the role of the man in the marriage relationship?**

The male figure has been appointed by God \_\_\_\_\_ by being:

- A. Submitted to Christ (I Cor. 11:1-3).
- B. The Spiritual Leader (I Cor. 11:3). The evidence that you are a spiritual leader is that you have:
  1. A \_\_\_\_\_ to seek the Lord.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ based on Scripture.
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ to live according to those convictions.
  4. A demonstration of God's \_\_\_\_\_ in your leadership.
- C. The Protector (Eph. 5:23).
- D. The Principle Provider (I Tim. 5:8; Gen. 3:17-19).

**VI. What is the role of the woman in the marriage relationship?**

The female figure has been appointed by God \_\_\_\_\_ by:

- A. Flowing with her husband (Eph. 5:22-24).
- B. Managing the affairs of the home under her husband (Pro. 31).
- C. Giving herself to her children (Gen. 3:16).
- D. Respecting her husband (Eph. 5:33). This involves giving honor to her husband releasing him to fulfill his responsibilities.

**VII. What is everyone's role in the marriage relationship?**

\_\_\_\_\_!

The role of both the man and the woman involves:

- Loving one another (Rom. 12:10).
- Seeking the best interest of the other (Phil. 2:3).
- Serving each other (Gal. 5:13).
- Being subject one to another (I Pet. 5:5).
- Comforting one another (I Th. 4:18).
- Praying one for another (Jam. 5:16).
- Bearing one another's burdens (Gal 6:2).

## Lesson 5

### Loving as Christ Loved

#### I. How does the Bible compare the relationships in marriage to that of Christ and the Church?

The key passage in the Bible that speaks of this relationship is found in Ephesians 5:22-33.

*You wives will submit to your husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of his body, the church; he gave his life to be her Savior. 24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives must submit to your husbands in everything. 25 And you husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's word. 27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. 28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife. 29 No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body, which is the church. 30 And we are his body. 31 As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." 32 This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. 33 So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. –NLT*

The following chart will help us to see some of the primary challenges of these verses:

Christ/Husbands	Church/Wives
Head to Wife	Submits to Husband
Gives Life for Wife	
Loves Wife	
Cares for the Wife	
Beautifies Wife	

This chart makes it obvious that the primary responsibility for making the marriage work properly is on the husband.

#### II. What is the greatest challenge given to husbands and wives in this analogy?

A. The greatest challenge given to husbands is to love their wives \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ the church (Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:19).

1. The husband is to \_\_\_\_\_ for his wife (vs. 23, 25).

2. The husband is to love his wife with the \_\_\_\_\_ Christ demonstrated for the church (vs. 25).
3. The husband is to love his wife as he does \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 28-29).
4. The husband is to leave his father and mother and \_\_\_\_\_ to his wife (vs. 31).

Leadership like this \_\_\_\_\_ follow.

- B. The greatest challenge given to women is to respond to their husbands as they would respond to \_\_\_\_\_ and to submit to their husbands as the \_\_\_\_\_ submits to Christ (Eph. 5:22-24; Col. 3:18; I Pet. 3:1).

Cooperative followers \_\_\_\_\_ lead.

### III. How has Christ demonstrated His love for the Church?

**Christ's love is:**

#### A. An \_\_\_\_\_ Love (Rom. 5:6b-8)

*We can understand someone dying for a person worth dying for, and we can understand how someone good and noble could inspire us to selfless sacrifice. But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him. –Message*

1. Christ's love was not \_\_\_\_\_ by anything that we did or could potentially do for Him.
2. Christ's love was demonstrated by \_\_\_\_\_ so that we could live.
3. Christ's love was unconditional in the sense that there were \_\_\_\_\_.

#### B. A \_\_\_\_\_ Love (Deut. 7:7-8)

1. It was an act of His \_\_\_\_\_. He chose to \_\_\_\_\_ on us.
2. It was not a decision based on His \_\_\_\_\_.
3. It was not based on what we \_\_\_\_\_ Him.
4. It was based on promises made and \_\_\_\_\_ given in the past.

#### C. An \_\_\_\_\_ Love (Eph. 5:1-2, 25)

1. An intense love is a love that gives itself and puts forth a \_\_\_\_\_.

2. An intense love is \_\_\_\_\_, strained, exerted to a high degree, unremitting, excessive, fervent, very deep and very strong.
3. An intense love means \_\_\_\_\_ to express that love.

**D. An \_\_\_\_\_ Love (Rom. 8:38-39; Jer. 31:3; Heb. 13:5; Deut. 31:8)**

1. This love is “\_\_\_\_\_ do us part.”
2. This love is “in sickness and in health” or in \_\_\_\_\_ times or \_\_\_\_\_ times.
3. This love is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. This love is not able to move to a place of \_\_\_\_\_.

**E. An \_\_\_\_\_ Love (Phil. 2:1-7)**

*Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and sympathetic? 2 Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one heart and purpose. 3 Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. 4 Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing. 5 Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. 6 Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. 7 He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. 8 And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross. –NLT*

1. This kind of love puts the other person's \_\_\_\_\_ ahead of itself.
  - a. It says, “YOU are more \_\_\_\_\_ than I.”
  - b. It says, “In am interested in what YOU are \_\_\_\_\_ in.”
  - c. It says, “I am here to \_\_\_\_\_ YOU.”
2. This kind of love does not cling to its own \_\_\_\_\_.
3. This kind of love expects \_\_\_\_\_ in return; it has only the expectation of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. This kind of love requires taking the \_\_\_\_\_ position.
5. This kind of love means \_\_\_\_\_ daily.

**F. A \_\_\_\_\_ Love (Eph. 5:25-27)**

1. Christ's love works for our \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Our love should work for the \_\_\_\_\_ of our spouse.

**G. A \_\_\_\_\_ Love (Gal. 2:20)**

1. Christ's love laid it all down for us even to the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Christ's love girded itself with a towel and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Christ's love demonstrated leadership by providing a model of \_\_\_\_\_.

**H. A \_\_\_\_\_ Love**

Christ demonstrates or shows us His love by \_\_\_\_\_ toward us.

- He protects us.
- He intercedes for us.
- He guards us.
- He guides us.
- He strengthens us.
- He helps us.
- He defends us.
- He teaches us.
- He comforts us.
- He equips us.
- He empathizes with us.
- He provides for all of our needs.

(See: John 10:1-4; 14:1-3; 13:34-35; 15:9-10; Rom. 8:32; Phil. 4:13, 19; Heb. 4:14-16).

Note: The above outline came from *Strengthening Your Marriage*, by Wayne Mack, page 32, 1977.

**IV. How does the Bible definition of love relate to the marriage relationship?**

*Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Love will last forever...* I Corinthians 13:4-8a, NLT

Try putting \_\_\_\_\_ in wherever the word "love" occurs.

A. This love is:

1. Patient.
2. Kind.
3. A champion of justice and truth.
4. Always hopeful.

B. This love is not:

1. Jealous.
2. Boastful.
3. Proud
4. Rude.
5. Demanding.
6. Irritable.
7. Unforgiving.

C. This love:

1. Never gives up.
2. Never loses faith.
3. Endures through every circumstance.
4. Will last forever.

This kind of love is \_\_\_\_\_.

## Lesson 6

### Communication in Marriage

#### I. What is the purpose of communication in marriage?

The purpose of communication in marriage is:

- A. To help facilitate a \_\_\_\_\_ between the two parties.
- B. To contribute to the \_\_\_\_\_ between the two parties.
- C. To assist the couple in \_\_\_\_\_.

Unity is critical in all areas of life, but especially in marriage.

- 1. There is great \_\_\_\_\_ released in unity (Mt 18:15-20).
- 2. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ of strength in unity (Deut 32:30).
- 3. Unity is necessary for true \_\_\_\_\_ to take place (I Cor 1:10).

Good marriages will have unity between husband and wife in three areas.

- a. Unity in purpose
- b. Unity in judgment
- c. Unity in practice

#### II. What happened to the process of communication when sin entered the human condition?

Man's fall in the garden had some devastating effects on the communication process (Genesis 3:1-13).

- A. Man had a desire to \_\_\_\_\_ and not communicate (Gen 3:8).
- B. Man developed the tendency to \_\_\_\_\_ for his failures (Gen 3:12-13).
- C. Man developed a tendency to lie and be \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 3:10).
- D. Man now tried to \_\_\_\_\_ himself from his spouse (Gen 3:7).

#### III. What are the two main kinds of communication in every marriage?

At any given time we are communicating in one way or another.

- A. There is \_\_\_\_\_ conversation. Unifying conversation is that communication which draws us \_\_\_\_\_ and builds the relationship.

1. Unifying communication is fostered by several things. It is fostered by:
  - a. Positive praise
  - b. Encouragement
  - c. Honest sharing in love
  - d. Respectful dialogue
  - e. Trust
  - f. Kindness
  - g. Consideration
  - h. Humility

2. The result of unifying conversation is \_\_\_\_\_ in the marriage.

B. There is \_\_\_\_\_ conversation. Divisive conversation is that communication which undermines or \_\_\_\_\_ the relationship.

1. Divisive communication is fed by several things. It is fed by:
  - a. Anger
  - b. Bitterness
  - c. Selfishness
  - d. Criticism
  - e. Dishonesty
  - f. Pride

2. The result of divisive communication is \_\_\_\_\_ in the marriage.

C. A relationship is that which exists between two persons as a result of their individual \_\_\_\_\_.

**IV. What are some of the things that will help promote open, honest and unifying communication.**

Unity is essential in marriage (Amos 3:3). Unity will only be achieved by open and honest communication.

- A. Make \_\_\_\_\_ for quality communication.
- B. Discuss \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Make sure it is \_\_\_\_\_ for both to share.
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ before discussing particularly difficult areas.
- E. Attack the problem and not \_\_\_\_\_.
- F. Communicate accurately avoiding \_\_\_\_\_.

G. Try to phrase your sentences in an uplifting and “\_\_\_\_\_” way.

H. Be a ready \_\_\_\_\_. That means we:

- Do not \_\_\_\_\_.
- Listen more and talk \_\_\_\_\_.
- Take the time to understand what is \_\_\_\_\_ being said.

I. Do not get \_\_\_\_\_ or react to individual words or statements.

J. Try to put yourself in the \_\_\_\_\_ position, to understand their point of view.

K. Learn how to \_\_\_\_\_ the feelings of other.

L. Be slow to \_\_\_\_\_. This means we:

- \_\_\_\_\_ things out first.
- Be \_\_\_\_\_ of what you say.
- Avoid being \_\_\_\_\_.
- Wait for the \_\_\_\_\_ to bring adjustment.
- Do not adjust \_\_\_\_\_.

M. When you are wrong, freely \_\_\_\_\_ it.

N. When someone confesses to you forgive them \_\_\_\_\_.

O. Be committed to the principle of no action without \_\_\_\_\_.

P. Be honest about the way you \_\_\_\_\_.

Q. Make it \_\_\_\_\_ for your spouse to communicate.

R. Be willing to entertain a \_\_\_\_\_.

S. Seek \_\_\_\_\_ over irresolvable issues.

T. In the end, be sure that the ground is really \_\_\_\_\_.

**V. What are some of the things to avoid things that can destroy or inhibit good communication?**

A. Don't go to bed \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 4:26-27).

B. Avoid communication destroyers.

1. Crying
2. Screaming
3. Silent Treatment
4. Door Slamming
5. Name Calling
6. Ridicule
7. Nagging
8. Interrupting
9. Correcting in public
10. Overreacting
11. Breaking Confidentiality

C. Do not \_\_\_\_\_.

D. Do not make \_\_\_\_\_ about the other person's motives or actions.

E. Do not respond \_\_\_\_\_.

F. Do not put down concepts that are \_\_\_\_\_ than yours.

G. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ things in.

H. Don't go back on a decision without \_\_\_\_\_.

I. Avoid all \_\_\_\_\_ when communicating.

J. Avoid \_\_\_\_\_ on and on about something that has been fully discussed.

K. Don't continually return to subject matter that has already been discussed and \_\_\_\_\_.

L. Don't expect your spouse to be \_\_\_\_\_.

M. Don't get impatient for \_\_\_\_\_ results.

**Lesson 7**  
**Resolving Conflict in Marriage**  
**Or**  
**1001 Irritations in Marriage and How to Deal with Them**

Most divorces in our world today are for this thing called “\_\_\_\_\_.” What is incompatibility? The dictionary defines “incompatible” as “incapable of living together in agreement or \_\_\_\_\_.”

They cannot put their finger on one major cause for the divorce. It ends up being an accumulation of a thousand and one little irritations.

**I. What is an irritation?**

An irritation is “An incident, conversation or situation that has the ability to \_\_\_\_\_, nettle, provoke, rile, peeve, or anger a person or persons.”

**II. Why does marriage have the unique potential for so many irritations?**

Marriage is the coming together of two persons into one. This process of making two lifestyles into one opens up potential irritations in the following areas:

A. Matters of \_\_\_\_\_

Each partner had their \_\_\_\_\_ of doing things before they got married. Now they have to merge and become one.

Examples:

1. How one squeezes toothpaste;
2. How one puts things away or doesn't put things away;
3. Dirty clothes on the floor or in the hamper;
4. How one folds their clothes;
5. How one dresses or doesn't dress;
6. How one bathes or doesn't bath.
7. Other areas of personal hygiene;
8. Who showers when;
9. Not rinsing out the sink or the tub;
10. How much time is spent in the bathroom;
11. Toilet seat up or down;
12. Leaving women's underwear all over the bathroom;
13. When to go to bed and when to get up;
14. Windows open or closed at night;
15. Electric blanket on 2, or 8;
16. Bringing cold feet in bed;
17. Mealtimes;
18. Who does what?;

19. When we do personal or family devotions;
20. How one drives the car;
21. Physical appearance;
22. When and how we do exercise;
23. Radio on or off in the car;
24. Early or late for appointments;
25. Reading the newspaper and setting up the “wall”;
26. TV programs and what to watch, how much to watch.
27. Tastes in music and other entertainment;
28. Movie selections;
29. Friendship.

B. Matters of Differing \_\_\_\_\_

Examples:

1. Whether to buy this color or that color, this brand or that brand;
2. The kind of car to buy;
3. Type of breakfast meal;
4. The local church to attend;
5. How often to attend church;
6. Frequency of sex;
7. Hobbies;
8. This route to a location or that route;
9. This kind of furnishing or that kind;
10. Music that we listen to.
11. Whether to do what he wants tonight or what she wants.

C. Matters of \_\_\_\_\_Habit

Examples:

1. Corny or unfunny jokes;
2. Monopolizing conversation;
3. Just watching everybody else talk;
4. Interrupting constantly;
5. Adjusting poor memories of past events;
6. Being picky about details that aren’t really essential.

D. Matters of Household \_\_\_\_\_

Examples:

1. Writing checks and not recording what you wrote in the register;
2. Waiting to clean the living room until company comes;
3. Inviting people over without checking with the other party;
4. Unequal treatment of the children;
5. Eternal minor household repairs.

### III. Are there times when marriage partners are more susceptible to being irritated?

A. There are certain times when people are \_\_\_\_\_ to be irritated.

1. When one is tired;
2. When one just gets home from work;
3. When one is hungry;
4. When one is in a hurry;
5. When one is sick;
6. When one is depressed;
7. During hormonal changes (pregnancy);
8. When one is fasting;
9. Any combination of the above.

B. At these times one should be \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid things that would cause irritation. For example:

1. Bringing up today's negative events;
2. Opening up an issue that requires a policy-decision for the future, and which will require more time to discuss and conclude than is allowable at that time;
3. Making constructive criticism of bad habits;
4. Looking with a critical eye at the meal that is served;
5. Making big things out of little things;
6. Verbally noticing things that are undone.

### IV. What biblical attitudes can help us to handle irritations that arise?

#### **Romans 12:9-21**

The headline in the Bible is "Behave like a Christian."

*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

#### **I Peter 3:8-12**

*Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For “He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”*

#### A. The Attitude of a Peacemaker

Scripture says that happiness and blessing are the rewards of a peacemaker (Mt. 5:9). Both husband and wife should make \_\_\_\_\_ to preserve and maintain peace between one another (Eph. 4:3).

#### B. The Attitude of Submission

There must be a giving attitude on the part of \_\_\_\_\_ husband and wife (Eph. 5:21). The success and happiness of a marriage is somewhat dependant upon the degrees of willingness to defer to the desire or taste of your mate (Rom. 12:10).

#### C. The Attitude of Patience

A disposition of tolerance, patience, and long-suffering is vitally necessary to diffuse potentially irritating situations. In order to not be “overcome of evil” but to “overcome evil with good” (Rom. 12:21) each party must take his or her responsibility to:

1. Hold one’s \_\_\_\_\_ when necessary.
2. Speak softly and \_\_\_\_\_ instead of reacting with evil for evil.
3. To ask for \_\_\_\_\_ if offense has been given.
4. To have a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ to what one says and does.

PBPGINFWMY “Please Be Patient God Is Not Finished With Me Yet.”

#### D. The Attitude of Love

Love for one’s spouse will seek their \_\_\_\_\_, comfort and convenience (I Cor. 13:5). Love will endure until a solution has been achieved (I Cor. 13:8). True, divine love for each other will not \_\_\_\_\_ of past irritations of wrongs (I Cor. 13:5).

#### E. The Attitude of Meekness

Meekness is yielding one’s rights and \_\_\_\_\_ to God rather than insisting on them. Only God can ultimately change my spouse for lasting good and bring him or her to a place where he or she meets my needs.

- V. What practical steps should be taken to minimize and remove irritations?**
- A. In your own private prayer \_\_\_\_\_ and expectations to God (Ps. 62:5).
  - B. Take note of \_\_\_\_\_ you are saying what you are saying.
  - C. Take note of your \_\_\_\_\_.
  - D. Try to \_\_\_\_\_ in the place of your spouse.
  - E. Don't view yourself as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - F. Ask \_\_\_\_\_ if offense is taken.
  - G. Be willing to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - H. Be willing to do it your \_\_\_\_\_ if compromise does not appear appropriate or forthcoming.
  - I. Take note of your \_\_\_\_\_.
  - J. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ regarding how many times you have been the one to defer.
  - K. Be honest with each other about your feelings.

### **CHECK THE LOVE-LEVEL OF YOUR MARRIAGE**

1. Do I really hear the criticisms and adjustments that my spouse suggests?
2. Am I making an effort to please him or her by willingly making those adjustments?
3. Have I allowed my irritations over things my spouse does to eclipse or overshadow my love and appreciation for him or her?
4. Do I express my appreciation for the small things that are done for me?

Note: Some of the above material was extracted from a book no longer in print titled *Principles of Family Life*, which was published by City Bible Publishing and was authored by a team of writers including but not limited to the author of this teaching.

## Lesson 8

### Ingredients of a Successful Marriage

The marriage contract is, in essence, the establishing of a covenant between two people. God has set the pattern for all covenants in His relationship to man. When God entered into His covenant with man, this covenant was based on certain \_\_\_\_\_ within God Himself that made such covenant possible.

#### **I. What is the nature of the covenants that God made with mankind?**

- A. The covenants that God made with man were very serious in God's mind. When God makes a covenant He has no intention of \_\_\_\_\_ that covenant, but He intends for it to be everlasting (Gen. 9:15-16; 17:7-8; Num. 23:19; Deut. 7:9; 31:6, 8; Judg.2:1; Ps. 89:34; Jer. 33:20-21; Heb. 13:5).
- B. God instructs us never to take our vows \_\_\_\_\_ either (Eccl. 5:1-7).

Question: When someone enters into a prenuptial agreement are they in essence making provision for the failure of the marriage?

#### **II. What qualities does God possess that make it possible for Him to maintain His covenant with mankind?**

There are certain qualities that are part of God's nature that make covenant commitment possible.

- A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Deut. 7:6-8)

God is never motivated by self-interest or selfishness, but He chose to enter into covenant relationship because of His divine love.

- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Deut. 7:9; II Tim. 2:13)

God is absolutely faithful because He is stable and \_\_\_\_\_ in His commitments. He is a "Rock" and we can depend on the fact that if He made a vow today, it will be still in His heart to keep that vow tomorrow (Heb. 6:13-19).

- C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Ps. 130:3-4)

God maintains His faithfulness to the covenant because He readily forgives the offenses of men. When He forgives, His forgiveness is \_\_\_\_\_ (Neh. 9:17).

- D. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Phil. 2:3-8).

God loved the world so much that He sacrificially gave of Himself to establish a covenant relationship.

- E. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Ps. 86:15; Dan. 9:9; Jon. 4:2; Mic. 7:18-20).

God is full of mercy and is able to \_\_\_\_\_ with those He has created (Heb. 2:17-18). His mercy is manifest in that He never gives up on us when we fail (Eph. 2:4) and He continually punishes us \_\_\_\_\_ than our sins deserve (Job 11:6).

### III. How are these same qualities to be manifest in the keeping of our marriage vows?

- A. The love of God must be the base of every marriage.

A man and woman need more than \_\_\_\_\_. They need a divine love to exist between them that is not based on external circumstances. This love can only come from God (Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:14; I Th. 3:12-4:9; I Pet. 4:8).

- B. Faithfulness to each other must be the determined goal of both marriage partners.

1. To be faithful is to be \_\_\_\_\_, constant, steadfast and resolute.
2. To be faithful is to give \_\_\_\_\_ adherence to a person, to an oath or to a promise.

God's faithfulness extends to all facets of His relationship to man (I Th. 5:24; II Th. 3:3; Heb. 10:23; 11:11).

- C. Forgiveness must be an operating principle in a successful marriage.

The whole marriage relationship should be based on repentance and forgiveness.

1. Forgiveness means "to cancel, to pardon or \_\_\_\_\_ from debt" (Luke 6:37).
  - a. It involves a "putting aside, \_\_\_\_\_, putting away completely and unreservedly" the sins of another (Rom. 3:25). When God forgives He:
    - Remembers our sins no more (Jer. 31:34).
    - Removes our sins as far from Him as the east is from the west (Ps. 103:12).
    - Casts our sins into the sea of His forgetfulness, never to be remembered again (Mic. 7:18-19).
  - b. To forgive is to \_\_\_\_\_ from liability to punishment for a crime or fault committed.
  - c. It is the voluntary \_\_\_\_\_ of a person over which one has legal control.

- d. When God forgives it does not mean that He temporarily \_\_\_\_\_ punishment which He may at some later time inflict. God's forgiveness is complete and eternal.
2. True forgiveness involves a determination never to bring the subject \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 103:8-12; Is. 38:17; Mic. 7:18, 19; Jer. 31:34).
3. Forgiveness is a part of the duty of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 18:21-22).
4. God's forgiveness toward us \_\_\_\_\_ upon our forgiveness of others (Mt. 5:23, 24; 6:12; 18:21-35; Mark 11:25; Luke 6:37).
5. If we fail to forgive, we will live in \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 18:32-35).

D. Selflessness must be in the heart of each marriage partner.

Unless both members of a marriage are putting the interest of the other before themselves (Rom. 12:10; Phil. 2:3,4) there is bound to be tension, jealousy, impatience, stubbornness, argumentativeness, criticism, harshness, pride and oversensitivity throughout. For true harmony to exist there must be a \_\_\_\_\_ and an exaltation of Christ (Mark 8:34-38).

There are many traits in each of us that reflect the attitude of selfishness or "living for ourselves". Check those areas in which you may manifest selfishness:

1. A spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ and pride, feeling you are better than the other.
2. A love of human praise, a seeking to be \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A centering of conversation around yourself and your \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ with others.
5. A spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ or resentment when opposed or contradicted.
6. A tendency to \_\_\_\_\_ and pick flaws when the other has been successful.
7. A jealous disposition and a secret spirit of \_\_\_\_\_.

E. Merciful kindness must exist in abundance in the marriage.

There are many opportunities in marriage to manifest merciful kindness. If we are unmerciful with our spouse, we cannot expect God to be merciful with us (Ps. 18:25-27; Mt. 5:7; 9:13).

1. Mercy loves when love is not \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut. 7:7).
2. Mercy reaches out to rescue from \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 19:16).

3. Mercy stands \_\_\_\_\_ in times of trouble even though we brought the trouble on ourselves (Deut. 4:31).
4. Mercy has \_\_\_\_\_ on those in misery (Judg. 10:13-16).
5. Mercy punishes \_\_\_\_\_ sins deserve (Ezra 9:13; Job 11:6).

Because the qualities of love, faithfulness, forgiveness, selflessness and mercy abound in God, God is able to keep covenant with His people in spite of their many failings. These qualities must abound in us if we are to maintain the covenant that we established with our spouse.

**IV. What are some key ingredients to be added to our marriage relationship to help get the most out of it?**

These key ingredients can be seen best by the following chart:

	<b>Ingredient</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>C</b>	_____	Commitment is a pledge to each other that regardless of circumstances we are in this marriage together for life (Mt. 19:6).
<b>O</b>	_____	In marriage we recognize that we do not own ourselves but that the ownership of our life is given to our spouse (I Cor. 7:4).
<b>V</b>	_____	Veneration means that we treat each other with honor, adoration, reverence and respect as the weaker or treasured vessel (I Pet. 3:7).
<b>E</b>	_____	In marriage we recognize the necessity of both parties putting forth a sincere, genuine effort (work) to make certain of its success.
<b>N</b>	_____	Both parties in marriage understand their personal responsibility to contribute those things that will nourish, promote and sustain life.
<b>A</b>	_____	Both parties are responsible before God to attend to the needs of the other and to listen to and be attentive to their concerns.
<b>N</b>	_____	Both parties in the marriage are to nurture, give constant attention to, cherish, protect, cultivate and water their relationship.
<b>T</b>	_____	Both parties in the marriage are to be patient with the other, willing to give them room to grow and ready to forgive and extend mercy.

Note: Some of the above material was extracted from a book no longer in print titled *Principles of Family Life*, which was published by City Bible Publishing and was authored by a team of writers including but not limited to the author of this teaching.

## Lesson 9 Sex in Marriage

### I. What is the Christian view of sex?

- A. We must recognize that sex was \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The God intended benefits of sex can only be experienced as we use it in harmony with \_\_\_\_\_.
- Marriage is the \_\_\_\_\_ that God sanctions for sexual expression. In fact, it is the sexual aspect of marriage that separates it from all other types of human relationship.
- C. The worldly \_\_\_\_\_ sex should not be allowed to destroy our confidence in its positive value.
- D. The sexual relationship in marriage should be seen as \_\_\_\_\_.

The sexual side of marriage is sacred for several reasons. It is sacred because:

1. It is to be a reflection of the ultimate union of \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 5:31, 32).
  2. It represents the total \_\_\_\_\_ of the marriage relationship (Gen. 2:23-25).
  3. It is the means by which \_\_\_\_\_ are brought into existence (Gen. 4:1).
- E. The sexual relationship in marriage should be a method of sharing with, communing with and \_\_\_\_\_ of oneself to the other (I Cor. 7:1-5).
- F. The sexual relationship in marriage should be seen as a \_\_\_\_\_.
- G. God's view of the sexual relationship is summarized in Hebrews 13:4.

*Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*

*Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. –NIV*

*Have respect for marriage. Always be faithful to your partner, because God will punish anyone who is immoral or unfaithful in marriage. –CEV*

*Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband. God draws a firm line against casual and illicit sex. –MSG*

*Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery. –NLT*

This verse teaches four things:

1. Marriage is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The married bed is not to be \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Sex outside of marriage constitutes a \_\_\_\_\_ use of sex (Pro. 6:32).
4. God does not treat adultery \_\_\_\_\_.

## **II. What are some wrong concepts of sex?**

- A. “Sex is \_\_\_\_\_ and evil.”
- B. “Sex is \_\_\_\_\_” (Gen. 2:24, 25).
- C. “Sex is \_\_\_\_\_” (Rom. 6:12-19).
- D. “Sex is for \_\_\_\_\_ only”(Pro. 5:18, 19; Eccl. 9:9; Song 2:3; 7:7).
- E. “Sex is a drive \_\_\_\_\_ to hunger and thirst” (I Cor. 7:1, 7-9).
- F. “All physical affection is \_\_\_\_\_” (I Kings 19:20; Rom. 16:16; I Cor. 16:20; II Cor. 13:12; I Th. 5:26; I Pet. 5:14).

## **III. What place does sex have in life?**

- A. Sex is a part of life.
  1. Life is more than \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Marriage is more than \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Sex is more than \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Sex is related to other areas of life.
  1. The sexual relationship is the ultimate expression of the larger relationship of marriage. It affects and is shaped by all the circumstances and feelings involved in such a partnership.
  2. The sexual relationship must be seen in the context of the other aspect of our life including sympathy, understanding, adoration, appreciation, consideration and gentleness. The spiritual and soul aspects of the marital relationship

should be seen as equally, if not more important than the physical aspect of marriage.

3. A good sexual relationship does not insure a good marriage. A good marriage insures a meaningful sexual relationship.
4. This integration of sex into life distinguishes man from the sexual nature of animals, which is purely instinct without affection and biology without love.
5. Marriage is a union of spirit, soul and body. In quantity of time, the physical aspect of marriage is far less important than the emotional, intellectual and practical involvement of the couple. Thus in preparation for marriage the physical needs no emphasis in that it is the easiest and quickest area to learn if the other areas of the relationship are in order.
6. Sex in marriage should never be an end in itself. If you treat your mate as an object of your sexual gratification, you are creating an intolerable climate for real love. In addition you are setting yourself up for ultimate failure.

#### **IV. What is the purpose of sex in marriage?**

Sex in the marriage relationship has three main purposes (from unpublished notes by Jan Weinstein, pg. 41):

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **V. Why does God confine sex to marriage?**

There are two kinds of answers to this question, one that focuses on the positive things that sex becomes in marriage, and the other on what negative things it becomes outside of marriage. Sexuality has the potential for good or evil, depending on motivation and expression.

##### **A. Positive reasons**

The following are the positive results of confining sex to marriage:

1. It is consistent with God's purpose.
2. It heightens its value.
3. It represents the permanent exclusive, unqualified commitment of marriage.
4. It bases enjoyment on commitment.

5. It makes intercourse the language of oneness.
6. It permits sex to be the “icing” rather than the foundation of relationship.

B. Negative reasons

The following are the negative results of sex outside of marriage:

1. It hinders the development of the non-physical aspects of the relationship before and after the marriage.
2. It produces tension between the sexes.
3. It hinders married sexual fulfillment.
4. It produces spiritual, mental and emotional bondage.
5. It can lead to unwanted pregnancies, abortion and sexually transmitted diseases.

**VI. What principles should govern the sexual life of a married Christian couple?**

A. \_\_\_\_\_

Christian love is the greatest single factor contributing to a fulfilling sexual union. Love is having a greater desire to give than to receive. Both the husband and wife should desire to give and be willing to receive.

B. \_\_\_\_\_

Meekness is yielding our personal rights and expectations to God. Much frustration in marriage is caused by expecting too much from our partner and reacting when they do not give us what we believe to be rightfully ours. Viewing God as the source of all fulfillment in life will free us to love each other unreservedly and to stand together through any difficulty.

C. \_\_\_\_\_

Based on love and meekness, any couple that is faithful to communicate will be able to find their way along the pathway of fulfillment. Failure to communicate clearly will only lead to frustration, hurt, resentment and fear.

D. \_\_\_\_\_

The sexual life of a couple must be kept free from contaminating influences. Our hearts must be kept free from selfish desires, our minds from impure thoughts and our lives from the world’s sensual barrage. Asking your spouse to do what is done in “porno” movies is corrupting the marriage bed.

E. \_\_\_\_\_

Controlling our desires brings freedom and greater fulfillment. Control is not only essential during necessary times of abstinence in marriage; it is always a factor in releasing fulfillment.

F. \_\_\_\_\_

There is a constant need for both the husband and wife to be sensitive to each other's needs and desires. A servant's heart and plenty of personal consideration shown in all areas of marriage will contribute much to its success.

G. \_\_\_\_\_

Just as all important events in life receive special preparation, so should the sexual relationship of a couple. This should include thoughtfulness, cleanliness, a clear conscience and positive attitudes. It may also require a change in wardrobe, improved personal habits, rest, and a lock on the bedroom door.

## **VII. What are some of the things that will make for better sex in marriage?**

I think we have learned by now that sex is more than an act in the bedroom. It is an intimate expression between a married couple based on mutual respect, admiration and love. Because it is not just a "animal-like" experience there are factors that make it more or less enjoyable.

A. Things that reduce sexual enjoyment in marriage.

1. Improper Communication

This includes belittling, embarrassing, devaluing or offending (Pro. 18:10).

2. Lack of Servanthood

This includes inconsiderateness, making demands, anger or dishonoring.

3. Betrayal of any Kind

This includes breaking confidence, telling secrets, disloyalty or infidelity.

B. Things that increase sexual enjoyment in marriage.

1. Uplifting Communication

This includes encouraging, praising, defending and showing appreciation.

2. Servanthood

This includes serving, helping with chores, considerateness ("Sex begins in the kitchen").

3. Faithfulness

This includes statements of love and commitment and demonstrating fidelity by how you interact with other members of the opposite sex.

**VIII. What are some helpful hints in teaching children about sex?**

- A. Concentrate on instilling proper values more than giving factual knowledge.
- B. Be approachable on the subject.
- C. Respond to their questions honestly without giving more in your answer than they really asked for.
- D. Do not project negative attitudes concerning the subject.
- E. Be careful not to arouse curiosity and promote undue interest.
- F. Build biblical concepts, values and attitudes throughout their lives, instead of waiting for one “big talk”.

Note: The above material was extracted from a book no longer in print titled *Principles of Family Life*, which was published by City Bible Publishing and was authored by a team of writers including but not limited to the author of this teaching.

## Lesson 10

### Maintaining First Love in Marriage

#### I. What was the problem in relation to the Church at Ephesus?

*To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, “These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 2 ‘I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. 4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent. 6 But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.’” Revelation 2:1-7*

A. The Church at Ephesus had many \_\_\_\_\_ traits.

1. They were \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord.
2. They had correct \_\_\_\_\_.
3. They did not \_\_\_\_\_ false teachers.
4. They were very busy with lots of \_\_\_\_\_.

B. The Church at Ephesus had one serious problem—they had left their \_\_\_\_\_.

Other translations:

*But this I have against you—you have abandoned your first love. –TCNT*

*You no longer love me as you did at the first. –LB*

*You have abandon the love that you had at the first. –RSV*

Jesus had foreseen that this would be a problem (Mt. 24:12).

C. God addressed this problem with His relationship to His people (Jer. 2:1-2).

#### II. How is this same problem to be seen in marriage?

Many married couples have let the activities of life disrupt their first love relationship.

A. In many marriages the parties in the marriage are \_\_\_\_\_ for each other.

B. They believe all the \_\_\_\_\_ about how marriage is to work.

- C. They have lives filled with all kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ mostly surrounding the lives of their children.
- D. However, they have drifted from their \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. What was God's solution to the problem?

The solution for the church is the same as the solution for our marriages (Rev. 2:5).

- A. They were to \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. They were to \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. They were to do as they \_\_\_\_\_.

### IV. What does a "first love" relationship look like?

A. Our first love relationship with the Lord looks something like this. Once we:

1. Thought and talked about **the Lord** all the times.
2. Tried to please **the Lord** at all times.
3. Shared our most intimate thoughts, desires and feelings with **the Lord**.
4. Included **the Lord** in all our plans, present and future.
5. Talked to **the Lord** as much as possible.
6. Befriended **the Lord**, speaking only good of **the Lord**.
7. Loved to be in the presence of **the Lord** continually.
8. Loved to praise **the Lord** for even the smallest things.
9. Put **the Lord** first in all things (self-denial).
10. Were very sensitive to the feelings of **the Lord**.

B. Our first love relationship in marriage looks very similar. Once we:

1. Thought and talked about \_\_\_\_\_ all the time.
2. Tried to please \_\_\_\_\_ at all times.
3. Shared our most intimate thoughts, desires and feelings with \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Included \_\_\_\_\_ in all our plans, present and future.
5. Talked to \_\_\_\_\_ as much as possible.
6. Befriended \_\_\_\_\_, speaking only good of \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Loved to be in the presence of \_\_\_\_\_ continually.

8. Loved to praise \_\_\_\_\_ for even the smallest things.
9. Put \_\_\_\_\_ first in all things (self-denial).
10. Were very sensitive to the feelings of \_\_\_\_\_.

What we do to win people is what we must do to keep people.

**V. What are the promises to and result of those who will maintain their first love?**

They are restored to the tree of life in their relationship.

- A. The love relationship becomes \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Their habits and ways \_\_\_\_\_ and ways.
- C. Their interests \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. There is always happiness and joy \_\_\_\_\_.
- E. Others can find \_\_\_\_\_ in their relationship.
- F. **The two become \_\_\_\_\_!**

**VI. What are some of the practical ways in which husbands and wives can express their love for each other?**

- A. Ways husbands can love their wives.
  1. Arrange a date once a week.
  2. Call her from work to ask her out.
  3. Give flowers or some other small gift for no reason.
  4. Write love notes and hide them for her to find.
  5. Help her with some of her chores.
  6. Allow direct access to any of her calls.
  7. Call her during the day for no apparent reason.
  8. Treat her with honor and respect.
    - Help on with coat.
    - Open car door
    - Help with chair in restaurants
    - Introduce her properly
  9. Tell her you love her daily in a creative way.
  10. Babysitting for her so that she can do something she likes to do.
  11. Fix things that are a concern to her.
  12. Praise her in front of others.
  13. Pray with her and for her.
  14. Ask for her advice and opinions about important issues.
  15. Thank her for all of her attempts to please you.
  16. Change the areas that you know are an annoyance to her.
  17. Ask forgiveness when you have been wrong.

18. Go shopping with her and show genuine interest.
19. Take her hand when walking in public or private.
20. Treat her relative with respect.
21. Take her out to buy a new outfit.
22. Remind her of the early days of your first love.
23. Tell her of the highlights of your day.
24. Remember her birthday and anniversary.
25. Watch a movie that you know she likes.
26. Respond to her gestures of romance.
27. Run errands for her.
28. Give her your full attention when she speaks.
29. Get up for the children at night, letting her sleep on.
30. Play with the children and keep them busy with a game.
31. Keep yourself clean and attractive.
32. Get involved in a ministry together.
33. Keep overtime and working late to a minimum.
34. Plan occasional “escapes” or time away together.
35. Care for her when she is sick.
36. Take an interest in the children’s school activities.
37. Go for regular walk with her.
38. Caress and hold her without the desire for sex.
39. Etc. Etc. Etc.

B. Ways wives can love their husbands.

Many of those things listed above could equally apply to wives.

1. Greeting him when he comes home.
2. Surprise him with unexpected romance.
3. Flirt with him.
4. Tell him what you admire about him.
5. Support him when he tries to please you.
6. Sit close to him.
7. Write special notes of love and affection.
8. Participate with him in one of his hobbies or interests.
9. Cooperate with any attempt by him to read the Bible and pray together.
10. Watch your use of money and time.
11. Treat his friends with kindness.
12. Ask him for his advice and opinions.
13. Thank him when you notice his attempts to please you.
14. Be punctual.
15. Work on changing things that you know annoy him.
16. Cooking things that you know he likes.
17. Pamper him.
18. Brag about him to others.
19. Give him lingering kisses from time to time.
20. Dress the way he likes.
21. Etc. Etc. Etc.

<b>What is the problem?</b>	<b>The Love of Many Has Grown Cold</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Even though they are working hard for _____.</li> <li>2. Even though they appear to be doing everything right.</li> </ol>
<b>What are we to do?</b>	<b>Remember... Repent, and Do As You Once Did</b>
	<p>Once we:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Thought and talked about _____ all the time.</li> <li>2. Tried to please _____ at all times.</li> <li>3. Shared our most intimate thoughts, desires and feelings with _____.</li> <li>4. Included _____ in all our plans, present and future.</li> <li>5. Talked to _____ as much as possible.</li> <li>6. Befriended _____, speaking only good of _____.</li> <li>7. Loved to be in the presence of _____ continually.</li> <li>8. Loved to praise _____ for even the smallest things.</li> <li>9. Put _____ first in all things (self-denial).</li> <li>10. Were very sensitive to the feelings of _____.</li> </ol>
<b>What are the results?</b>	<b>To Eat of the Tree of Life</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The love relationship becomes progressive.</li> <li>2. Their habits and ways become your habits and ways.</li> <li>3. Their interests become your interests.</li> <li>4. There is always happiness and joy in their presence.</li> <li>5. <b>THE TWO BECOME ONE!</b></li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;">© Bill Scheidler</p>

## Lesson 11

### Parental Responsibilities

#### I. What is the importance of parents?

- A. Parents are the vessels through whom God desires to promote His \_\_\_\_\_ in each family (Gen 1:26-28).
1. As such, parents are responsible to be \_\_\_\_\_ and multiply.
  2. As such, parents are to aid in the production of godly \_\_\_\_\_ and maturity in the family members.
  3. As such, parents are to help bring forth God's deposit, \_\_\_\_\_ and ministry that He has placed in each child.
  4. As such, parents are to see that their children come to know and experience true \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
- B. Parents are the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's covenants to the family members. This means that the parents are to their children what the Lord is to them (Eph. 6:1; Ex. 12:3).

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord (as His representatives), for this is just and right. Ephesians 6:1, Amp.*

#### II. What are the privileges of being parents?

The reward of being a parent is the fruit that their efforts have produced. Parents have the privilege of seeing their children:

- A. Live a long and \_\_\_\_\_ life (Deut. 11:18-21).
- B. Walk in the ways of the Lord and fulfill His will and \_\_\_\_\_ for their life (Deut. 4:9-10; 6:7-12; Ex. 12:26; Gen. 18:19).
- C. Know God personally and pass on the knowledge of God to \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 78:5-6; Joel 1:3).

#### III. What is the unique challenge of parenting at this point in history?

We are going to be responsible for rearing one of two kinds of generations.

- A. A \_\_\_\_\_ and perverse generation (Pro. 30:11-14)

*There is a generation that curses its father, and does not bless its mother. There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, yet is not washed from its filthiness.*

*There is a generation-- oh, how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation whose teeth are like swords, and whose fangs are like knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.*

B. A \_\_\_\_\_ and a holy generation (I Pet. 2:9-10)

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*

#### IV. What are the biblical responsibilities of parents?

Parents have been given serious responsibilities and a charge by God in the following areas:

A. \_\_\_\_\_ (I Tim. 5:8)

To provide for your family is more than making sure that they have food, clothing and housing, although these are very important. Parents are to provide in all areas of life including spiritual, emotional, social, intellectual, vocational and moral areas.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 18:6)

Protection is more than preserving them from \_\_\_\_\_. It involves guarding their children from sin, strife, idleness, worldliness, evil associations, dishonesty, hate, moral impurity and anything else that would cause them to become less than what God intended for them to be.

Children need protecting because:

1. They are \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 128:3).
2. They are \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 144:12).
3. They are \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro. 22:15).

C. \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro. 22:6; Eph. 6:4)

Training involves bringing our children to maturity with all of the equipment that they need to be successful and to make wise decisions in life.

1. Children need training because:

- a. Children are born with a nature inclined to \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 51:5).
- b. Children are born without \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro. 22:15).
- c. Children are impressionable and \_\_\_\_\_ of others (Ezek. 16:44).

- d. Children are \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 10:16).
- e. Children have \_\_\_\_\_ potential.
- f. Children are the carriers of \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 78:4-8; 145:4).

2. Parents train by three primary means:

- a. By their \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut. 6:4-9).

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

The challenge of the Lord in Deuteronomy 6:6-9 is to teach our children at all times.

- When you are \_\_\_\_\_. This means that you are teaching during times of relaxation.
- When you are \_\_\_\_\_ or moving about. This means that you are teaching when you are traveling around.
- When you go to \_\_\_\_\_. This means that you are teaching at bedtimes.
- When you \_\_\_\_\_. This means that you are teaching in the morning.

- b. By direct \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut. 4:9-10).

This is the responsibility of the father and mother and it cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ away (Pro. 1:8; 4:1; 13:1; 15:5; 23:22-23).

- c. By loving \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 12:5b-12).

3. The Book of Proverbs outlines the main areas of instruction and training that parents are to provide for their children.

- a. How to respond to authority (Pro. 1:8-9; 24:21-22).
- b. How to resist peer and social pressure (Pro. 1:10-14).
- c. How to avoid greed and covetousness (Pro. 1:15-19).
- d. How to value wisdom and avoid moral impurity (Pro. 2:1-22).
- e. How to earn respect by God and others (Pro. 3:1-10).

- f. How to handle finances and how to prosper (Pro. 3:1-10; 6:11-19).
- g. How to respond to correction (Pro. 3:11-20).
- h. Why good is superior to evil (Pro. 3:21-35).
- i. How to guard your heart (Pro. 4:20-27).
- j. How to avoid immoral relationships with the opposite sex (Pro. 5).
- k. Why diligence is superior to slothfulness (Pro. 6).
- l. How to avoid deception (Pro. 19:27).
- m. How to avoid drunkenness and gluttony (Pro. 23:19-35).
- n. Etc., Etc, Etc.

D. \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 18:19)

Guidance involves aiming our children as one would aim an arrow. This is not passive involvement but \_\_\_\_\_ participation (Ps. 127:3-5).

#### **IV. What happens when parents fail to take their responsibility?**

\_\_\_\_\_ and confusion prevail!

When parents fail to take their responsibility they can expect their offspring to inherit curses instead of \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 20:5). They can expect to raise a generation that will hate them and bring them to \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro. 30:11-14; Pro. 29:15).

#### **V. What happens when parents fulfill the charge that God has given to them?**

When parents have truly given themselves to the charge that God has given to them, they can expect God to reward them in special ways. God will turn the hearts of the children to the parents (Mal. 4:6); the children will rise up and call them “blessed” (Pro. 31:28); and their children will truly be as olive plants about their table (Ps. 128:3).

### **A Personal Checkup**

How is my example speaking to my children in the following seven areas:

#### **A. Values**

1. Is the way I’m handling my money teaching my children biblical values?
2. Is the way I’m using my time training my children to put God first?

#### **B. Attitudes**

3. Is my attitude towards authority teaching my children to respond whole-heartedly to God’s delegated authority?
4. Does my outlook on life inspire positive attitudes in my children?

5. Do I demonstrate the kind of love that teaches my children to love as God does?
6. Does my attitude of meekness teach my children to yield their rights to God?

**C. Right Words**

7. Does my daily language consistently teach my children to communicate in an edifying manner?
8. Do my words of commendation encourage and motivate my children to more good works?

**D. Behavior and Godly Habits**

9. Does my behavior teach my children something different than my words?
10. Are my children learning self-control by my balanced lifestyle?

**E. Friends**

11. Does my circle of friends teach my children how to choose and develop proper friendships?
12. Am I reaching out to others and thereby teaching my children to enlarge their circle of friends?

**F. Wisdom**

13. Am I teaching my children wisdom and good judgment by making daily decisions based on the principles of God?
14. Does my response to my failures teach my children how to learn from their own?
15. Do I relate God's Word to experiences and circumstances in daily situations in my home?

**G. Physical Health**

16. Does my general physical condition motivate my children to keep themselves in good health?
17. It is vital that parents examine each one of these areas in their own personal lives and evaluate whether or not their lifestyle would be desirable to be passed on to their children.
18. Evaluate the above areas and check the ones in which you as a parent feel that you are being a consistently godly example.

Note: Some of the above material was extracted from a book no longer in print titled *Principles of Family Life*, which was published by City Bible Publishing and was authored by a team of writers including but not limited to the author of this teaching.

## Lesson 12

### The Value of Children

#### I. What are some important words that serve as a basis for mutual family respect?

A. There are some English words that relate to this area of respect.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 12:10)

Meaning: A just regard for and \_\_\_\_\_; honor and esteem; courteous regard.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ (Phil. 2:3-4)

Meaning: To value \_\_\_\_\_; regard as having worth or excellence

3. \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal. 5:13)

Meaning: Observant \_\_\_\_\_ or notice; heed; consideration

4. \_\_\_\_\_ (I Cor. 12:20-27)

Meaning: "Acknowledgement of the \_\_\_\_\_ of something; an indication of appreciation or approval of; formal approval; a regard for the genuineness of something."

5. \_\_\_\_\_ (I Pet. 2:17)

Meaning: "The state or quality of being \_\_\_\_\_, worthy or honorable"

B. There are some Hebrew and Greek words that apply to this area of respect.

1. The Hebrew word used in the Old Testament for "honor" means to treat something as "\_\_\_\_\_ or costly."

2. The Greek word used in the New Testament for "honor" relates directly to how much worth or value that something is seen to have. It is the legal \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 19:19).

#### II. What is the value or worth of a child?

A. Sometimes it is difficult to see the value of a child. Why?

1. Because of their small \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Because of their \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge.

3. Because of their candid and at times irritating \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Because children seem to have nothing to \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Because they do not contribute anything to their \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Because they can \_\_\_\_\_ us at times.
7. Because of the way we \_\_\_\_\_ as a child.
8. Because they do not measure up to our \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Things that we value we \_\_\_\_\_ with great respect and regard.

If we value...

1. An \_\_\_\_\_, it means that we take extra good care of it.
2. A public \_\_\_\_\_, it means that we watch them attentively and are careful and discerning in their presence.
3. An \_\_\_\_\_, it means that we treat it as a special, private possession with dignity and honor giving it special protection and care and a place of honor in our home.

When it comes to values, it is very easy to give \_\_\_\_\_ attention to \_\_\_\_\_ matters and minor attention to major matters.

C. The world has one view of children.

1. They are in the way.
2. They tie me down.
3. They are a messy nuisance.
4. They are keeping me from pursuing my career goals.
5. They are an interruption in my life.

D. God has another view of children.

1. Children are valid \_\_\_\_\_ of the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:14-21).
2. Children are a significant \_\_\_\_\_ above all other (Gen. 17:16; 28:3; Ps. 107:38; 128:3).
3. Children are a \_\_\_\_\_ gift from God (Gen 33:4-5).
4. Children are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord (Ps. 127:3-5).
5. Children are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord (Ps. 127:3).
6. Children are cause for great \_\_\_\_\_(Ps. 127:5).

### III. How are parents to treat their children respectfully?

If parents are to treat their children respectfully they must:

- A. Change the way they see their children.
- B. Honor them in the way that they present them to the public.
- C. Treat them the way they would want to be treated.
  1. Look at them when you speak to them.
  2. Take the time to talk to them when they want to talk to you.
  3. Respect their desires when planning family activities.
  4. Do not speak to them in harsh or negative ways.
  5. Do not use embarrassment to adjust or correct them.
  6. Allow them to express their opinions freely in family discussions.
  7. Do not label them with negative nicknames or use name calling.
  8. Never refer to children in general negative terms.
  9. Be free to express affection for the child in words and deeds.
  10. Never laugh at the child. Laugh with them.
  11. Be careful never to show favoritism among children (Deut. 21:15-17).

Ask yourself:

- Do I address one more than another?
- Do I ask one to do more with me than another?
- Do I greet one with more enthusiasm than another?
- Do I make a bigger fuss over one report card than another?
- Do I give gifts of equal value?

12. Be careful not to compare them with others.
13. Do not over-react to the things that they say and do.

Most of the time we over-react because of self-centeredness, tiredness or busyness. Perhaps our life is out of balance. Parents must learn to control their own spirit (Pro. 16:32; 14:17).

14. Never demean your child when talking about them to others, especially in their presence.
15. Avoid all unbiblical forms of discipline.

No slapping, pulling ears or hair, jerking, shaking, lifting them suddenly off of the floor, grabbing suddenly, squeezing arms too tight, pinching, setting down too hard, biting or any other eye-for-an-eye method.

16. Be eager to apologize and ask forgiveness as you would any other adult.
17. Take them seriously when they express concerns.
18. Show genuine interest in the things that are part of their lives (e.g. problems, friends, hurts, failures, sports, victories, hobbies and interests).
19. Show appreciation when they make efforts to please them.
20. Praise them often.
21. Pay prompt and cheerful attention to their needs.
22. Keep your words and promises to them!

#### **IV. What are some symptoms in children that might be reflect a need in this area?**

While many of the following symptoms can arise from other sources, dishonoring our children can produce them as well.

- Bedwetting
- Bad dreams
- Security blanket
- Extensive thumb sucking
- Avoidance of eye contact
- Wounded spirit
- Extensive shyness
- Indecisiveness
- Inability to be free around adults
- Low self-image
- Tendency toward melancholy (Pro. 15:13)

As parents we need to repent and do what God would do in these areas. Do not expect changes overnight, but as you sow new seed you will surely reap a new crop.

## Lesson 13-14 Child Discipline

### I. Where do we have the pattern for all discipline?

\_\_\_\_\_, as our Heavenly Father, furnishes the best and primary example of all discipline (Deut 8:5).

- A. God chastens His children out of \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro. 3:11-12; 13:24; Heb. 12:5-6; Rev. 3:19).
- B. God chastens because He is \_\_\_\_\_ to us (Ps. 119:75).
- C. God chastens as a form of \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 94:12, NIV; Ps. 119:71).
- D. God chastens but afterward re-establishes His \_\_\_\_\_ to us (Job 5:18; Jer. 31:18-20; Ps. 89:32-33).

### II. Why should parents discipline their children?

- A. They should not discipline them because:
  - 1. Their children \_\_\_\_\_ or irritate them.
  - 2. They are \_\_\_\_\_ or upset.
  - 3. They want to be seen or acknowledged as a \_\_\_\_\_.

Sometimes we can be exercising discipline with our children because of something that we want for ourselves.

- a. We want a good \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. We want to qualify as a \_\_\_\_\_ (I Tim. 3:4).
  - c. We want to be seen as a good \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. They should discipline their children because:
  - 1. God \_\_\_\_\_ them to (I Sam. 3:13).
  - 2. Their children \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 119:75, NLT).
  - 3. They \_\_\_\_\_ their children (Pro. 13:24).

### III. What are we seeking to instill into the loves of our children?

A. A \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro. 23:13-14)

B. \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro. 25:28)

C. \_\_\_\_\_ for others (Phil. 2:3-8, NLT)

#### IV. What are some keys to effective discipline?

A. \_\_\_\_\_

Consistency means that we must be faithful to discipline on all occasions where discipline is needed.

1. This means when you are \_\_\_\_\_ home.
2. This means when you are \_\_\_\_\_.
3. This means when everyone is having a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. This means when you are watching a \_\_\_\_\_ show or movie.
5. This means when you think their disobedience is “\_\_\_\_\_.”

B. \_\_\_\_\_

When we discipline our children we must show them respect as people while we are doing it.

1. This means that we do not \_\_\_\_\_ the child or use embarrassment to correct.
2. This means that we do not discipline in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. This means that we do not \_\_\_\_\_ to them, scold them, belittle them or call them names.
4. This means that we avoid all \_\_\_\_\_ of discipline as discussed in the previous lesson.

C. \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 85:10)

Mercy and truth must be a part of the discipline process in just the right balance.

1. Too much mercy will produce \_\_\_\_\_, presumption and low personal standards.
2. Too much truth (or law) will produce \_\_\_\_\_.

D. \_\_\_\_\_

It is important that when you give instructions or commands that there is follow through or \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Do not threaten unless you are prepared to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Do not make rules that you are not prepared to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Understand that \_\_\_\_\_ disobedience must be treated the same.

**V. What will discipline do for my children?**

- A. It will keep them from \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 119:67; Pro. 22:6).
- B. It will save them from \_\_\_\_\_ and from the calamity of the wicked (Ps. 94:12-13; Pro. 23:14; I Cor. 11:32).
- C. It will lead them to a right relationship \_\_\_\_\_ (Is. 26:16, Samuel).
- D. It will make them \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro. 22:15)
- E. It will help them to \_\_\_\_\_ more fully (Heb. 12:9-11)
- F. It will produce \_\_\_\_\_ and holiness in them (Heb. 12:9-12).
- G. It will make them \_\_\_\_\_ and secure (John 8:32, 36).
- H. It will make their lives \_\_\_\_\_ (John 15:2).

**VI. Why is the disciplining of children necessary?**

- A. Children are \_\_\_\_\_ and naturally gravitate toward the exercise of self-will (Ps. 51:5; Eph. 2:3; Pro. 22:15).
- B. Children do not know that which is \_\_\_\_\_ (Jer. 10:23-24).
- C. Children left to themselves will not fulfill \_\_\_\_\_ in their lives but they will bring their parents to shame (Pro. 29:15).
- D. Children who have learned through discipline to respond to authorities in their lives will also respond to the \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord (Pro. 23:14).

**VII. What is the godly prescription for discipline in the home?**

- A. Make sure that you understand the importance of discipline (Pro. 29:15; 22:15; 20:11).

- B. Make sure that your discipline is motivated by love and \_\_\_\_\_ for the child.
- C. Make sure that you have laid the proper groundwork for discipline. Before correcting a child ask yourself the following questions:
1. Have I ever told him not to do it or \_\_\_\_\_ in this situation?
  2. If you have told him, was your instruction \_\_\_\_\_?
  3. Is your request \_\_\_\_\_? Are they able to handle what you have asked?
  4. Is his behavior reflecting back to me that I have been \_\_\_\_\_ or unfair?
- D. Make sure that you follow certain basic guidelines.
1. Be in \_\_\_\_\_ with your spouse before you discipline.
  2. Teach them that “\_\_\_\_\_” means “\_\_\_\_\_”. This means correcting them early (Pro. 13:24, NLT).
    - a. This means that you discipline them for all disobedience the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - b. This means that you do not continually \_\_\_\_\_ them.
    - c. This means that you do not \_\_\_\_\_ your children especially with things that you have no intention of doing.
  3. Never raise your \_\_\_\_\_ in instruction or command.
  4. Establish the child’s personal \_\_\_\_\_. Have them tell you what they did wrong.
    - a. Don’t ask, “\_\_\_\_\_ do that?” You are giving them the opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_. Now you have two sins with which to deal.
    - b. Don’t ask, “\_\_\_\_\_ do that?” You are giving them an opportunity to make up an \_\_\_\_\_. Now you will have to judge the excuse.
    - c. Do ask, “\_\_\_\_\_ did you do that was wrong?” Now you are giving them an opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ and at the same time you are reinforcing the original instruction.
  5. Explain again to the child \_\_\_\_\_ for discipline.

6. Before you correct them, sit in silence for a few \_\_\_\_\_ for their personal reflection.
7. Correct with a \_\_\_\_\_, a neutral object (Pro. 13:24; 22:15; 29:15; 23:13-14).
  - a. Never use your \_\_\_\_\_. You use your hands to show love.
  - b. Never use the “\_\_\_\_\_” method (biting, pinching, pulling hair, scratching, slapping, etc.),
8. Apply the \_\_\_\_\_ of education to the \_\_\_\_\_ of knowledge.
9. Correct \_\_\_\_\_ and do not let his or her crying stop you (Pro. 19:18; 20:30).
10. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ – no more than is necessary.
11. Show love afterward without \_\_\_\_\_ discipline.
12. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ the child; encourage him or her in right behavior patterns.
13. Pray with your child and help him or her to pray for \_\_\_\_\_.

The child needs to understand that they have not just offended or sinned against you, they have sinned against God. They need to ask for forgiveness from all \_\_\_\_\_ parties. This will help build into them a God consciousness that will serve them for the rest of their life.

14. If there is a need for \_\_\_\_\_, have the child do it.

They need to follow through on the original instruction, apologize to offended parties, replace what was damaged or give back what was taken.

15. Be \_\_\_\_\_!

### **VIII. When should discipline start?**

Child discipline should start very early. It should start as soon as there is an obvious manifestation of \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro. 19:18, NLT). However, it is important that the age of the child be considered in relation to the severity of the discipline.

*Discipline your children while there is hope. If you don't, you will ruin their lives.*

### **IX. What are some additional guidelines that would apply to older children?**

A. Discipline by the removal of certain \_\_\_\_\_.

1. They can forfeit their cell phone.
2. They can be given extra jobs.
3. They can be grounded.
4. They can lose TV privileges.
5. **Never** take them out of church activities as a means of discipline.

B. Provide additional motivation by \_\_\_\_\_ correct behavior.

1. Allow them special privileges.
2. Give them more freedom and/or responsibility.

C. Take time for heart-to-heart \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Spend time in developing a good relationship.
2. Be sure to express displeasure in wrong behavior.
3. Be sure to express praise for right behavior.

**God has given a tremendous promise to those who train up their child after a godly manner (Proverbs 22:6).**

*Teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it. – NLT*

### **Susannah's Rules for Rearing Children**

Susannah Wesley, mother of nineteen, didn't go to textbooks for her theories on child guidance. Though two hundred years old, her rules are still valid today for teaching a child to be obedient.

1. Allow no eating between meals.
2. Put all children in bed by eight o'clock.
3. Require them to take medicine without complaining.
4. Subdue self-will in a child and thus work together with God to save his soul.
5. Teach each one to pray as soon as he can speak.
6. Require all to be still during family worship.
7. Give them nothing that they cry for, and only that which they ask for.
8. To prevent lying, punish no fault which is first confessed and repented of.
9. Never allow a sinful act to go unpunished.
10. Never punish a child twice for a single offense.
11. Commend and reward good behavior.
12. Any attempt to please, even if poorly performed, should be commended.
13. Preserve property rights, even in the smallest matters.
14. Strictly observe all promises.
15. Teach children to fear the rod.

## Lesson 15

### The Atmosphere of the Home

#### I. How important is one's spiritual environment?

- A. The spiritual atmosphere or environment can make a \_\_\_\_\_  
(I Kings 11:1-6).
- B. The spiritual atmosphere or environment can make a \_\_\_\_\_  
(I Samuel 19:18-24).

#### II. How important is environment in the natural realm?

##### A. On the negative side

1. If the environment is filled with \_\_\_\_\_ things will be negatively affected.
2. If the environment is filled with \_\_\_\_\_ it will tend to disorder.

##### B. On the positive side

1. If the environment is guarded and \_\_\_\_\_ it can have a very positive effect.
  - a. Greenhouse plants tend to grow more \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Greenhouse plants tend to be \_\_\_\_\_ and heartier.
  - c. Greenhouse plants tend to bring forth \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. Greenhouse plants can bear fruit in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. Greenhouse plants do extremely well when transplanted \_\_\_\_\_ of the greenhouse.
2. If the environment is one of peace the result is \_\_\_\_\_.

#### III. What are the things that affect the environment of the home?

There are ten things that have a major affect on the atmosphere of your home.

##### A. Music

##### B. Pictures/posters/banners

- C. Games
- D. Toys
- E. Books
- F. Magazines
- G. Order and cleanliness
- H. Mealtime routine
- I. Television

**At Wit's End: Instinct to feel lost in TV violence, Erma Bombeck**

This is an open letter to everyone who has produced or defended violence on television.

You don't remember me, do you? I'm the viewer who used to sit in front of a TV set and when a gun was fired, I nearly jumped out of my chair. When I saw someone being beaten, instinctively I flinched and felt the pain. Or when I saw blood, I turned my head away and my stomach felt funny.

I know. I don't seem like the same person you remembered. I'm not.

You have desensitized me. During a single evening, I once saw 12 people shot to death, two people tortured (one a child), one dumped in a swimming pool, two cars explode with people in them, a rape and a man who crawled three blocks with a knife in his stomach.

And you know something? I didn't feel shock or horror. I didn't feel excitement or repugnance. I didn't feel pity or sadness. I didn't even feel anger.

The truth is, I didn't feel. And I hate you for it. Through repeated assault with one violent act after another you have taken from me something that I valued, something that contributed to my compassion and caring, the instinct to feel. You told me violence was necessary because it is "real". Throwing up is "real", but I don't want to see it in color.

You told me the 6 o'clock news was just as violent. But you forgot to mention the 6 o'clock news has conscience. Whenever violence is reported it is declared wrong and shocking.

Please know that I will survive the violence that emanates from the tube because I know what I have lost and somehow I will find my way back to what I know I should be and feel.

But reflect if you will on the children of our times, those infants with a 21-inch screen as a night light who could adjust an aerial at age four, and who consider TV their babysitter, mother, father, first date, good friend, teacher and constant dinner companion.

They have never known shock. They have never felt pain for another human being. They have never cried for a victim. They have never felt anger for injustice. Do you dare take that away from them?

J. The Internet

#### **IV. What would happen if Jesus came to our house?**

##### **If Jesus Came to Your House**

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two...

If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored guest

And all the food you'd serve Him would be the very best,

And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there...

But... when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door

With arms outstretched in welcome to our heavenly visitor?

Or would you maybe change your clothes before you let Him in,

Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?

Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard,

And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud and hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?

Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder... if the Savior spent a day or two with you,

Would you go right on doing the things you always do?

Would you go right on saying the things you always say?

Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace?

And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?

Would you sing the songs you always sing and read the book you always read?

And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed  
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go,  
Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?  
Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends,  
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?  
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on,  
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?  
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do,  
If Jesus came in person to spend some time with you.

- Author Unknown

If you build the right atmosphere in your home, bad kids will be good in your home.

## Lesson 16

### Developing the Spiritual Life of Your Children

#### I. What is God's desire when it comes to the spiritual life of our homes?

- A. He desires to be \_\_\_\_\_ in our homes (Luke 19:5-9).
- B. He is interested in \_\_\_\_\_ coming to our homes (Acts 16:30-34).
- C. He is interested in our homes being a \_\_\_\_\_ church.

As a miniature church, our homes should be a place of:

- a. Worship
- b. Prayer
- c. The Word
- d. Teaching
- e. Body Ministry
- f. Discipline
- g. Covering and Protection
- h. Fellowship
- i. Commitment
- j. Devotion to the Lord

#### II. What is the foundation of a good devotional life?

The foundation of a good devotional life is the personal commitment of the parents to live a life that is \_\_\_\_\_. If Christ is not real to the parents, they will never be able to make Him real to their children. Christ must be the center of the home. The home must be a place where the principles of the kingdom operate.

Christianity and all that goes with it should be \_\_\_\_\_ in the home. When it is the rewards are tremendous. If Christianity is not a way of life in the home the children will be trained to be \_\_\_\_\_.

#### III. What does the word "devotions" mean?

The word "devotions" comes from words like devote, devoted, devotee and devotion.

##### A. Devote

To devote is to give or apply one's attention or time \_\_\_\_\_ to some activity or purpose. It also means to set apart, dedicate or consecrate something to God.

##### B. Devoted

To be devoted is to be ardent, \_\_\_\_\_ or devout in adherence to something or someone.

C. Devotee

To be a devotee is to be a person who is \_\_\_\_\_ about something especially the observance of religious duty.

D. Devotion

Devotion is the state of being devoted. It is a strong attachment or affection which expresses itself in \_\_\_\_\_.

**IV. Who is responsible for the devotional life of the home?**

A. The father has been placed by God as the spiritual head of the home (Eph. 5:23).

1. It is the father's \_\_\_\_\_ to be sure that the children are raised up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).
2. The father is the one who will be held \_\_\_\_\_ by the Lord for the spiritual state of his family (Ex. 4:24; I Sam. 3:11-13).

B. The following are guidelines to help the father (parents) strengthen the spiritual life of the family.

1. The father must have a proper \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord.
2. The father must follow godly principles of child \_\_\_\_\_ in the home.
3. The father must be prepared to teach by \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The father must make sure that the atmosphere in the home is conducive to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The father must be the \_\_\_\_\_ of spiritual enrichment in the home.
6. The father must be diligent to pursue the \_\_\_\_\_ of his family members.
7. The father must continually encourage his children in \_\_\_\_\_ development.
8. The father must make time for special \_\_\_\_\_ activities.
9. The father must never \_\_\_\_\_ the abilities of small children.
  - a. They can be worshippers (I Sam. 1:28; Mt. 21:15-16).

- b. They can pray and share prayer requests.
  - c. They can share testimonies.
- 10 The father must be \_\_\_\_\_ with the methods of teaching in the home. Here are only a few ideas:
- Conversational prayer
  - Question and answer
  - Memorization
  - Devotional reading
  - Worship times
  - Story-telling
  - Acting out stories
  - Playing instruments
  - Singing
  - Sharing
  - Bible reading (simple translations)
  - Testimonies
  - Praying for the sick
  - Composing songs of praise
11. The father must use every opportunity and \_\_\_\_\_ in the home as a learning experience.
12. The father must seek to answer the questions of the children \_\_\_\_\_.
13. The father must be a feeder who is sensitive to the \_\_\_\_\_ needs of each of his children.
14. The father must encourage the participation of all family members regardless of \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The father must be a teacher who instills in his children the fear of the Lord and a \_\_\_\_\_ for His Word.
16. The father must be sensitive to the \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit in the life of his child.
17. The father must be ever prepared to lead his child \_\_\_\_\_.
18. The father must not be afraid to include \_\_\_\_\_ in the family exercises.
19. The father must be willing and eager to seek counsel and \_\_\_\_\_ from other fathers.
20. The father must continually encourage \_\_\_\_\_, reliance upon and an acknowledgement of the Lord in all circumstances.
21. The father must lead the family in \_\_\_\_\_ as the need arises.

22. The father should help to assure that the children \_\_\_\_\_ with the Lord and the good things of the Lord on their hearts.

Note: Some of the above material was extracted from a book no longer in print titled *Principles of Family Life*, which was published by City Bible Publishing and was authored by a team of writers including but not limited to the author of this teaching.

## Lesson 17

### Guiding Your Children to Destiny

#### I. What is guidance?

A. There are a couple of words that are important to understand.

1. Guide

- a. A guide is one who leads or \_\_\_\_\_ another in his way.
- b. A guide is something that provides a person with directional information like a \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. A guide is one who directs a person in his conduct or \_\_\_\_\_ of life.

2. Guidance

- a. Guidance is the act or process of \_\_\_\_\_ or directing.
- b. Guidance is the process of controlling the course of a \_\_\_\_\_ by a built-in mechanism (Ps. 127:4).

B. Some synonyms for guidance include such words as:

1. \_\_\_\_\_. This word usually implies assistance by means of a person with intimate knowledge of the course or way and all of its difficulties and dangers.
2. \_\_\_\_\_. This word stresses the idea of going in advance of a person to show the way and to keep those who follow in order and under control.
3. \_\_\_\_\_. This word stresses the guidance of a person who is able to control the factors which determine the direction of a vessel.
4. \_\_\_\_\_. This word implies the assistance of a competent person who is able to navigate a vessel through unknown or difficult waters, as through a long and narrow channel.

#### II. Why is guidance necessary?

A. Children \_\_\_\_\_ know what is right (Jer. 10:23-24).

B. Children do not have the \_\_\_\_\_ gained by the experiences of life (Pro. 4:10-12).

C. Children left to themselves will not make \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro. 16:2, 25; 21:2).

### **III. How does God give direction and guidance to His children?**

There are four basic ways God has designed for His children to receive the wisdom that is necessary in order to make right choices in life.

A. \_\_\_\_\_

God instructed Adam and Eve giving them truth upon which to draw (Gen. 3:1-3; Pro. 1:8, 9; 4:11-13).

B. \_\_\_\_\_

God provided an example for man to follow by virtue of who He is (Ps. 23:2; II Cor. 6:17, 18).

C. \_\_\_\_\_

God gave opportunity for Adam and Eve to learn by experience in a controlled setting (Gen. 3:1-6, 22; Gen. 30:27).

D. \_\_\_\_\_

God used the failures of Adam and Eve to show them the cause and effect relationship of sin to the curse so that they could learn from each mistake (Gen. 3:14, 17).

### **IV. In what ways do parents provide counsel and guidance for their children?**

A. Instruction (Pro. 5:1-2; 1:1-5)

The Book of Proverbs is written from a father to a son and contains bits of wisdom on a variety of themes:

1. How to avoid the pitfalls of immorality and adultery.
2. How to avoid the pitfalls of alcohol and other addictions.
3. How to respond to the authorities in your life.
4. How to handle finances.
5. How to walk in honesty and integrity.
6. How to be diligent in work.
7. How to treat other people.
8. How to control the tongue.
9. How to deal tactfully with different kinds of people.
10. How to treat workers under your leadership.
11. How to set priorities in your life.
12. How to relate to the poor.
13. How to raise children.
14. How to develop the qualities of excellence, generosity and faithfulness.
15. How to make and keep friends.

#### D. Example

Parents also provide guidance through their own example. As the parent makes right choices children are motivated to do the same. When parents seek the \_\_\_\_\_ of others in various areas it helps the child to understand that you do not have to lean totally on your limited understanding of things. Another method of providing guidance is by asking family members from time to time what their opinion is on matters of decision or choice. In this way you can test their \_\_\_\_\_ process when it comes to decision making.

#### E. Experience

Parents should provide \_\_\_\_\_ for their children to gain from life experience by giving them the responsibility of making some of their own choices in areas of personal freedom. Discussing the results of their choices in areas such as use of finances, use of time and selection of friends, provides extremely relevant guidance that they can use in those areas the rest of their lives.

#### F. Failure

One of the most valuable forms of guidance a parent can share with his child is the account of some of their own personal failures in life, the results of those failures and what they have learned through them.

1. We can learn from \_\_\_\_\_ failure (Pro. 15:31).
2. We can learn from the failure of \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro. 24:30-34).

### V. In what areas do children need guidance?

#### A. In social areas:

1. The selection of friends.
2. The principles of relating to people.
3. The process of mending relationships.
4. The ability to conduct oneself in various public settings.
5. The ability to solve problems.
6. The choice of a marriage partner.

#### B. In spiritual areas:

1. The blessing of right choices.
2. How to make the Bible relate to life.
3. The folly of wrong choices.
4. Direction in ministry involvement.
5. How to receive direction from God.
6. How to lead others into righteousness.
7. How to build a good relationship with God.

C. In personal areas:

1. The use of time.
2. How to maintain good health.
3. How to view one's self.
4. How to face fear of the future.

D. In vocational areas:

1. How to enjoy your work.
2. How to choose a career.
3. How to find a job.
4. Should I go to college, and if so, where?
5. How to discipline oneself in school or work.
6. How to avoid becoming a workaholic.

E. In moral areas:

1. How to handle thought life.
2. What sex is all about (appropriate to age-level).
3. How to recognize and avoid moral pitfalls.

F. In financial areas:

1. What place does money have in life?
2. How to spend money wisely.
3. How to save money.
4. How much to tithe.
5. How to avoid or get out of debt.
6. What to think and do about credit.
7. What charitable contributions should and should not be made.

G. In physical areas:

1. The value of recreation.
2. How to maintain self-discipline in eating habits.
3. The obvious follies of drug and alcohol abuse.

The focus of guidance in the home is on values, principles and methods. From birth to marriage the parents provide guidance as to the right value system and the specific practical steps on how to reach any valuable objective.

Parents are the chief source of counsel for their children. Parents cannot afford to leave that responsibility to others.

## Lesson 18

### Keys to Successful Family Life

#### I. What are some of the things that will make family life special?

##### A. Set Mealtimes

Families should plan on a sit down meal together at least \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Children can \_\_\_\_\_ get things ready for the meal.
2. You should begin your meals with \_\_\_\_\_.
3. You should consciously engage in conversation that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. It is not a time to talk about matters of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. It is not a time to discuss all of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the day.
  - c. It is not a time for squabbling between \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. It is not a time for the latest \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. It is a time to affirm and \_\_\_\_\_ with one another.
4. You should eliminate \_\_\_\_\_ at mealtimes.
  - a. TV
  - b. Phone conversations
  - c. Newspapers and other reading material.

##### B. Set Schedule

Routines make for a peaceful family life.

1. Bedtimes
2. Devotional Times
3. Mealtimes
4. Church Attendance
5. Family Night

It is a good idea to set one night of the week aside for “Family Night” where everyone knows that nothing else can be scheduled. This is a time to do something special as a family.

- Playing Board Games

- Working a Puzzle
- Going out for Ice Cream
- Working on a Family Project
- Going on a Bike Ride
- Going on a Picnic
- Going to a Playground
- Etc.

### C. Family Vacations

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ Time
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ Time
  - a. The money should be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. The \_\_\_\_\_ should be set aside.
  - c. The arrangements should be made well in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ arrangements should be taken care of.
  - e. The activities should be \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A Time of \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut. 14:26)
  - b. This means spending outside of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. This means doing some wild and \_\_\_\_\_ things.
  - d. This means not taking \_\_\_\_\_ with you on the “vacation.”
4. A Time of \_\_\_\_\_ (Lev. 23:40; Deut. 14:26)
  - a. This means just having \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. This means trying to plan something that minimizes work for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. This means building some happy \_\_\_\_\_ as a family.
5. A Time of \_\_\_\_\_ (Lev. 23:37-39)
  - a. This means that we do not \_\_\_\_\_ our standards as Christians.
  - b. This means that we maintain our spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. This means that we make the Lord a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. A Time of \_\_\_\_\_ (Lev. 23:42)

This is a tremendous time to change the normal scenery. For the children of Israel this meant packing, leaving the conveniences of home and putting up their tent. But the doing of it united the family, gave the children a better

understanding of their national roots, provided an atmosphere of learning and gave everyone a renewed appreciation for the wonderful works of the Lord.

#### D. Company/Guests

Having other families in your home can be a great blessing and can teach your children how to be hospitable.

1. They can learn how to be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. They can learn how to \_\_\_\_\_ others.
3. They can learn how to \_\_\_\_\_ to others.
4. They can learn how to \_\_\_\_\_ with others.

#### E. Family Outings

#### F. Birthdays

#### G. Holidays

### II. What can I do to be sure that I turn out terrific kids?

The following is taken from an article in *Vibrant Life* (Jan.-Feb. 1985) by Ray Maloney.

1. Love them.
2. Build their self-esteem.
3. Challenge them.
4. Listen to them.
5. Expect respect.
6. Limit them.
7. Make God a part of their lives.
8. Develop a love of learning.
9. Help them to be community minded.
10. Let them go.

### III. What would I do differently, if I had it to do over?

Here is how some people answered that question (taken from *Home Life*, August, 1982, by Frances Simpson).

If I could do it over again...

1. I'd take more time to listen to my children.
2. I'd work more with my children and let them work with me.
3. I'd be more sensitive to the feelings and moods of my children.

4. I'd brag to others less about my children and encourage them more.
5. I'd be more consistent in what I required of my children and more firm in seeing it carried out.
6. I'd linger a little longer.
7. I'd smile more and frown less.

## **HOW DO YOU RATE IN THE HOME**

*The home which is based on the biblical concepts contained in this article will withstand all of Satan's attacks upon it. Take a few moments of your time for this spiritual check-up. You will find it most rewarding.*

### **THE IDEAL CHRISTIAN HOME**

#### **The Relationship of Husband and Wife, I Peter 3:7**

1. Are we making ourselves worthy of respect from the other mate?
2. Are we kind and forbearing to one another?
3. Do we settle disagreements privately with children not around?
4. Do we really make Christ the Lord of our home?
5. Do we encourage self-restraint and good manners in the home?
6. Is the wife submissive to the husband?
7. Does the husband lead the home in spiritual matters?

#### **The Devotional Life, Colossians 3:16**

8. Do we pray often and earnestly for each other?
9. Do we have prayer at each meal?
10. Do we observe family worship at least once a day?
11. Do husband and wife have a time of private devotion daily?
12. Do we sing hymns in the home?
13. Do we pray with the children and teach them to pray?
14. Do we lead the children in Bible reading?
15. Do we teach our children a love for the Bible?
16. Do we teach our children a reverence for the Word?
17. Do we discuss practical problems of Christian living with them?
18. Do we give our children good literature to read?
19. Do we minister to our children and bless them?

## **THE HOME AS A SCHOOL**

### **The Children, Ephesians 6:4**

20. Do we teach our children to honor and obey father and mother?
21. Do we train our children to live according to God's commands?
22. Do we treat each child impartially?
23. When I command and forbid, do I mean it? (as little as possible)
24. Do I make threats and promises which I cannot carry out?
25. Do I anger my children by harsh rebukes and unjust treatment?
26. Do I shout or do I quietly and firmly assert my authority?
27. Do I enforce obedience? By using the rod or withholding privileges?
28. Do I call my children by their real names or do I call them by childish nicknames?
29. Do we always have time to listen to children, to earn their confidence?
30. Do we teach thrift and stewardship accountable to God?
31. Do we observe their habits and give them the necessary interpretations of sex?

### **Our Youth, I Timothy 5:4**

32. Do we avoid nagging and harsh rebuke that tends to harden our younger people?
33. Do I encourage initiative and a healthy spirit of independence and personal responsibility?
34. Do we keep Christ in the center of our lives?
35. Do we try to help them decide on suitable vocations?
36. Do I participate by prayer, earnest counsel, mutual respect and open discussion?
37. Do we participate in school activities to show our interest in our children?
38. Do I make the church as the central interest in their lives?
39. Do we teach them to stand up bravely for the right, even at the risk of ridicule?
40. Do we encourage them to bring their friends to our home?
41. Do we know where they go? Are we sure to have them home at a decent hour when they go out?

### **The Example of Parents, Psalm 101:2**

42. Do we see the need of constant self-discipline?
43. Do we curse or use questionable language?
44. Do we keep a good example to back up our right instruction?
45. Do we reprove and accept reproof cheerfully for Christ's sake?
46. Are we as courteous to each other at home as we are in public?

### **Culture and Amusements, Ephesians 4:1**

47. Do we train our child to use leisure time profitably?
48. Do we provide entertainment which keeps interests at home?
49. Do we choose good books for our library? Do I allow only wholesome literature to be read by my children?
50. Do we supervise and join in our children's entertainment?

51. Do we teach our children to love nature and the outdoors?
52. Do we take all the time we should to be outside with our children?

## **THE HOME AND THE CHURCH RELATIONSHIP**

### **Church Attendance, Psalm 26:8**

53. Do we as a family attend church meetings regularly?
54. Do we help the children understand worship in the meetings?
55. Do we explain what is happening and discuss the meaning of our church?
56. Do we try to awaken a true love for the people of God?
57. Do we discuss what comes at church and bring out meaning for everyday life?
58. Do we train the child to be quiet and reverent in church?
59. Do we train the child to enter into the worship?
60. Do we teach our children in the home Bible studies?
61. Do we teach our children to give generously and tithe in the church and to the Lord?

## **THE HOME AND SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP**

### **Neighborliness, I John 4:11**

62. Do we train our children to be good neighbors?
63. Do we practice what we testify to others?
64. Do we practice and teach compassion to the needy?
65. Do we allow our children to quarrel or talk badly of others?
66. Do we seek to win others to Christ and encourage our children to do the same?
67. Do we permit our children to associate with only morally good friends of their own age?
68. Do we instruct our young to respect sex and warn of its possible dangers? If we wait for our children to learn about this important subject, it is too late for them to learn from us the right way.

### **Community, Jeremiah 29:7**

69. Do we teach our children to be good citizens and obey laws?
70. Do we obey the laws ourselves?
71. Do we vote and seek God's wisdom in our voting?
72. Do we teach our children that God has a plan for the world?

(Anonymous article from New Wine Magazine, December 1972)

## Lesson 19-20

### Christian Principles of Dating

#### I. What are some of the things that complicate the issue of dating in our day?

- A. Dating is not specifically discussed in the \_\_\_\_\_.
1. In Bible times children had \_\_\_\_\_ to do with the choice of whom they married.
  2. They \_\_\_\_\_ their betrothed during the espousal period, which was a period of a year prior to the marriage.
  3. There was no \_\_\_\_\_ dating, as we know it today.
- B. Children see a totally \_\_\_\_\_ of sex and male/female relationships on TV, in the movies and among schoolmates.
- C. Parents themselves have had \_\_\_\_\_ on biblical principles that might apply to the dating scene.
- D. Some parents think that matchmaking and early dating is \_\_\_\_\_ and they foster it or promote it early in their child's life.
- E. Parents find it difficult to resist the \_\_\_\_\_ of their own teenagers.

#### II. What are some biblical concepts that apply to this area of dating and relationships?

- A. God wants us to be free from any \_\_\_\_\_ sexual encounters and promiscuity (I Th. 4:3-8).

Sexual immorality by biblical definition includes the following:

1. Idolatry, which is exalting someone or something else above God (Col. 3:5-7).
2. Licentiousness sometimes translated "lewdness", which is the \_\_\_\_\_ of sensual desires (e.g. kissing, petting, inappropriate touching, indecent bodily movements, even homosexual acts, See: I Pet. 4:1-6; II Pet. 2:7; Eph. 4:17-24).
3. Passion of lust (Col. 3:5-6; I Th. 4:5).
4. Evil Desires (Col. 3:5-6; Rom. 7:8)
5. Fornication, which is any form of sex before marriage (I Cor. 6:13, 18-20; Gal. 5:19).

- B. God does want us to get married, but some how He wants us to do so without \_\_\_\_\_ in the process.
1. The example of Mary and Joseph (Mt. 1:18). They were betrothed or engaged to be married, but they did not come together in a sexual way until after they were married.
  2. When we take advantage of another person sexually outside of marriage, the Bible speaks of this as \_\_\_\_\_ them (I Th. 4:6). Defrauding is “using, taking advantage of or injuring” someone else for your own gratification. It involves taking something that does not \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. The romantic desires that we have within us are given to us by God and are meant to \_\_\_\_\_ marriage, which is part of God’s eternal purpose (Pro. 5:15-20).
1. These desires must be brought under the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit (I Tim. 5:1-2; I Th. 4:7-8).
  2. These desires can only be righteously fulfilled in \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro. 5:15-20, NLT).

### **III. What is the difference between God’s pattern for developing relationships and Satan’s pattern?**

God’s pattern for developing relationships is the exact opposite of Satan’s pattern.

#### **A. Man’s Nature—A triune being**

Man is a three part being consisting of spirit, soul and body (I Th. 5:23). The spirit is the God-conscious part of man, the soul is the self-conscious part of man and the body is the sense or world conscious part of man.

#### **B. Satan’s Pattern—Body, Soul and Spirit**

When Satan establishes relationship with man he starts from the body or sense realm (good for food), moves to the soul realm (desire to make one wise) so that he can possess the spirit of man.

#### **C. God’s Pattern—Spirit, Soul and Body**

God’s pattern is exactly the opposite. He begins relating to man by possessing his spirit, moving from there to the soul and finally touching the physical body of man.

### **IV. How does God’s pattern for relationships translate into a pattern for dating relationships?**

- A. Satan's dating plan leads to \_\_\_\_\_.
1. The relationship starts in the \_\_\_\_\_ realm.
  2. Hopefully, the relationship moves to the \_\_\_\_\_ realm, however, it often never does.
  3. The relationship is based on the physical.
    - a. This is why physical \_\_\_\_\_ and the retention of it is so important to people.
    - b. This is why sexual experimentation is seen to be necessary to "keep the marriage alive."
- B. God's dating plan leads to \_\_\_\_\_.
1. The relationship starts by being one in the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. A Christian could never marry someone that is not a Christian because there can be no unity of spirit (II Cor. 6:14).
    - b. If you cannot marry an unbeliever, you must not \_\_\_\_\_ an unbeliever.
    - c. We must begin all relationships with the opposite sex as brothers and sisters in Christ.
    - d. Activities that promote a \_\_\_\_\_ include church services, youth group, Bible studies, group fellowship, and Christian service projects.
  2. The second level of relationship is being one in the soul realm.
    - a. This involves becoming one in our mind, will and emotions.
    - b. This could be described as cultivating deepening levels of friendship. The levels of relationship include:
      - i. Acquaintances
      - ii. Casual Friends
      - iii. Close Friends
      - iv. Intimate Friends
    - c. It is when the relationship reaches the "close friend" level that you are in a position to begin exploring the idea of marriage.
    - d. Activities in this period should be limited to \_\_\_\_\_ type activities that still involve others, family members and friends (sports, hobbies, family outings, and group activities).

3. The third level involves the coming together in the physical realm. This realm is reserved for \_\_\_\_\_ marriage.

The following chart will give a summary of God’s dating plan in contrast to Satan’s dating plan.

	<b>God’s Dating Plan</b>	<b>Satan’s Dating Plan</b>
<b>Basis</b>	God centered relationships based on wholesome attraction, common commitment to God, and Christian friendship	Self-centered relationships based on natural attraction, feelings and sensual desires
<b>Foundation</b>	Moral absolutes found in the Bible—Principles	Situational ethics and a lack of absolutes—Feelings
<b>Goals</b>	Mutual Edification—Giving	Mutual Gratification—Receiving
<b>Focus</b>	Focus on becoming one in spirit and soul	Focus on physical activity and experimentation
<b>Pacing</b>	Relationship takes time to grow through the stages, getting to know one another	Relationship moves quickly, bypassing levels to take advantage of the other
<b>Relationship to Others</b>	Relationship inclusive of the Body of Christ	Relationship exclusive of the Body of Christ
<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stronger relationship to Lord</li> <li>• Stronger relationship to others</li> <li>• Healthy self-image</li> <li>• Character development for the better</li> <li>• Good example to others</li> <li>• Peace</li> <li>• Joy</li> <li>• Strong foundation for marriage</li> <li>• Abundant Life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weakened relationship to God</li> <li>• Weakened relationship to others</li> <li>• Unhealthy self-image</li> <li>• Character change for the worse</li> <li>• Influence others to sin</li> <li>• Confusion, strife, pain</li> <li>• Sorrow and regret</li> <li>• Bad foundation for marriage.</li> <li>• Death</li> </ul>

*Run from anything that stimulates youthful lust. Follow anything that makes you want to do right. Pursue faith and love and peace, and enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts. II Timothy 2:22*

**V. What are the principles that should govern the dating process?**

**A. Principle #1 – Submission to God**

We must yield all of our desires, values, actions and decisions to God. His will must be sought.

**B. Principle #2 – Covering**

We must seek the counsel and confirmation of those over us as a practical way of measuring our responsiveness to authority.

**C. Principle #3 – Responsibility**

We must recognize that God holds us accountable for how we relate to others. We must also recognize that good relationships do not just happen by chance. We must be willing to take responsibility for the progress or status of the relationship.

**D. Principle #4 – Commitment**

We must maintain a loyalty to God, to both sets of parents and to the other person as a brother or sister in Christ whether or not the relationship leads to marriage. Commitment to them suggests that what we do in this relationship is in the best interest of all parties involved.

**E. Principle #5 – Sensitivity**

We must at all times be considerate of the needs, opinions and values of the other person putting their wellbeing ahead of one's own.

**F. Principle #6 – Expectations**

We must yield our expectations of the other person to God. Unrealistic expectations are caused by seeking to receive, desiring others to meet your needs and focusing on how someone else can please you.

**G. Principle #7 – Control**

We must monitor the emotional level of the relationship by limiting the factors that accelerate the relationship—time, words and actions.

**H. Principle #8 – Timing**

We must be willing to pace the relationship to allow it to grow naturally over a longer period of time.

**I. Principle #9 – Mutuality**

We must communicate openly about the relationship to ensure that both parties involved are on the same level in terms of commitment, direction and goals.

**J. Principle #10 – Love**

We must at all times follow the dictates of true “agape” love as described in I Corinthians 13 and keep the other person's best interests in mind.

**K. Principle #11 – Assumptions**

We must avoid making assumptions in the relationship based on feelings, body language and what others say and commit to open sharing to clarify perceptions.

#### **L. Principle #12 – Communication**

We must promote interpersonal understanding and commitment by an honest and meaningful exchange on a wide range of areas.

### **VI. Parent's relationship and involvement in the dating process.**

- A. Parents are the child's direct covering until the child gets married. Therefore they should be \_\_\_\_\_ in the process.
- B. Parents should not promote the idea of matching \_\_\_\_\_ up in their early years.
- C. Parents should be careful to show \_\_\_\_\_ to all of their children as they grow through the stages of their life.
- D. Parents should instill certain things in their children early on about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1. How to choose friends.
  - 2. How to make friends.
  - 3. How to treat friends.
- E. Parents should give their children \_\_\_\_\_ for relating to the opposite sex before problems arise.
  - 1. How to treat members of the opposite sex with respect?
  - 2. What things are inappropriate in relating to the opposite sex?
  - 3. The importance of modesty in dress.
  - 4. The dangers and consequences of improper sexual activity.
  - 5. How to deal with hormones (sex education)?
  - 6. What is their personal philosophy and timeline for one-on-one dating?
  - 7. What the Bible teaches about sexual activity outside of marriage?
- F. Parents should encourage their young people to develop a \_\_\_\_\_ of wholesome relationships.
  - 1. Providing a safe haven for their friends.
  - 2. Planning gender-neutral activities for their friends.
  - 3. Encouraging participation in wholesome group activities.

- G. Parents should give their children specific guidelines for their social activities.
1. When should they be home (curfew)?
  2. With whom are they going?
  3. Where are they going?
  4. What will they be doing?
  5. Who is responsible? Who is chaperoning?
  6. Who is driving or providing transportation?
- H. Parents should \_\_\_\_\_ their children through the dating process when the time is appropriate for such a relationship.
1. Both parents should grant permission for a dating relationship to start.
  2. Parents should regulate time and relationship factors.
  3. Parents should monitor the dating process with accountability questions.
  4. Parents should give positive feedback for wise decisions.
- I. Parents must be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ relationships that are developing in an improper way.
- J. Parents must avoid trying to \_\_\_\_\_ through their young people.

Note: Some of the above material was extracted from a book no longer in print titled *Principles of Family Life*, which was published by City Bible Publishing and was authored by a team of writers including but not limited to the author of this teaching.

## Lesson 21

### Divorce, Remarriage and Reconciliation

This lesson is intended to be a simple, basic outline of the subject of marriage, divorce, remarriage and reconciliation. It is NOT intended to answer all the questions to this complex subject.

#### I. What is the objective of this teaching?

A. \_\_\_\_\_

The objective of this teaching is to help Christians to understand what the Bible teaching on this very important subject.

B. \_\_\_\_\_

The objective of this teaching is to underscore the permanence, solemnity and finality of the marriage bond.

C. \_\_\_\_\_

The objective of this teaching is to offer mercy, comfort and strength to those who live under condemnation as a result of divorce.

#### II. What are some key definitions that serve as a basis for this discussion?

A. Marriage

Marriage is the contractual, \_\_\_\_\_, commitment to live together in a relationship recognized morally by God and society, enacted verbally, validated legally, and consummated physically.

B. Divorce

Divorce is the breaking and forsaking of the marriage contract and all of its moral, legal and physical \_\_\_\_\_.

C. Valid Remarriage

A valid remarriage is entering into a new marriage contract by or with someone who has been formerly married but is not \_\_\_\_\_ to the former partner or partners by some sort of marital obligation (those obligations having been dissolved through death, a God-sanctioned divorce or remarriage on the part of the former spouse or spouses).

D. Reconciliation

Reconciliation is the process of saying and doing the things necessary to restore and reunite a couple into the relationship that God wants \_\_\_\_\_ and/or physically.

### III. What is God's view of marriage?

- A. Marriage is a part of God's design for intimate relationship between \_\_\_\_\_ sexes (Gen. 2:24-25).
- B. Marriage is a \_\_\_\_\_ commitment that binds a man and a woman together in a special relationship of love and mutual sharing (I Pet. 3:7).
- C. Marriage is blessed, sanctified and exalted by God because it speaks of Christ's relationship to the \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 5:22-33; Heb. 13:4).
- D. Marriage in God's mind is meant to be a \_\_\_\_\_ (I Cor. 7:10-11).

God never intended that people should ever consider \_\_\_\_\_ as an option to an unhappy marriage (Mark 10:2-9). Marriage is a covenant or "contract" between a man and a woman to be held inviolable by both.

### IV. What does the Bible say about divorce?

- A. In the beginning: God intended that the marriage bond be \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 2:24-25; Mark 10:6-9).
- B. Under the law of Moses, God permitted divorce because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of their heart and unwillingness \_\_\_\_\_ God's high standard (Deut. 21:10-14; 24:1-4; Mt. 19:7-8; Mark 10:5).
- C. Even in the Old Testament God made it clear through the voice of the prophets that He \_\_\_\_\_ and that it is a reproach to His name (Mal. 2:14-16).
- D. In the Gospels Jesus came to bring honor to the institution of marriage by bringing us back to God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus clearly stated that whoever divorces for any cause, except fornication, commits adultery if they marry another and the new partner who marries them is guilty of adultery as well (Mt. 19:3-10).

- E. In the Epistles Paul made it clear to the Corinthians that God's command is that husbands and wives are \_\_\_\_\_ to divorce their respective mates (I Cor. 7:10-12).

#### Summary on Divorce

The Bible makes a clear statement that God's viewpoint underscores the permanence of the marriage vow with the strongest emphasis possible (Mt. 19:10). Divorce is not an option to be considered even in the face of great unhappiness. Jesus only allowed

for one possible cause for divorce and that is \_\_\_\_\_. Even with this tremendous strain upon the marriage, divorce is not meant to be seen as a requirement. In God's mind the highest goal is always to forgive and reconstruct or build a God-honoring relationship.

#### **V. What are the scenarios where it seems that God actually allows for divorce?**

God seems to permit divorce in the following two cases:

- A. When one of the parties commits \_\_\_\_\_ immorality the offended party may initiate a divorce.
  - 1. Divorce should not be initiated in the instance of a \_\_\_\_\_ occurrence. Forgiveness and reconciliation should be the focus in such a case.
  - 2. There is no \_\_\_\_\_ to divorce in such a case.
- B. When one is married to an unbeliever who does not want to maintain the marriage and \_\_\_\_\_ a divorce (I Cor. 7:15-16).
  - 1. This type of divorce should never be initiated by the \_\_\_\_\_ (I Cor. 7:13).
  - 2. By staying in such a marriage with a right spirit and attitude an unbelieving partner can be \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord (I Pet. 3:1-2; I Cor. 7:16).
- C. If believers get a divorce or separate for anything other than perpetual immorality they are to remain \_\_\_\_\_ or else be reconciled (I Cor. 7:10-11).

#### **VI. Is divorce a forgivable sin?**

If one initiates a wrongful divorce and later genuinely recognizes the error of his or her way and sincerely repents, he or she has the full assurance from God's word that he or she \_\_\_\_\_ forgiven.

Thus divorce, a sin like any other sin, is \_\_\_\_\_ by the blood of Jesus and taken from the record of sins recorded against us never to be raised in this life or at the judgment day. We should forgive ourselves and others who have found themselves in this state even as God forgives us (Eph. 4:32).

The consequences of the sin of divorce, however, \_\_\_\_\_ able to be undone. Like many other sins that we commit, the law of reaping tragically exacts its toll in the memory and the circumstances as one watches the seeds of a broken home harvested.

#### **VII. What does the Bible say about remarriage?**

There is very little direct reference to the concept of remarriage in the Scriptures but several passages allude to it indirectly.

- A. Remarriage under the law of Moses was an \_\_\_\_\_ privilege just as divorce was liberally granted (Ex. 21:7-10; Deut. 24:1-4; Lev. 21:14).
- B. Remarriage is spoken of in the Epistles as Paul makes clear that death finally, ultimately and absolutely \_\_\_\_\_ the marriage contract. The living partner is free to remarry or marry again without condemnation (Rom. 7:1-3).
- C. The right of remarriage is implied in three passages of Scripture:
  1. In the Old Testament under the Mosaic Law, Moses made it clear that the remarriage of one who is divorced prevents him from ever returning to his original partner. The original partner, since there can be no reconciliation, is free from any marital obligation to the original spouse and thus is free to remarry (Deut. 24:1-4).
  2. In the Gospels Jesus seems to imply that whoever divorces because of the adultery committed by their spouse would not be committing adultery if they (the “innocent” party) remarried (Mt. 19:9). However, they might be guilty of hardness of heart.
  3. In the Epistles Paul seems to suggest that those who were divorced by an unbelieving spouse were not \_\_\_\_\_ to the original marriage covenant (I Cor. 7:15).
- D. A valid remarriage is one that fits the following criteria:
  1. One partner \_\_\_\_\_ leaving the other free to remarry.
  2. One partner divorces another and remarries (wrongfully), leaving the other partner free to remarry (legitimately) since there can be no \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut. 24:1-4).
  3. One partner divorces a spouse who has committed \_\_\_\_\_ which leaves the “innocent party” free to remarry. In any such divorce it is recommended that considerable time go by before a new relationship is established for two reasons.
    - a. To give the offended party time \_\_\_\_\_ and minimize the carry over into a new marriage.
    - b. To give God a chance to bring change to the situation opening the door to a possible future \_\_\_\_\_.

As a general rule it can be said that God allows remarriage wherever He allows \_\_\_\_\_ to take place.

Remarriage is a very serious undertaking, as it once again is a solemn vow to remain with the new partner as long as both live. It should only be entered into with real caution and counsel in order to not repeat the mistakes of former relationships. Paul seems to indicate that in many cases it would simply be better not to marry again (I Cor. 7:8-9).

### **VIII. What is the biblical basis for reconciliation?**

- A. The general principle of reconciliation in broken relationships applies to any and all who have become estranged in some form or another from someone else (Mt. 18:15-20; Eph. 4:24-32).
- B. Specifically in the matter of divorce, Paul says that divorced Christian partners should remain unmarried or be reconciled. If one marries following divorce, there can be no reconciliation to the marriage and therefore the mistake of divorce cannot be rectified (I Cor.7:10-11). The honor of God's name is at stake in the divorce of two believers. Every effort must be taken to preserve that honor as a testimony to the world that Christians are fully able to keep their word to God and each other.

### **IX. What is meant by reconciliation?**

There are two relevant kinds of reconciliation:

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ Reconciliation

Spiritual reconciliation is the process whereby two estranged, divorced or separated people resolve the resentments, deal with unrepentant and unforgiven sins and cease from the divisive attitudes that have separated them (Mt. 18:15-20; Eph. 4:24-32). To fail to be reconciled in the Spirit is to give Satan further advantage and opportunity to reproach the name of God.

This type of reconciliation should even take place between a believer and an unbeliever as much as it is possible to enable the believer to reinstate his Christian witness (if it is tarnished), to rid himself of guilt and to give the unbeliever an opportunity to accept Christ as personal savior even if the estranged parties never re-unite geographically. This type of reconciliation should always be attempted (Rom. 12:18).

- B. \_\_\_\_\_ or Geographical Reconciliation

This type of reconciliation occurs in the process of spiritual reconciliation. In such a case, the estranged couple chooses to forgive each other, repent of their sins, and move back together into the same dwelling. In the case of those who have already divorced, this will include \_\_\_\_\_ each other.

### **X. Why is the truth of reconciliation so important to believers?**

- A. It enables married or formerly married partners \_\_\_\_\_ the power of sin in their lives (Jam. 4:6-7).
- B. It reinstates the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church of Jesus Christ in an age of covenant-breaking (II Tim. 3:3).
- C. It underscores and re-emphasizes the \_\_\_\_\_ of the marriage bond (Mt.19:10).
- D. It testifies to the ability of the \_\_\_\_\_ to conquer all human obstacles.

Note: Some of the above material was extracted from a book no longer in print titled *Principles of Family Life*, which was published by City Bible Publishing and was authored by a team of writers including but not limited to the author of this teaching.

## Lesson 22

### The Blended Family

#### I. How is the blended family different from the nuclear family?

- A. The blended family is different because many of the members of the blended family are not physically \_\_\_\_\_ to each other?
- B. The blended family is different because the members of the family do not share all of the same \_\_\_\_\_ and experiences with each other.
- C. The blended family is different because there are bona-fide members of the family who do not \_\_\_\_\_ permanently with the family.
- D. The blended family is different because it contains relationships that are not clearly \_\_\_\_\_ in most people's experience.
  - 1. You have step parents.
  - 2. You have step brothers and sisters.
  - 3. You have many other step relatives (aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins, etc.).
- E. The blended family is different because it often is faced with \_\_\_\_\_ and financial requirements that are not part of the nuclear family experience.
- F. The blended family is different because members of the family are often placed in roles and relationship over which they had \_\_\_\_\_.
- G. The blended family faces the normal challenges of any family with much more \_\_\_\_\_ issues added to them.

#### II. What are some of the unique challenges that blended families face?

- A. The challenge of \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. Parents often find it difficult \_\_\_\_\_ the acceptance of their stepchildren.
  - 2. New parents may not even like their new stepchildren and may find it difficult \_\_\_\_\_ and accept them.
  - 3. Children have a difficult time accepting new parents as their \_\_\_\_\_ parents.
    - a. They are reluctant to call their new parent \_\_\_\_\_ because they do not have that kind of relationship with them.
    - b. They are reluctant to warm up to their new parent because they feel in doing so they are being \_\_\_\_\_ to their real parent.

4. The new set of relatives (especially grandparents) or extended families do not necessarily \_\_\_\_\_ accept all of the members of the new blended family.

B. The challenge of \_\_\_\_\_

1. Parents have the challenge of enforcing discipline or \_\_\_\_\_ that are not accepted by the “other family” in their life.
2. Parents may find it difficult to discipline “someone \_\_\_\_\_.”
3. Children live in a constant state of \_\_\_\_\_ and comparison.
4. In addition, \_\_\_\_\_ is often created between the two or more families involved in this process with the biological parents wanting to defend the rights of “their” child.

C. The challenge of \_\_\_\_\_

When working with children who are not with you all of the time and who live under different sets of rules and who have varying relationships with you, it is difficult to be \_\_\_\_\_ in the application of love, affection, discipline and reward.

D. The challenge of \_\_\_\_\_

1. The tendency of most parents will be to naturally \_\_\_\_\_ their own biological children.
2. In some cases, however, the \_\_\_\_\_ may be true. Parents may actually favor those that are not their biological children over compensating to win their affections.
3. In either case children will always perceive that they are being discriminated against \_\_\_\_\_ the parent does.

E. The challenge of \_\_\_\_\_

Children by their very definition will try to manipulate parents to get what they want. In the blended family children have a lot more \_\_\_\_\_ to use against their parents in this regard.

F. The challenge of new living \_\_\_\_\_

Because the size of the family grows immediately, the only child now has to share his parents with someone else. Or in the case of larger families, children may now need to share a bedroom or place at the table where they never had to before.

G. The challenge of establishing \_\_\_\_\_

It must be remembered that when children live together who are not biologically related to each other the whole issue of sex and dating can be interjected into a home. Clear boundaries must be established to avoid inappropriate involvements within the family structure.

H. The challenge of \_\_\_\_\_ family activities

This involves coordinating visitation rights, family vacations, school breaks, future weddings and who is suppose to be doing what and when. This can get very complicated especially if the two families live a great distance from each other.

**III. What are some keys to success in the blending of families?**

A. Prepare your children long \_\_\_\_\_ of a potential remarriage.

1. Get them used to the idea early.
2. Court the children of the other partner.
3. Get them together occasionally to discern the chemistry and identify potential problems.
4. Be ready to put the new marriage on hold if things are explosive.

B. Be \_\_\_\_\_ with family members who are adjusting to the new family structure.

1. It takes time for new relationships to form.
2. Be careful not to foster aggressive or unrealistic expectations regarding how long it will take to truly blend.
3. Try to put yourself in the position of the other person to understand what they may be going through.
4. Do not over-react to unloving things that may be said in the initial stage of development.

C. Be \_\_\_\_\_ to the feelings that the children will naturally have.

1. Most children will have preferred that their mom and dad had stayed together.
2. Most children feel that the breakup of the original marriage was in some way “their fault.”
3. Most children will struggle with transferring their affection to a new parent that does not feel like their parent.

4. Many children can benefit by talking to a pastor or Christian counselor during this adjustment period.

D. Never \_\_\_\_\_ the other parent or draw comparisons between the families.

1. Encourage and assist children in their efforts to stay in contact with biological parents.
2. Teach them that honoring their parents is not dependent upon their agreeing with all of the parent's decisions.
3. This means not getting into competition with the other family in gift-giving, activities and privileges granted.

E. Treat each member of the family as an \_\_\_\_\_.

Each child is unique and will process the situation differently. Do not feel that those who take a little longer are a problem. Often they are people of great loyalty who will eventually be equally loyal to you.

F. Avoid \_\_\_\_\_ your blended family with other blended families.

Everybody's situation is completely different and the factors with which they must deal are unique to them.

G. Make every attempt to keep your families \_\_\_\_\_.

1. This means geographical closeness.
  - a. This will make it easier to be a parent to children that you may not have custody of.
  - b. This will make it easier for the children to spend quality time with both biological parents.
2. This means relational closeness.

A relationship with a former spouse is going to be a fact of life. Every attempt should be made to keep this a friendly arrangement.

H. Remember that one of the best things that you can do for your children is to have a \_\_\_\_\_.

1. This means making your marriage a priority.
2. This means spending time alone on a regular basis.

I. Be in \_\_\_\_\_ between husband and wife regarding the new order of things.

1. Unity will be a key to success.
  2. This means that we must respect the perspective of our spouse and their history of parenting.
  3. This means that we must understand that compromises will have to be made.
  4. You may even consider meeting with the other set of parents to work out standards and guidelines.
- J. Keep lines of \_\_\_\_\_ open at all times.
1. This is important for each individual child.
  2. This is important for the family as a whole.
    - a. It is good to have regular family meetings where challenges can be openly discussed.
    - b. It is not good to try to discuss serious things when everyone is upset, exhausted or having a bad day.

## Lesson 23

### Grand Parenting

#### I. What is to be an older person's attitude toward old age?

A. They are to \_\_\_\_\_ to it.

1. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness (Deut. 5:33; 11:21; I Kgs. 3:14; Job 5:26; Ps. 91:16; Pro. 3:2; 9:11; 10:27).
2. It is a time to enjoy the \_\_\_\_\_ of one's hands (Is. 65:22; Pro. 17:6).
3. It is to be a time of real \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 92:13-14).

B. They are to look at it as a \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Silver hair is a crown of \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro. 16:31).
2. Gray hair is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the aged (Pro. 20:29).

C. They are to realize that God is very present and \_\_\_\_\_ in their lives (Is. 46:4).

#### II. What are the qualities that are to be possessed by people of age?

They are to provide \_\_\_\_\_ and understanding (Job 12:12)

- A. Superior wisdom belongs to the aged; hence, in the Scriptures we always find them in positions of authority and guidance (Job 12:20).
- B. "Much experience is the crown of old men, and the fear of God is their glory" (Ecclesiasticus 25:6, Apocryphal).
- C. It should be noted that it is possible to waste your life in folly and not acquire wisdom that normally comes with years (Job. 32:9; Eccl. 4:13).

#### III. What is the ministry of the older to the younger?

A. The older are to be people of \_\_\_\_\_ (Ezek. 7:26).

1. It is wisdom for the young to seek their counsel and \_\_\_\_\_ to it (Ex. 18:13-27).
2. It is folly for the young to \_\_\_\_\_ the counsel of the older (I Kgs. 12:6-8; II Chr. 10:6-13).

B. The older are to \_\_\_\_\_ the younger generation into the purposes of God.

1. God revealed His plans through the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel (Ex. 3:16-18; 12:21; 17:5-6).
  2. The elders were responsible to teach and \_\_\_\_\_ the younger generation (Deut. 32:7; Job. 21:7; Joel 1:2; Titus 2:28).
  3. The older are to impart their wisdom and \_\_\_\_\_ to the young that they might be able to enter in (Ps. 71:18).
  4. The older are to \_\_\_\_\_ when God says build (Ezra 5:1-5, 9).
- C. The older are to be \_\_\_\_\_ to the younger (II Tim. 1:5)

**IV. What should be the attitude of the young to the old?**

- A. They should \_\_\_\_\_ and respect the older (Lev. 19:32)
1. The aged are honorable in God's eyes (Is. 9:14-15).
  2. They are the \_\_\_\_\_ fathers and mothers in the house of the Lord (Mt. 19:29) and they should have the same respect as parents (Pro. 23:22; Ex. 20:12).
  3. To show lack of respect to the elders will bring \_\_\_\_\_ (II Kgs. 2:23; Deut. 27:16; Pro. 20:20; 30:17; Mt. 15:4).
- B. They should \_\_\_\_\_ and listen to their counsel (Pro. 1:8; Eph. 6:2).
- C. They should be \_\_\_\_\_ about their own opinions in the presence of the elder (Job. 32:4-6).
- D. They should \_\_\_\_\_ the faith of the old to be strong (Heb. 13:7; Phil. 4:9).
- E. They should \_\_\_\_\_ off the old (Ps. 71:9).

**V. What are some ways that parents can help their children relate to the grandparents?**

- A. Parents should visit their parents often to maintain a vital relationship.
- B. Parents should always treat their parents with respect, honor and dignity in the presence of the grandchildren.
- C. Parents should seek the counsel of their parents.
- D. Parents should emphasize the positive qualities in the lives of their parents to their children.  
Parents should encourage their children to do special things for the grandparents.
- E. Parents should make sure their children spend time with their grandparents.

- F. Parents should be prepared to assist their parents when they are old.
- G. Parents should not use grandparents as their only babysitters (emergency only).

**VI. What are some ways that grandparents can become a more vital part in the lives of the future generations?**

The following are only a few suggestions for ways in which grandparents can naturally include the grandchildren in their lives.

- A. Assist the parents if possible when the new grandchildren arrive.
- B. Visit at times on your own initiative. During these times take an active involvement with the children.
  - 1. Holding them
  - 2. Feeding them
  - 3. Playing with them
  - 4. Rocking them
  - 5. Putting them to bed
  - 6. Telling them a story
  - 7. Praying with them
- C. Take pictures of the children and pictures of you with the children.
- D. Take the grandchildren with you on trips, on outings, to the park or even shopping.
- E. Include your grandchildren in the everyday duties of life.
- F. Involve the older children in your prayer life.
- G. Let them spend the night with you occasionally.
- H. Be willing to help the grandchildren with homework when you are aware of it.
- I. Tell the grandchildren stories of your day. Show them pictures of a generation ago to help broaden their thinking and world view.
- J. Help teach grandchildren to work with their hands by sharing crafts and skills (sewing, knitting, woodworking, drawing, painting, etc.).
- K. If a grandparent has a real special activity like fishing, hunting, hiking, etc., why not take the grandchild with him or her?
- L. Help your grandchild with a special project.

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## Lesson 24

### The Ministry of the Family

#### I. What is the basic reason why God blesses his people with abundance and truth?

God operates on a very simple principle. He blesses us to be \_\_\_\_\_

- A. He did this with \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 12:2-3).
- B. He did this with the children of \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 19:4-6; Is. 43:9-10, 12).
- C. He does this with \_\_\_\_\_ (II Cor. 1:3-4; I Tim. 6:17-19).

#### II. What is the responsibility of God's people who have been blessed with truth?

In response to what God has done, God expects His people to be willing to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to others (Ex. 19:4-6; I Pet. 2:5-9).

As a priesthood we are to:

- A. Be a \_\_\_\_\_ nation to the world.
- B. Meditate the \_\_\_\_\_ of God to the rest of God's possession (Ex. 19:5).
- C. Live in the "environment of God" while living in the midst of the nations, thus showing forth \_\_\_\_\_ and light (Mt. 5:16).
- D. Be God's vehicle to show forth God's \_\_\_\_\_ to the world (Is. 43:21; I Pet. 2:9).
- E. Be \_\_\_\_\_ to the world of the power and love of God (Is. 44:8; 43:9-12; Acts 1:8).

#### III. What place does the home have in reaching out to others?

The Bible teaches that a home that is in order can become a real place of manifold ministry. In the New Testament the home was:

- A. A place of \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 10:6).
- B. A place where the believers gathered for \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 12:12).
- C. A place where \_\_\_\_\_ was broken (Acts 2:46-47).
- D. A place of \_\_\_\_\_ and preaching (Acts 5:42; 20:20).
- E. A place where the \_\_\_\_\_ was outpoured (Acts 2:2; 10:44-46).

- F. A place where \_\_\_\_\_ were started (Acts 18:7; Rom. 16:5; I Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philemon 2).

#### **IV. How does God want to use our homes?**

- A. God wants every home to be a place where the principles of the Kingdom of God are \_\_\_\_\_. In this way our homes will become:

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ of good works attracting the lost (Tit. 2:7-8).
2. A good \_\_\_\_\_ to those who are outside of the community of faith (II Cor. 8:21; I Tim. 3:7; Acts 22:12).
3. A place where people will come for \_\_\_\_\_ (I Pet. 3:15-16).
4. A true manifestation of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Col. 4:5; Eph. 3:10; Jam. 3:13).

- B. God wants every home to be a place from which we can reach out to our \_\_\_\_\_. God gives us specific duties that we are to fulfill toward our neighbors.

1. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mt. 5:43; 19:19; 22:39; Mark 12:31,33; Rom. 13:9-10; Jam. 2:8; Gal. 5:14).
2. We are to try to please them (Rom. 15:2).
3. We are to deal honestly with them (Eph. 4:25).
4. We are to be instrumental in teaching them (Heb. 8:11).

- C. God wants every home to be a place of reaching out to the \_\_\_\_\_ and needy (Pro. 31:20).

1. This starts with the needy in the \_\_\_\_\_ circle itself (I Tim. 5:8).
2. This extends to the other members of the \_\_\_\_\_ (I Cor. 16:15).
3. This reaches beyond to the \_\_\_\_\_ outside (Gal. 6:10; I Th. 5:15).

#### **V. Who are some good biblical examples of this kind of ministry?**

- A. Abraham is a pattern of hospitality in his home when he entertained strangers (Gen. 18:1-8).
- B. Elizabeth had a close relationship with not only her kindred but also all of her neighbors (Luke 1:56-58; Compare Luke 1:6).

- C. Stephanas serves as one of the best examples (Note: Many commentators believe that this was the Philippian jailer converted under the ministry of Paul.).
1. He was a man who was personally responsive to the Lord (Acts 16:30-31).
  2. He was a man who immediately got his own home in order (Acts 16:32-33; I Cor. 1:16).
  3. He was a man who was reaching out to the needs of others (Acts 16:34).
  4. He was a man who became addicted to the ministry of the saints (I Cor. 16:15).
  5. He became a great help and strength to the apostle Paul (I Cor. 16:16-17).
  6. He even helped pen the letter to the Corinthians (I Corinthians – subscription).

**VI. What are some practical ways in which we can get more actively involved in outreach from our homes?**

There are many things that we can do as believers. The following are only a few suggestions. You can add to your own list.

- A. Housing needy singles, whether they be newly converted or in need of a local parental oversight.
- B. Using your home as a center of hospitality, ministering to those who are in need of love and care.
- C. Reaching out to the older people in the Body of Christ and your neighborhood, serving them through acts of kindness.
- D. Establishing a healthy relationship with your neighbors.
  1. Take time to get to know them.
  2. Help them with a project (i.e., canning, clean-up, etc.).
  3. Be ready to assist in times of need.
  4. Invite them to dinner.
  5. Visit when sick (and send a card).
  6. Remember them on special occasions.
  7. Talk to them when the occasion presents itself.
  8. Invite them along to special family or church functions.

9. Be willing to help them with babysitting.

E. Using your home for church functions.

1. Showers
2. Small group meetings
3. Prayer meetings
4. Bible studies

The home is the place where true Christianity is displayed. People may question its authenticity in the church but when they see it in your home, they will be convinced (I Pet. 2:9-17).

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