

LESSON 12

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

Memorize:

*“WIVES, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.
HUSBANDS, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.
CHILDREN, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.
Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”*
(Colossians 3:18-21)

INTRODUCTION

A strong family results in a strong nation. Likewise, a broken family results in a broken nation. If we allow Satan to destroy our families, he will successfully destroy us as a nation. Our country was founded upon Godly principles and became a great and prosperous nation. However, the Christian fibers that held this country together have been removed from our schools, from our homes and is hard to find in our governments.

We need to go back to the basics of life and learn what our God-ordained responsibilities are as a family member. This lesson is designed to teach you the very principles that God gave us that will bring you success as a single, or in your marriage and in child rearing.

ORIGIN OF MARRIAGE

1. Up until **Genesis 2**, everything that God created was good. However, in **Genesis 2:18**, God said that something was not good. What was that? _____

2. Why would a man leave his father and mother? (**Genesis 2:24**) _____

“One flesh” speaks of their sexual, spiritual and emotional union, which God reserved for marriage between one man and one woman only.

3. How does God feel about divorce (putting away)? (**Malachi 2:15-16**)

4. However, divorce is permitted for the following reasons:

- 1) _____ (**Matthew 5:32**)
- 2) _____ (**1 Corinthians 7:15**)

If you were involved in a divorce prior to your new birth experience, it is part of your old life. If you wish to consider remarriage, discuss the matter with your pastor.

5. Many people are building homes today. These homes are not guaranteed to stand if outside elements prevail against it. There is a house we can build that can stand under any trial or storm in this life. How do we build this house?
(Matthew 7:24-27)

6. There is a chain of command that is ordained by God. The only way we can live peaceably and harmoniously, is if we submit to the authority that God has placed over us.

After reading the following scripture references, list the following in the order God has commanded. (**1 Corinthians 11:3; Colossians 3:18, 20**)

- 1. _____ Children
- 2. _____ Husband
- 3. _____ God
- 4. _____ Wife

To be the head does not mean to dominate, but rather that you carry the responsibility for decisions made concerning the family.

THE HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITIES...

TO THE WIFE:

- 1. How is a husband supposed to treat his wife? (**1 Peter 3:7**) _____
- 2. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ _____ the church.
(Ephesians 5:25)
- 3. Husbands should cherish and nourish their wives as they would their own
_____. (**Ephesians 5:28-33**)

8 Tips for the Successful Husband

- 1) Be the spiritual leader of the household backed up by a consecrated prayer life.
- 2) Do not shirk your responsibilities off on your wife.
- 3) Support your wife in disciplining the children.
- 4) Praise your wife and show thankfulness.
- 5) Live within your means, don't get in debt.
- 6) Remember anniversaries and other special occasions.
- 7) Do not neglect needed home repairs.
- 8) Keep your eyes on your wife "only."

TO THE CHILDREN:

1. "Children are an heritage of the LORD... _____ that hath his quiver full of them (children)..." **(Psalm 127:3-5)**
2. Jesus demonstrated His love and concern toward children in **Mark 10:13-16**.
How did He treat the children? _____
Who did He rebuke for not taking time with the children? _____
3. We are commanded to _____ our children the commandments of God. **(Deuteronomy 6:7)**
4. If we _____ our children in the ways of the Lord, our children will not _____ from the faith. **(Proverbs 22:6)**
5. We have the responsibility to _____ our children when they misbehave. **(Proverbs 22:15)**
6. What happens when a child is left to himself? **(Proverbs 29:15)**

7. Fathers are instructed not to * _____ their children to anger, but to bring them up in the _____ and _____ of the Lord. **(Ephesians 6:4)**

**Fathers who provoke their children, punish their children with severity and cruelty.*
8. Before you can take a position of leadership in the church, you must first show that you are able to rule your own household well, having your children in _____ to you. **(1 Timothy 3:4-5)**

9. Parents are commanded to control or restrain their children from doing evil. Why did God judge Eli and his house? (**1 Samuel 2:22, 3:13**) _____

10. Read **Hebrews 12:5-11**. Chastising your children shows them that they have a parent who cares, much the same way that the chastising of the Lord in our lives just proves we truly are His children.

In **verse 11**, even though chastising is grievous, what does it produce?

8 Tips in Child Rearing

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Children need boundaries (rules), it gives them security.2) Think before you make a rule and stick to it.3) Give responsibilities to your children so they realize things don't get done by themselves.4) Give rewards. We wouldn't go to work if we didn't get a pay check.5) Children must be held responsible for what they say or do. Let your child know what the consequences will be. Taking away freedoms can sometimes be more effective than spankings.6) Listen to the child; hear their side of the story before disciplining.7) Always reassure your child you love him/her after disciplining.8) Respect your children. Do not humiliate publicly. |
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THE WIFE'S RESPONSIBILITIES...

The primary responsibility of a wife is to give of herself, her time, and her energy to her husband, children and home.

TO HER HUSBAND:

1. A wife must _____ her husband. (**Ephesians 5:33**)

2. A wife should _____ to her husband, **as it is fit in the Lord.*
(**Colossians 3:18**)

**This means if the husband asks you to do something that goes against God's word, you obey God and not man.*

3. **Proverbs 31:12** tells us that a wife should do _____ and not _____ to her husband all the days of her life.

4. **Proverbs 21:19** states that it is better to dwell in the wilderness than with a _____ and an _____ woman.
5. How does a submissive nature bring an unbelieving husband to the Lord? (**1 Peter 3:1-6**) (**vs. 4**) _____

TO HER HOME:

1. A wife is to be discreet (not showy), chaste (modest, pure), _____ at _____, good, obedient to her own husband. (**Titus 2:5**)
2. God's plan for a young woman is that she may marry, have children and _____. (**1 Timothy 5:14**)
3. "Every wise woman _____ her house; but the _____ plucketh it down with her hands." (**Proverbs 14:1**)

List ways a woman can build her home:

List ways a woman can tear apart her home:

4. Read **Proverbs 31**. It describes the attributes of a virtuous woman. She is not idle, but a busy woman taking care of her household, filled with wisdom and strength. In **verse 30**, we find that charm and grace are deceptive, and beauty is vain (because it is not lasting), but what kind of woman will be praised in the eyes of her husband, her children and in the eyes of God?

10 Tips for the Successful Wife

- 1) Make the home a haven.
- 2) Back up your husband in front of the children.
- 3) Praise your husband and tell him you love him.
- 4) Be your husband's helpmate.
- 5) Give your husband an unexpected gift.
- 6) Avoid comparing your husband to others.
- 7) Encourage your husband's abilities.
- 8) Keep disagreements with your husband private.
- 9) Accept your husband for who he is.
- 10) PRAY for your husband.

SINGLE/SINGLE PARENTS

1. Who becomes the husband of a single woman? (*Isaiah 54:4-6*) _____
2. Who promises to be a father to the fatherless children? (*Psalm 68:5*) _____
3. The Lord is very concerned about the widow or single parent.

He will _____ her. (*Psalm 146:9*)

He will be _____ to her. (*Psalm 34:18*)

He will _____ her when she prays. (*Exodus 22:22-24*)

4. Hagar, who gave birth to Abraham's son, Ishmael, became a forsaken single parent. The Lord, however, became the provider for her and her son. In Hagar's moment of despair the Lord gave her hope.

What did He promise her? (*Genesis 21:17-18*) _____

Not only did He give her hope for her son's future, but He met their immediate need. How? (*Verse 19*) _____

5. If you are presently single and desiring a mate, it is important that you choose one that is in the faith and not outside.

2 Corinthians 6:14 cautions us to be _____ yoked together. (That means to be in agreement and share the same values and convictions founded on the Word of God.)

6. Is it possible to join two in a lasting covenant of marriage that do not agree in areas of values and morals? (*Amos 3:3*) _____
7. Why did God forbid His people to marry unbelievers? (*Deuteronomy 7:3-4*) _____

8. What happened to Solomon's heart when he mingled with women outside of the faith? (*1 Kings 11:4*) _____

9. As a single, you don't have to feel lonely and depressed while you wait for God to bring you that mate you desire.

The Lord says that if you _____, He will give you the desires of your heart. (*Psalm 37:4*)

SUMMARY

Marriage is a human object lesson of several basic divine relationships: God's relationship with Israel, God's redemption of mankind, and Christ's relationship to the Church, His Bride.

A married couple has a unique opportunity and responsibility to be a living epistle of God's truth by demonstrating these relationships in their marriage. Likewise, children and singles can demonstrate God's truth by their examples in their relationships with others.

The Lord is preparing His Bride for that great marriage supper of the Lamb. He is calling a "Bride" not having a spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be hold and without blemish. Let's strive, therefore, to be that glorious bride and keep ourselves spotless and pure in heart.

NOTES: QUESTIONS/COMMENTS