

## **Outline – Family (The Christian Home)**

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## Family – The Christian Home

The Bible teaches that God established TWO institutions: the HOME and the CHURCH. Nothing should be more important to a Christian than these two places for they are sacred.

Contrary to what many think, the Home and the Church are complementary. The greatest home is one built around a church – and the greatest church is one made up of families who attend faithfully and serve the Lord together.

It is little wonder, then, that Satan's arena of diabolical activity is in our homes and in the churches. This is truly an age when many homes and marriages are "on the rocks" - instead of being on the ROCK (Matthew 7:24-27 <sup>24</sup> **Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: <sup>25</sup> And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. <sup>26</sup> And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: <sup>27</sup> And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.**), and when many Baptist churches are departing from the Word of God.

The Bible is a very practical Book and has much to say about the Home. God has a definite blueprint for your family, your home. Space will not permit an exhaustive study, so this lesson will be concerned only with establishing some godly principles for you to follow.

## 1. The First Home

**Read Genesis 2:15-25** <sup>15</sup> And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: <sup>17</sup> But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. <sup>18</sup> And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. <sup>19</sup> And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. <sup>20</sup> And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. <sup>21</sup> And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; <sup>22</sup> And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. <sup>23</sup> And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. <sup>24</sup> Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

- A. What does God say was not good for man? ...that the man should be alone.
- B. How was the first woman made?  
<sup>22</sup> And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.
- C. In this passage, God says woman is to be an HELP MEET for the man (what does this mean... the woman compliments and completes the man)
- D. In marriage, what is the man to leave? ... his father and his mother
- E. In marriage, what does the couple become? ... and they shall be one flesh.

- F. According to Genesis 3:16 )<sup>16</sup> Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.), in marriage where is the woman's desire? ...*shall be to they husband.*
- G. Look up: Matthew 19:4-6 <sup>4</sup> *And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,* <sup>5</sup> *And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?* <sup>6</sup> *Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.* What did the Lord say about the permanency of the marriage relationship? ...let not man put asunder.
- H. Look up Romans 7:1-3 <sup>1</sup> Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? <sup>2</sup> For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. <sup>3</sup> So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.  
According to God's plan for marriage, the bond of marriage was to be broken **only by death.**
- I. Look up: Hebrews 13:4a <sup>4</sup> Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.  
What two things does God say are honorable?
- Marriage
  - The bed undefiled (premarital chastity)

## 2. The Husband's Duty to His Wife:

- A. Cleave to his wife** Genesis 2:24 <sup>24</sup> Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
- B. Love your wife.** Ephesians 5:25 <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;
- C. A husband's love for his wife is to be the same as:**
- i) Christ's love for the Church.** Ephesians 5:25 (above)
  - ii) As for their own bodies.** Ephesians 5:28 <sup>28</sup> So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
  - iii) Ephesians 5:33a** <sup>33</sup> Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.
- D. To be the head of the wife and the home.** Ephesians 5:23 <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. (This has nothing to with being a dictator but rather a place of leadership.)
- E. Provide for his wife.** I Timothy 5:8 <sup>8</sup> But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.
- F. To give honor to his wife.** I Peter 3:7 <sup>7</sup> Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.
- G. To render due benevolence.** I Corinthians 7:3 <sup>3</sup> Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. (Benevolence = An inclination to perform kind, charitable acts.; *author's interpretation is different: "do not use her as an object of pleasure."*)
- H. To defraud not [withhold from] his wife.** I Corinthians 7:5 <sup>5</sup> Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. (This refers to the physical intimacy of marriage.) *Fraud = A deception deliberately practiced in order to secure unfair or unlawful gain.*

### 3. The Wife's Duty to Her Husband:

#### A. To submit to her husband in the exercise of leadership in the home.

Ephesians 5:22 <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

#### B. To reverence her husband. Ephesians 5:33 <sup>33</sup> Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. (Author's interpretation = never criticize your husband in the presence of others. *Good point of discussion.*)

#### C. To guide the house. I Timothy 5:14 <sup>14</sup> I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. (Author's note = the Bible does not teach it is absolutely wrong for the wife to get a paying job, especially in time of need, but her first priority is to be a homemaker... *discuss!* )

#### D. If your husband is not a Christian, follow the teaching: I Peter 3:1 <sup>1</sup> Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation [godly manner of life] of the wives; Never push the Bible down the throat. Seek to be a "ling Gospel", pray for him, and let God deal with your husband. *[discuss own personal experiences]*.

#### E. To defraud not her husband. I Corinthians 7:4, 5 <sup>4</sup> The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. <sup>5</sup> Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

A man and a wife must work together in the area of physical intimacy to achieve understanding and harmony.

#### 4. Parents' Duty to Their Children

- A. Children are a heritage from the Lord.** Look up: Psalm 127:3<sup>3</sup> Lo, children are an **heritage** of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.<sup>4</sup> As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.<sup>5</sup> Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate. [heritage = Property that is or can be inherited; an inheritance. Something that is passed down from preceding generations; a tradition.]
- B. Parents are responsible to raise their kids.** Look up: Proverbs 22:6<sup>6</sup> Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
- C. Fathers are responsible to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.** According to Ephesians 6:4b:<sup>4</sup> ... bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. [discipline] and admonition of the Lord. [admonition = Mild, kind, yet earnest reproof. Also = cautionary advice or warning. ]
- D. Fathers don't disrespect (goad, irritate, etc.) your children:**  
**Ephesians 6:4**<sup>4</sup> And, ye fathers, **provoke not your children to wrath:**  
**Colossians 3:21**<sup>21</sup> Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

\*\*\*\* **Some specific suggestions** \*\*\*\*

**No supporting scripture quoted for the following instruction**

**Added to authors text: PARENTS MUST SET THE EXAMPLE**

**This is the most important characteristics of a leader.**

- i) Children require discipline and should be taught obedience in the home. This takes real character on the part of the parents.
- Children should be taught to OBEY without question and when necessary, without waiting for explanation.
  - Obedience should be instant and without argument.
  - For character building, parents should allow no exceptions to this rule.
- ii) Children should be taught to work. Within the first year, they can be taught to pickup clothes and toys.
- iii) Children should be taught regular habits for happiness and usefulness.
- They should go to bed at regular times without complaint
  - They should have good habits of personal hygiene
  - They should be trained to be orderly and neat.
  - Television watching should be carefully controlled and limited. Children should never be permitted to watch TV apart from parental presence.
- Family rules apply to other electronic media also.**
- iv) Children should be taught the art of living peacefully with others at home.
- No fighting allowed
  - Respect the possessions of other family members
  - Taught to share
  - Taught to forgive and genuinely as for forgiveness



- v) Children should be taught the right use of money
- When old enough to do chores, they should earn some money of their own (but not for doing things they ought to be doing anyway, such as making their beds or cleaning their rooms)
  - They should be taught to tithe and give to the Lord and His work.
  - They should be taught how to spend wisely
  - They should be taught to save.
- vi) Children need, and should have time with their parents
- Children should have special times with each parent and special times with the entire family together.
  - Parents should lead their children in such a way that in time they can win one to Christ.

All the above require **time** and **work**. Many modern-day parents are too lazy (selfish) to give the time and put in the **CONSISTENT** effort to raise their children - they want instant results and they'd be happy to let someone else raise their kids.

**E. See your children as they REALLY are in God's Sight.**

- i) Look up Proverbs 22:15a <sup>15</sup> **Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child;** but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.
- ii) Look up Psalm 58:3 <sup>3</sup> The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

**F. God's Provision for Correction of Children**

- i) Proverbs 13:1 <sup>1</sup> A wise son heareth **his father's instruction**: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.
- ii) Proverbs 22:15b <sup>15</sup> Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; **but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.**

Much of today's humanistic philosophy says its wrong to spank children, but the Bible says its necessary and right – **provided:**

- (1) The rod is applied to the right place – never strike in face, chest, back...  
Apply the board of knowledge to the seat of learning.
- (2) The rod is applied in love. Proverbs 13:24b: <sup>24</sup> He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him **betimes**.  
***Think things through before punishment.***
- (3) The rod is applied early in life while there is still hope for change: Proverbs 19:18 <sup>18</sup> Chasten thy son **while there is hope**, ...
- (4) The rod is applied effectively . Children will cry They will make you feel like an ogre – don't spare punishment: Proverbs 19:18 <sup>18</sup> Chasten thy son while there is hope, **and let not thy soul spare for his crying.**
- (5) The rod is applied consistently:
  - Don't spank for wrongs the child did not know about
  - Punishment must be timely and not delayed
  - Spank if you said you would spank
- (6) There is a time of loving and prayer soon after the rod has been applied. Never apologize for spanking, but assure the child of your love and pray together afterwards: Proverbs 13:24a <sup>24</sup> He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

## 5. Children's Duty to Their Parents

- A. Exodus 20:12 <sup>12</sup> Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. [5<sup>th</sup> Commandment]
- B. Proverbs 13:1 <sup>1</sup> A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.
- C. Ephesians 6:1-3 <sup>1</sup> Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. <sup>2</sup> Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; <sup>3</sup> That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

## 6. Family Life – God's Heaven on Earth

**A. Look up Ephesians 4:31-32** <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: <sup>32</sup> And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

**i) Six things that need to be put out of the home:**

- (1) Bitterness
- (2) Wrath [Forceful, often vindictive anger.]
- (3) Anger
- (4) Clamor [loud and persistent outcry from many people]
- (5) Evil speaking
- (6) Malice [A desire to harm others or to see others suffer; extreme ill will or spite.]

**ii) Three things that are needed in the home**

- (1) Kindness
- (2) Tenderhearted
- (3) Forgiveness

**B. Look up Deuteronomy 6:5-7** <sup>5</sup> And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. <sup>6</sup> And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: <sup>7</sup> And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

**Thou shalt love the Lord thy God should be a constant part of the home.**

**C. Look up Joshua 24:15f** <sup>15</sup> And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. Good motto for a home.**

## D. There is a wonderful trilogy of the Christian home found in Psalms

- i) **The building of the home - Psalm 127:** <sup>1</sup> Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. <sup>2</sup> It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep. <sup>3</sup> Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. <sup>4</sup> As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. <sup>5</sup> Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.
- ii) **The blessing of the home - Psalm 128:** <sup>1</sup> Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways. <sup>2</sup> For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. <sup>3</sup> Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. <sup>4</sup> Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD. <sup>5</sup> The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. <sup>6</sup> Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.
- iii) **The behavior of the home - Psalm 129:** <sup>1</sup> Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth, may Israel now say: <sup>2</sup> Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth: yet they have not prevailed against me. <sup>3</sup> The plowers plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows. <sup>4</sup> The LORD is righteous: he hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Let them all be confounded and turned back that hate Zion. <sup>6</sup> Let them be as the grass upon the housetops, which withereth afore it groweth up: <sup>7</sup> Wherewith the mower filleth not his hand; nor he that bindeth sheaves his bosom. <sup>8</sup> Neither do they which go by say, The blessing of the LORD be upon you: we bless you in the name of the LORD.

## 7. Establishing a Family Altar (a blessing that your family

This is definite time, place, and event in the routine of your home where the whole family meets around the Word of God – to read, to pray, to sing, and to talk. In our fast moving society, it will be one of the most difficult things for you to do.

**A. The responsibility for the family altar**

- i) **Ephesians 6:4b** <sup>4</sup> And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: **but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.**
- ii) **I Peter 3:7** <sup>7</sup> **Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge,** giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.
- iii) **I Corinthians 14:35** <sup>35</sup> **And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.**

**B. Home to establish your family altar**

- i) Decide on a time (joint decision)
- ii) Make a definite commitment
- iii) Work out a plan of Bible devotion and reading
- iv) Do it! Do it right. Plan to meet resistance from Satan

**C. Suggestions for a good family altar**

- i) Always read a portion of scripture (Proverbs is excellent for the family)
- ii) Have a hymn or chorus
- iii) Use prayer cards (pastor, missionaries, church members, relatives, and the unsaved.
- iv) Be brief (don't make it a church service).
- v) Involve the whole family. What is actually done varies with the age and stage of the children.
- vi) Use variety! (i.e.; read a good Christian biography)
- vii) Keep it informal, Biblical, and open for suggestion and improvement.
- viii) If you miss, don't try and catch up – but keep going on!

**Warning: Be careful to that the atmosphere of your home at family altar time is not different to other times. That is hypocrisy and will harm your children greatly.**

## **Summary**

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