

Responsibilities **O**f **H**eadship

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Lesson One

"The Concept of Headship"

The Bible is very clear in its teachings of "headship" and "submission." The problem that humans have with these terms is not understanding them, but how to apply them in the way that is "Christ-like!" A wrong application does cause most of our problems. Closely connected with these terms is the idea of "authority over" and a "submission to" that authority. Observe in the following passages:

1 Cor. 11:3 _____

Eph. 1:22 _____

Notice the context of both of these passages to see clearly the idea of "authority over" and a "submission to."

God, the Father
Jesus, the Son
Man
Woman

Christ willingly made Himself submissive to the Father's Will (Phil. 2:5-8; Jn. 4:34; 6:38). We, too, must willingly submit to "authority over us" or else suffer the consequences of disobedience (Rom. 6:16-18, 23). Humans have a tendency to want to be their own authority and not submit to any authority over them. *The challenge of the human race is submission to proper authority!*

Rom. 13:1-5 _____

Heb. 13:7 _____

Matt. 28:18-20 _____

Eph. 6:1-3 _____

Submission to authority is one of those necessary things in life, but it is for the welfare and happiness of all. Disrespect for proper authority is one of the great problems in our nation, in the church, and in the home. It should be noted that God has spelled out what "authority" man should submit unto!

Disrespect for "Authority"

Most of the problems, divisions, and difficulties in society, the church, and the home can be traced back to a lack of respect for proper authority. "Submission" takes away my freedom to do as I please and it is often very humbling. Books have been written by men and woman advocating that both men and women should assert themselves, see after #1, and make your own decisions. Male leadership is constantly being challenged in our present society. Man's superior strength is no longer needed by women. We have machines that can do the heavy work. Technical jobs can be held by women just like the men. Women are not as "dependent" upon the man for survival as they used to be. Thus, the "headship" and "submissive" roles of men and women that God has ordained are being called into question! The "*Dagwood Bumstead*" comic strip portrays the man as inept, bumbling, and easily outwitted. More and more people are striving to change God's arrangement and substitute one of their own in its place. Jesus warns us:

Gal. 6:7-8 _____

Matt. 23:31-36 _____

Submission versus Rebellion

Whether we like it or not, everyone is generally submissive to someone or something else. You can't keep your job unless you submit to Company rules and regulations. You can be fined or even put in jail if you do not submit to the Laws of our Community or Nation. If you don't pay your bills on time, you can be in danger of losing your car, house, or other items that you need. "Submission" is not a "dirty word!" It is a necessary word in order to survive on this earth! It is the attitude of "rebellion" against properly constituted authority or the "misuse" of it that causes most, if not all, of our problems. God's solution to this "mess" is:

Eph. 5:21 _____

Phil. 2:3 _____

Proper Application!

God's arrangement for Society, the Church, and the Home is designed to bless man, not hurt or harm him. Submission to authority is a very important concept and will not end when we die! We will never get away from the concept! Even Jesus, who has been seated at the Father's right hand far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named (Eph. 1:20-21), will at the end of time deliver the kingdom back to the Father and be subject to Him (1 Cor. 15:24-28). Jesus' willing subjection to the Father is an outstanding example and motivation—to those who believe—to be of the same mind as He. We will be using the example of Christ to help us make proper application of "headship" and "submission" as we go through this study.

It is important that we understand God's use of the concepts of "headship" and "submission;" but, as well, to learn how to properly apply these concepts in our lives. While Scripture gives us some insights on how to do this, we often have to turn to others who have lived before us to see what they have learned by experiences in life. Trial and error on our part doesn't necessarily have to be applied here. We can talk to and learn from others; as well as, read books, articles, scientific studies, etc., to help us know how to better apply these concepts. The book of Proverbs is a very good one to spend a lot of time in reading and understanding—for it is a book of applications!

Concluding Thoughts

"Headship" and "submission" are God's arrangement from the beginning of time. Even the "order" of creation is used to press this concept (1 Tim. 2:11-13). Man's willingness to be submissive to God brought blessings, but his disobedience brought all kinds of evil into our world (Rom. 2:5-10). While this lesson is primarily dealing with the concepts of these two words, the next two lessons will strive to deal primarily with the headship of the husband and the father in the home—what this means and how should such be exercised.

Lesson Two

"Headship of the Husband"

The "headship" of the husband can be exercised correctly or incorrectly, good or bad, with proper respect for his wife or lack of respect for her. It is very important what a man understands by the concept of "headship" and also how it is to be exercised! The close disciples of Jesus, who later became the twelve Apostles, were struggling with the "how" of "headship" over others. Jesus specifically deals with this issue at possibly two different times.

Matt. 20:20-28 _____

Even the mother of James and John wanted her two sons to be in a position of "authority" over others. Jesus made it clear that that the way to greatness in the eyes of others is to be a willing servant of all....and then, He used Himself as the proper example. He came not to be served, but to serve!

Jn. 13:1-17 _____

The Disciples were still struggling with this question of "greatness," "position," and "authority"—even up to the time of His death. After washing each of the disciple's feet, He emphasized the great truth again *that greatness is found in serving!*

There is a sense in which both husband and wife submit to one another constantly (Eph. 5:21)—for marriage is a life-time of submitting to one another. Yet, the term "headship" is only given to the husband, not the wife! So, there must be a special sense in which "headship" and "submission" are used in Scripture. We believe that this involves a responsibility of exercising authority in which the wife freely submits to that authority. Jesus is the "head" over man, and the man is to freely submit to his authority (1 Cor. 11:3). Jesus freely submitted to the Father's Will (Jn. 6:38).

Another comparison is given in Scripture that should help us with a little more insight to understand how to apply "headship" and "submission." Jesus is the head of the Church (Eph. 5:22-24), and the Church is to be in "submission" to His "headship." Likewise the husband is the head of the wife, and she is to be in

"submission" to his "headship" **in everything!** Here is an interesting situation:

1. Jesus is a perfect head, and we are often imperfect in our submission. As hard as we try, we will not reach perfection!
2. But the husband is not a perfect head, and there may be times when she should not submit to his authority! Two thoughts on this question. Peter and the other Apostles said that they should obey God, rather than men—when the two conflict! (Acts 5:20). The reason is obvious—the religious leaders were mis-using their God-given "authority." And 2nd, the wife is to submit to her husband, **"as to the Lord."** (Eph. 5:22). Does this mean that she submits unless it goes against what the Lord teaches her to do?

God has a purpose for man being the head of the wife. This authority is not given by men, but by God! A husband can lose his "headship" by default.

The "How" of "Headship"

The husband is not only given the "responsibility" of "headship," but he is also given the "how" it is to be exercised! It is very simple—it is to be done in "LOVE!"

Eph. 5:25 _____

Eph. 5:28 _____

Eph. 5:29 _____

Col. 3:19 _____

1 Pet. 3:7 _____

The husband must exercise this "headship" with concern, understanding, kindness, firmness, easy to be entreated, not a tyrant, nor a domineering husband, by example, and by submission to authority himself. Loving authority usually begets willing submission by the sincere. Mutual respect and honor needs to be gained.

The "If" of "Headship"

Just as the husband is not a "perfect" head over his wife; so, the wife will probably not be a "perfect" submissive wife! But there is a difference between a wife that is imperfect and one that is rebellious. It should also be obvious that the man may not be able to be the "head" of the wife if she is determined not to

be submissive. Her submission is compared to the Church's submission to Christ! Lack of submission to her husband is also lack of submission to Christ—for He is the one who set-up this arrangement.

It is obvious that Christ's "headship" is what every woman would want in her husband! He is the IDEAL pattern for men to emulate! Unfortunately, we men do fall a "might" short of the IDEAL!!! But, if he wants to be a good "head" (a good husband):

- 1) He will devote his life for her good;
- 2) He will make great sacrifices for her when needed; (Eph. 5:25)
- 3) He will keep a very positive attitude towards her; (1 Pet. 3:7)
- 4) He will endeavor to keep them unified in all things; (Eph. 4:1-3)
- 5) He will express the Love of God in all its ways (1 Cor. 13:4-7).

"Headship" is not "Superiority!"

Even though the man has been given "headship" because of being created first; that, in and of itself, does not make the woman "inferior" to the man! Each has their role to fulfill that was planned by God. One without the other is not complete. God's statement is that it was not good for man to be alone—he needed a companion! (Gen. 2:20; Ps. 101:2). They both need each other to fulfill their roles as husband and wife. They are to be devoted and committed to each other for life. There is to be a oneness, closeness, fellowship, and togetherness that makes their relationship complete. They are to share things together: thoughts, concerns, work, dreams, goals, and struggles. They take time to build understanding, love, respect, and togetherness! If the "HOW" of "headship" and "submission" are present correctly, there is no room for the thought of superiority and inferiority—only "ONENESS!"

Concluding Thoughts

The most blessed marriage is where the man is striving to be the best husband he can be and the wife the best wife she can be. It is the willingness to accept the roles that God has given to each and fulfill those responsibilities to the best of my ability. God's way is the blessed way! Everyone profits when we listen to God! The husband needs to be the best leader he can be and the wife the best follower she can be—while both are submitting to each other's needs!

Questions for Discussion

1. How did Jesus tell His disciples to deal with "headship" over others?

2. What was Jesus' point in washing His disciples' feet?

3. Where is greatness to be found?

4. How do you understand the expression "submitting to one another?"

5. Is the woman ever referred to as the "head" of the husband? What is significant about this?

6. In what sense is the woman to be in submission to her husband in everything?

7. Can a man lose his "headship?" Explain your answer.

8. What is the emphasis upon "how" to exercise "headship?"

9. What is the "IF" of "headship?"

10. What helps to keep down the concepts of superiority and inferiority in marriage?

11. What makes for a good marriage?

Lesson Three

"Headship of the Father"

The concept of Authority is basic to all mankind and our very existence. It is one of those necessities of life. And.....disrespect for authority is one of our great sins of today. The breakdown of authority (especially in the home) can bring chaos! Authority is ordained and given of God. Even though the man is referred to as "head" of his wife and family; he, himself, is also under authority as well (1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 6:9). Headship, Leadership, or Authority is designed to give stability, security, strength, and direction to the family. For sure, someone will lead (be in charge) or be the authority figure in the home. God says He wants that to be the man! There is no indication that I can find that the woman is to be the authority figure or the leader of the home.

Indications of the man's headship

From a negative standpoint, the woman is not to have authority over the man (1 Tim. 2:12). Older women are to teach younger women to be obedient to their own husbands (Tit. 2:5). And a strong reason is given for this admonition—***"that the word of God may not be blasphemed."*** This position of authority in the family is indicated by the qualities that God requires of men being appointed as Elders or Deacons in a congregation.

1 Tim. 3:4 _____

1 Tim. 3:12 _____

Titus 1:6 _____

These men must shown that they are capable of "ruling" their own families well. Their children must be taught and trained to be respectful of their parents. Men "rule" or "lead" in their homes in such a way that he will also make a good "ruler" or "leader" in the church. Women are not to attempt to be man's equal in authority, leadership, or prominence in the home. When the man rules properly and the family respect his leadership, then God is glorified because He was the one who designed this arrangement.

Children need to be taught to respect all proper authority! They need to see their father's submission to the Will of God. They need to see their mother's submission to God and to her husband. They also need to see harmony between

their father and mother and their authority over them. They should not need to choose between them. When this occurs, the child tends to reject all authority around him.

Eph. 6:1-3 _____

Col. 3:20 _____

Proper "Headship" of Father

The Father is to rule or lead his family in the way they should go. He is the primary one responsible for such. How he rules or leads can make a big difference in the outcome of such. The following Scriptures and thoughts are trying to give practical suggestions on the kind of Father he should be.

Prov. 31:11 _____

Prov. 31:23 _____

Prov. 31:28 _____

It should be obvious from these verses that this wife and mother has dignity and deserves to be praised. Her strength enhances her husband's role rather than overshadowing him and his role as head of the family. "Headship" should bring out the best in a good man.

He will definitely seek the physical and spiritual welfare of each member of the family. His actions and decisions will be for their good.

2 Tim. 2:24-26 _____

He will gain the respect of his family by his proper teaching, discipline, and encouragement.

Prov. 17:6 _____

Ps. 127:3-5 _____

Ps. 128:3-4 _____

He will show love to all his children without partiality! He will not be a respecter of persons.

Jas. 2:1 _____

He will exercise the leadership of his children in a way to gain their loving obedience, rather than outright disobedience that turns from the Lord.

Eph. 6:4 _____

Col. 3:21 _____

He will give proper, fair, just, and merciful discipline that is designed to save and not to destroy the child.

Prov. 23:13-14 _____

Prov. 22:6 _____

Prov. 19:18 _____

Prov. 3:11-12 _____

The husband and father must come across as kind, considerate, and loving. He needs to be firm and uncompromising in that which is right, but also as one who really cares.

Concluding Thoughts

The real test of a man lies in his attitude and submission to authority over him. But it is also determined by what spirit and attitude he shoulders his own authority in his home.

The real test of a woman lies in her attitude and submission to authority over her. The absence of masculine aggressiveness to be equal or superior to the man also reflects who she really is.

The real test of a child lies in his willingness to learn how to be in submission to authority—not only out of fear, but more, out of respect.

Authority must be recognized and upheld. The home is the primary place to establish and maintain this respect for authority. The attitudes of the home affect

society greatly. The Lord's Church is also greatly dependant upon respecting authority. Its very existence depends upon the original submission to God's Will, as well as, continued submission.

Appropriate leadership in the home and in the church should be encouraged, respected, and praised!

Questions for Discussion

1. How far does man's "headship" extend in the home?
2. Why should Elders and Deacons have good home situations?
3. How do you teach children to respect authority?
4. How can a wife help the children to be submissive to proper authority?
5. Why is "not being partial to children" so important?
6. How does a husband and father gain the respect of his family?
7. Why do children need discipline?
8. Why is the home so important in teaching respect for authority?
9. Why do leaders need encouragement?
10. Do men have the right to change God's arrangement in the home?

Lesson Four

"Responsibility to Provide"

God has provided for the continuing existence of the human race by creating a "male" and a "female." (Gen. 1:26-27). He then gave them instructions to go forth and populate the earth. In order to accomplish this great task, God designed two different individuals with different roles or responsibilities. Yet, He designed them in such a way so that they would compliment each other—be a help and a companion for each other (Gen. 2:20). The man and the woman had to be so designed that they could work together to accomplish whatever was needed for their existence, their needs and wants, and their protection in an orderly way (1 Cor. 14:40). They are partners in a joint venture that requires the best that each has to offer. While it is obvious that both the male and the female can do some of the same things required (and do them well); yet, there are some things that only the male or the female can do. When each carries out their God-given responsibilities, they are both blessed! (Jas. 1:25).

Conflict and Confusion

Much of the conflict or confusion that men and women face in the marital relationship is caused by a worldly view rather than a Godly view of Marriage and its responsibilities. The world stresses "self-assertiveness" and the "rights" of women. Women are told to "stand up for themselves" and "refuse to tolerate unfair treatment." They make light of or put down the idea of a woman being in subjection to a man. In many instances, women regard subjection as being like "bad-tasting-medicine" that is necessary to swallow—but it sure is a "bitter pill." But, they also hear from the pulpit or classroom such phrases as:

- ◇ ***"Your desire shall be to your husband and he will rule over you"*** (Gen. 3:16)
- ◇ ***"Be obedient to their own husbands"*** (Tit. 2:5)
- ◇ ***"Submit to your own husband....be subject to their own husbands in everything."*** (Eph. 5:22-24)

The problem here may be that people need a better understanding of the roles of the husband and wife; or, the problem could be a rebellion against the Will of God. It stands to reason—that if God is God and He knows what is best for us, then to do His Will is the way to go and be blessed by Him.

Thus, we would like to suggest that those who accept their God-given role and fulfill them the best that they can, should have a very good marriage. It should be obvious that when a wife willingly, trustingly submits to the leadership of her husband that she is meeting one of the most important **NEEDS** of the man—

that is, a need to be respected and regarded as the provider and protector of the family (Eph. 5:29). For sure, it stimulates a wonderful response in the male ego. Have you noticed that no one ever mistreats someone or something that they cherish or treasure? Have you stopped to realize that Jesus was not held on that cross, but it was by His willing submission to a loving Father!

However, submission requires a good self-image; otherwise, her submission may be looked upon as servitude. The wife is not to submit if her husband is nice and kind, but she submits because God said this is the right and best way to act. Also, the husband needs to provide the right kind of leadership in the home without being dictatorial and ignoring the wisdom and talents of his wife.

The Husband as a Provider

Why the man and not the woman? Why did God place this upon the man? It just seems to be intuitive! Can the woman help? Certainly! Can even the children help? Certainly! But why give the responsibility to the man? In fact, God makes it very clear that if he does not provide for his wife and children (and even relatives), he is worse than an unbeliever!

1 Tim. 5:8

The man is the representative of the family! He must shoulder this role as the leader of his family. The Bible does not condemn the woman for helping to contribute to the family income, but rather indicates otherwise (Prov. 31:10-31). While the husband's major role would be to provide for his family; the wife's major role would be—to be a mother (1 Tim. 2:15) and/or a homemaker (1 Tim. 5:14; Tit. 2:4). Teamwork gets the job done. Each plays a role in not only securing money (income) but also the proper use of money. Selfish spending can undermine the best of efforts on the part of the husband to carry out his responsibilities.

The husband (father) provides for the needs of his family—generally this would include food, clothing, and shelter. In our society today, there may be additional things that are needed because of circumstances in which we live; such as: Health coverage, Education, Training for a job, etc. But there are even greater needs that wives and children have that a husband or father needs to supply. When a wife would say: *"I do not want his money. I want his love."* Such a statement indicates that what he is doing in a material way is not done out of love, but necessity—fulfilling an obligation! The need to be loved (as God loves) is one of the great needs of all humans. Not to satisfy this need is not being a good provider. Notice the emphasis of Scripture on providing for the needs of family.

Eph. 6:4 _____

1 Cor. 7:2-5 _____

Eph. 5:25 _____

Eph. 5:28-29 _____

The Husband as Protector

The "man of the house" is expected to provide "protection" or "security" for his wife and children so that no harm or hurt comes to them. The man is recognized as the one that generally is the protector; but the wife and mother is just as concerned in her own way. The protector concept would be indicated because of his strength and aggressiveness to defend those whom he loves.

Eph. 5:25-29 _____

Matt. 6:31-33 _____

1 Thess.4:11-12 _____

2 Thess. 3:7-15 _____

Concluding Thoughts

The man is expected to provide for his family—meet their needs. Those needs can be food, clothing, and shelter (the basics). However, there are other needs that the wife/mother has, as well as needs of children. They need a sense of order, a sense of protection and security, an assurance that they are loved and wanted. Peter says that the man is to feel his responsibility in all of these areas and he willingly does so—giving honor to his wife and the mother of his children (1 Pet. 3:7).

Questions for Discussion

1. What is meant by the expression "They are partners in a joint venture?"

2. How does God "bless" those who do his bidding? (Jas. 1:25)

3. Why is there conflict and confusion about the roles of men and women?

4. How would you convince someone that following God's Will is the best way?

5. How can the wife and children help man's male ego?

6. Why does submission require a good self-image?

7. Why has God placed the responsibility of providing and protecting on the man?

8. Why should a husband/father state and show his love for his wife and family?

9. Why is a sense of protection and security so important to a family?

Lesson Five

"Responsibility to Make Decisions"

Each day of our lives we make decisions—some are important while others not so important! Some decisions can affect our eternal destiny! (Matt. 25:46). *"Only a fool leaps before looking."* Others can be inconsequential—it doesn't matter either way. In this lesson we want to look at the responsibility that is given to the male to make proper decisions. It is important to understand that this topic does not really deal with whether the wife/mother or children can make decisions. As individuals, they can and will make many decisions a day all of their lives. What we are looking at is that at times someone is going to have to make the final decision for the married couple or the family. We believe that the husband/father, as "head," has been given this critical responsibility. And, it is these decisions that not only affect the "head," the "wife/mother," and "children"—but, they may be even more far-reaching! So, these decisions need to be studied and thought through well!

Emotional Decisions

As a general rule....emotional decisions probably should be avoided in most instances! Emotions are how we feel about some one or some thing. Wrong decisions usually come from wrong thinking that is governed by heightened emotions. Negative emotional decisions can end a marriage! We are talking about such emotions as rudeness, selfishness, rage, hate, fault-finding, etc.

Eph. 4:31-32 _____

Look at the statement of the Apostle Paul as he looked back upon his life and actions prior to his conversion: ***"Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth."*** (Acts 26:9). As the Apostle continued, his persecution of Christians became a crusade with him (Acts 26:10-11). He was willing to go all over the Roman Empire to persecute Christians! Why? What harm were they causing? What reasonable facts could be produced to justify putting such people into jail or putting them to death? So, they believed that God came down in human flesh and died in our place to redeem fallen mankind! What is wrong with believing such? There were millions of people who believed in idols and worshipped at their feet. Did they deserve persecution, being jailed, or put to death? But, when the risen Christ appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus, his life changed drastically because his decision

was now based on the facts, evidences for believing in Jesus as the Son of God.

A man can become jealous or envious of his wife and make some pretty bad statements or emotional decisions that would bring their marriage to an end. Read what James says about two kinds of wisdom:

Jas. 3:13-16 (Worldly Wisdom)_____

Now look how he describes the wisdom from above:

Jas. 3:17-18 (Heavenly Wisdom)_____

What makes the difference in these two "wisdoms?" It is obvious that the one makes very poor decisions while the other makes very good decisions. Why? Have you noticed that the world often makes their decisions based on how they "feel" rather than on the "facts?"

Husbands or wives can either be envious of their mates or rejoice with their mates over their successes in life. It all depends on his or her outlook as to whether it is negative or positive. Why should they have a negative outlook about their mate? Have their emotions been upset over things that have been said or done! Is it the role of the husband or wife to outdo their mate and try to make them look bad? The answer is obvious! Then, why do they have a negative outlook? Is it an emotional decision? We believe that purely emotional decisions need to be avoided, if at all possible!

Decisions based on Factual Information

"Just the facts!" All of the little decisions that we make every day of our lives may not be where our problems come from. It may be those big decisions where our emotions are aroused that we need to be very careful about. The Scriptures give us a lot of direct help with these decisions in pointing out the right and wrong things to think, do, or say. In addition to these factual statements, there are "Biblical Principles" also stated that give us insight for decision-making! The following list was found in a book entitled: **Where is your Focus?** (By James Farris), page 41. He gives a list of "principles" and some Scriptures that deal with the "principle."

Biblical Principles for Decision Making

1. **Does this thing violate a plain Bible statement?** (Rom. 13:9; 1 Tim. 1:8-11; Gal. 5:19; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).
2. **Is there a legitimate doubt of this thing's goodness?** (Rim. 14:21-23; 1 Cor. 8:13; Jas. 4:17).
3. **Will this thing possibly cause others to err?** (1 Cor. 8:13; Matt. 18:5-7).
4. **Will this thing destroy my Christian identity?** (Matt. 5:13-16). Could this thing be known by others and they not doubt my Christianity? Could this appear on a list of Christian qualities?
Could you know this about someone and not think less of them?
5. **Will this thing or action injure my body or mind?** (1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 7:1).
6. **Would this be characteristic of Christ or the Apostles?** (1 Pet. 2:21; 1 Cor. 11:1).
7. **Would this thing be productive of anything good?** (Eccl. 12:14).
8. **Will this or could it possibly cause a bad habit?** (1 Cor. 6:12; Rom. 6:16).
9. **Will it bring me under evil influences?** (1 Cor. 15:33).
10. **Will this thing bring about evil desires?** (Jas. 1:13-15).
11. **Could I pray about this and still do it in good conscience?**

Concluding Thoughts

Husbands, wives, and families need to learn how to make wise decisions for their lives—and as well, for the good and well-being of the family. When there are differences or judgment about a decision, we believe that God gives the responsibility of making the final decision to the man. It would certainly seem wise for him to **learn as quickly as possible** how to make good, loving, wise, and factual decisions. God's admonition to His people is: **"to prove all things"** (1 Thess. 5:21) as to whether it is right or wrong, truth or error. Such does require mental reasoning, thinking things through, and weighing the good and the bad effects of such. (Heb. 5:14). We men are given some grave responsibilities to shoulder!

Questions for Discussion

1. In what sense is the man given the responsibility to make the final decision for the home or family?

2. What should the man do if his wife or children make a decision that he feels should not have been made?

3. How can emotions affect the decision-making process in a negative way?

4. What are some of the emotions that we need to put out of our lives?

5. In what way does Saul of Tarsus (later, Paul) illustrate decision-making more from emotions than factual information?

6. What is basically wrong with worldly wisdom?

7. What will the emotion of jealousy cause a husband or wife do?

8. How can we be sure that we have all the facts upon which to base our decisions?

9. Which "Biblical Principle" out of the 11 listed would you probably make the most use of?

Lesson Six

"Responsibility to Teach"

The Home (Family) is "catching it" from all sides in our society. Some are pushing for change in our Laws that define the concepts of Marriage and the Home differently. Divorce, Separation, Mothers of small children working outside the home are all taking its toll on the Home. Change for the better has to start in the Home—this is where God placed the primary responsibility! (Eph. 6:4; Prov. 22:6; Deut. 6:4-9).

"Every new case that comes to my desk adds to the overwhelming evidence that when a youth commits a crime, a greater crime has already been committed in the home. The first responsibility rests with parents."

Parenthood is never easy and it demands many changes and responsibilities to be shouldered. But it offers one of our greatest challenges!

"There is no more useful work to the glory of "God or to bless both the Church and Society, than to properly teach and train our children."

Everyone profits from such. To reject this grave responsibility is a crime against the child, as well as against Society in general. It is a complex task because the child is a complex human being in the development process. He has many sides: physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual. All training should strive to develop all of these areas equally and correctly.

There is a vital point here that must be recognized! All of us are teaching our children: (1) By our attitudes; (2) By our actions; (3) By our behavior in various situations; (4) By our self-control or lack of it; (5) By our praising them or scolding of them; and (6) By our affection for them, or the lack of such. And.....at the same time, they are learning: (1) How to be kind or unkind; (2) How to be courteous or discourteous; (3) How to have good manners or bad; (4) How to be grateful or ungrateful; (5) Good or bad English; (6) A love for books, music, art, or a lack of interest in such; (7) The habits of prayer, Bible reading, Church attendance, or a lack of interest in such; and (8) Various views and attitudes towards the Church., Mission work, or prejudice them against such. These, and other things are picked up, learned, and are being taught by Parents! We are either teaching them positive things or negative things. It is important that we teach them correctly because others will be glad to teach them the wrong attitudes and actions.

Well-Rounded Teaching

It is important that Parents "cover all the bases"—complete training!

1. Help his mental development and capabilities.
 - a) To learn how to think before acting.
 - b) To reason things through.
 - c) To find answers.
 - d) To make wise decisions.
2. Help him to develop good attitudes and actions towards others.
 - a) Cheerfulness.
 - b) Honesty—sincerity.
 - c) Thoughtfulness.
 - d) Mind his own business.
3. Help him learn how to be accepted by his peers in the proper and right way.
 - a) To have and express conviction correctly.
 - b) To show a concern for his fellowman.
 - c) To exercise self-control.
 - d) To influence others rightly, rather than be influenced wrongly by them.
4. Help him to:
 - a) Avoid bad or undesirable habits (Swearing, Drinking, Smoking, Lying, and Selfishness)
 - b) Establish good and desirable habits.
5. Help him learn how to be a responsible person.
 - a) Dependable, wanting to do right.
 - b) Who can see what needs to be done and will do it.
 - c) The ability to be a self-starter, to get going on his own.
6. Help him to develop a strong spiritual life with God.
 - a) To realize the need of God and His Kingdom being his first consideration.
 - b) That he has high spiritual goals and purposes.
 - c) How to handle temptations and the dangers of deception.
 - d) How to meet life's problems as they will come to all. (To cope with unemployment, financial reverses, ill health, friction, disasters such as floods, tornadoes, wars, fires, accidents, sorrow, disappointments, and even death).
7. Help him to be a well-balanced person.
 - a) That is friendly, cooperative, expresses themselves well.
 - b) Who have developed their skills and talents well.
 - c) Who show good judgment, a sense of humor, and good taste.

d) And have a good spiritual outlook on life.

This teaching must be by:

1. A saturation method. Indoor, out side, when walking, sitting or lying down—constantly and everywhere.
2. Taught with diligence. Parents cannot let up, give up, nor do the job half-heartedly.

Prov. 29:17 _____

Prov. 19:13 _____

Prov. 13:24 _____

A parent must keep on warning, encouraging, correcting, and exhorting by precept and example.

3. Taught by example. *"What you do not want to recommend, do not do!"* They need to see consistency, justness, sincerity. Hypocrisy must be avoided. Unjust accusations must be avoided. Teaching must be with kindness, love, and concern. Our actions towards them must show a proper understanding of human weaknesses and failures. Children must sense they are a blessing to their parents, not a curse!

Prov. 20:7 _____

Concluding Thoughts

Revealing God's Message to our family is not only a grave responsibility, but as well, a great privilege! Our teaching must be good enough to help our children deal with all other outside influences that would lead them in the wrong direction. Husbands/Fathers need to lead wisely, temperately, and devotedly. Children need to see a Father who is himself—who enjoys being a man; responds and acts as the head of the Family; and passes on traditions, values, and standards for his Family.

The challenge is great to raise our children in the Lord (Eph. 6:4), but it can be done and done well by many. Let's be sure we are among the many! We need to make sure that they know that we love them dearly (Tit. 2:4).

Questions for Discussion

True or False

- ___ 1. American's image as a law-abiding nation is still as strong as it has ever been.
- ___ 2. When a youth commits a crime, a greater crime has already been committed in the home.
- ___ 3. There is no parent that does not teach his children.
- ___ 4. Children must be trained as a "whole person."
- ___ 5. Parents can still teach their children correct actions, even though their own actions are not consistent with their teaching.
- ___ 6. Discipline is not really a form of teaching, but punishment.
- ___ 7. Very severe discipline is better than no discipline.
- ___ 8. Reaping and sowing has nothing to do with decision-making.
- ___ 9. Good teaching has to be by the "saturation" method.
- ___ 10. The half-hearted job of training our children will result in a half-developed child.

