

Series on the Home #3

Relationships in the Home

13 Lessons

Prepared by:
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2007

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Lesson One

Authority Issue in the Home

Men and women can engage in no greater work than making a home; but not just any home, but a "Christian" home! A home is begun by the marriage of a man and woman living together. However, a single person can have his or her own "home" and live by themselves. Yet, such will not have the same meaning or connotation that a "regular" home will have where you have a husband and wife and children. Much emotional sentiment is connected to the word "home." Next to the church, the deepest affections and most sacred sentiments of the human soul are those of the home.

John Howard Payne wrote a poem at the age of 30. Nobody gave it much notice at first. He served as our American Consul to Africa and died in 1852 and buried at Tunis. However, in 1883, his bones were dug up and returned to his native land. The President and the working man paused to pay tribute, schools closed, the United States Marine Band led the funeral procession, and this nation bowed their heads in recognition—not of his official service—but because of a poem he had written that had been set to music and had touched the hearts of millions. The title was "Home Sweet Home!"

Many years ago some 20,000 people gathered in the old Castle Garden in New York City to hear Jenny Lind sing some of the great songs of Beethoven, Handel, etc. At the end of the concert, she paused, thought of her home in Sweden and began to sing with deep emotion Mr. Payne's song "Home Sweet Home." The audience was stirred to its depths. The applause stopped the music and tears flowed unrestrained. Beethoven and Handel were forgotten for that moment. Home was a word that bound with a spell twenty thousand souls and John Payne's song triumphed over the masters of music. Some of the happiest moments of our lives are connected with "home!"

Happy homes are a strong foundation to our nation. The home is essential to a useful and successful life. It is necessary to the building up of the church. It is a place of refuge and rest.

1. The home is a means of pooling resources (economic).
2. The home is a means of protection and care (protective).
3. The home is a means of teaching the necessary things of life (teaching).
4. The home is a means of maturing the child (development).
5. The home is a means of enjoyment (recreational).
6. The home is a means of discipline and training (discipline).
7. The home is a means of religious training and experiences (religious).

Building a Christian Home is a God-given work! (Tit. 2:4-5).

Authority in the Home

The question 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.

Governments—Rom. 13:1-5 _____

Church—Heb. 13:17 _____

Home—Eph. 5:22 _____
Eph. 6:1-2 _____

All problems, divisions, and difficulties in society, the church, and the home can be traced back to a lack of respect for proper authority. This study is concerned primarily with authority in the home.

The Husband's Responsibility in Regards to Authority

The husband has a head to whom he is subject:

1 Cor. 11:3 _____
Eph. 6:9 _____

A failure here can and does affect other relationships in the home—the wife and children will be affected because of the husband and father's failure.

The husband also has a headship to shoulder:

Eph. 5:22-24 _____

This passage gives a comparison between the home and the church. As Christ is the head of the church, the husband is the head of the home. This authority is God-given, God-ordained, and not assumed by men! It is a right, as well as a responsibility. The home is not a democracy—it has a head! The only way the husband loses his headship is by default. God has a purpose for man being the head in the home—so, he must not fail God! When this arrangement is changed, it will bring sin and confusion.

The **HOW** of this responsibility is important!

Eph. 5:25 _____
Eph. 5:28 _____

Eph. 5:29 _____
Col. 3:19 _____
1 Pet. 3:7 _____

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

The Wife's Responsibility in Regards to Authority

The wife has two heads to whom she is responsible:

1 Cor. 11:3 _____
Eph. 5:22-24 _____

The **HOW** of this submission is important also.

Eph. 5:24 _____
1 Tim. 2:12 _____

The wife's submission is compared to the church's submission to Christ—in all things. There is an exception—when the husband's authority tries to usurp the authority of God over her. She needs to have a desire to do that which pleases her husband. She is not to be a rebellious person.

Men and woman are made differently: Biologically, Emotionally, Temperament, Functions. Even though they are complimentary to one another; yet, they have their different functions. The woman is said to be the weaker vessel; yet, she has her superiorities as well. Women are not to attempt to be man's equal in authority, leadership, or prominence. Proper respect and reverence for her husband is giving obedience to God.

Children's Responsibility in Regards to Authority

Children are under all authority:

Eph. 6:1-3 _____

There is an obvious need for unified authority in the home. The child needs to see his father's submission to the Will of God. He needs to see his mother's submission to God and to her husband. He needs to see harmony between his father and mother's authority over him. He does not need to have to choose between them. When this occurs, the child tends to reject all authority around him.

How is this authority to be exercised?

Col. 3:21

Eph. 6:4

The father needs to be kind, considerate, and loving. Yet, he needs to be firm and uncompromising in that which is right. He must come across as one who really cares. The mother needs to set the proper example of obedience to authority—not complaining, but meekly submitting. One of woman's greatest influences lies here. The child needs to be taught and trained to be obedient in all things. It needs to be willing and loving obedience. He should want to please his parents—even when they are not present.

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.

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

True or False

1. Only Married people can have a home.
2. Homes are essential to a useful and successful life.
3. Building a Christian Home is a God-given work.
4. The Bible teaches that the man is the authority in the home.
5. A lack of respect for authority is a root cause of all of our problems in society, the home, and the church.
6. Man does not have a head over him in the home.
7. The wife can determine whether the man is head in the home.
8. Children need to be taught, as well as, to be able to see submission to authority.
9. If man originated the roles of the husband, wife, and children: then, he has the right to change it around to suit himself.
10. Man, as the head of the wife, has a right to force his wife to conform to his will.

Lesson Two

The Role of the Husband (#1)

As we have already studied, Marriage is ordained of God for man's happiness! Following the guidelines that God gives will help bring the greatest happiness to mankind in marriage. But the happiness of a marriage is determined by two people, not just one. Both husband and wife must contribute their part to help make marriage the best. The husband's part or role needs to be looked at from four views:

1. As a leader in his home;
2. As one who loves his wife;
3. As one who lives considerately with his wife;
4. As one who honors his wife.

God's directions and instructions are both pointed and practical for the husband. If followed as given by God, blessings are promised from God.

1. Who does James (1:25) say will be blessed by God? _____
2. Who is the person who deceives himself? (James 1:22) _____

The Husband Needs to be a Leader in His Home

1. How did man get the position of leadership in the family? (Genesis 3:16; 1 Corinthians 11:3) _____

If man originated this arrangement, then it can be changed by man. If it is a God-given role, then it is: **RIGHT, BEST, TO BE RESPECTED**. The husband's background that he brings into marriage can be more critical to the success of the marriage more so than the wife's because he is to be the leader.

2. What admonition is given in regards to our receptivity of God's Word (commands)? (James 1:22) _____

Man must assume the leadership role or be in disobedience to God. He must have or develop the capacity to lead and to lead well. He must assume leadership in all areas of life (especially the religious). He must not delegate away all his responsibility to another. It is not a matter of choice or indifference, but a matter of obedience to God. He must assume leadership, not just talk about it. While authority belongs to the man in the home, yet **SERVITUDE** belongs to both! (Ephesians 5:21)

3. With what kind of spirit should this role be shouldered?
 - a) Numbers 12:3 _____
 - b) Matthew 11:28-30 _____
 - c) Matthew 20:25-28 _____
 - d) 1 Peter 5:3 _____

- e) 3 John 9-10 _____
- f) Galatians 3:28 _____

4. How would you rate the following attitudes and approaches on the part of the husband to the wife?

GOOD BAD

- _____ 1. Give orders without asking or permitting questions.
- _____ 2. Make demands, dishes out directives, lays down the law, and is defensive if challenged.
- _____ 3. Requires compliance regardless of consent or agreement.
- _____ 4. Pushes and manipulates one-man rule in over-under position.
- _____ 5. Says, "You do, you must do, you ought to have done, you'd better do."
- _____ 6. Depends on his own external authority to motivate others.
- _____ 7. Generates friction, resistance, resentment.
- _____ 8. Separates and isolates people.
- _____ 9. Discusses & evaluates together with his wife before a decision is made.
- _____ 10. Does not give impression of superiority attitude.
- _____ 11. Makes requests of his wife in kind way.
- _____ 12. Never gives orders as a Boss.
- _____ 13. The type of approach that does not bring friction, resistance or resentment.
- _____ 14. An attitude and approach that unifies the two.

5. Does he ever have a right to force his wife to conform to his will? Yes No

To try to force his wife to conform to his will denies the wife the right of choice as to whether she will conform or not to her obligations as a wife. There should never be a time where such would come up! **UNFORTUNATELY**, because of immaturity and selfishness and disobedience, it does come up.

6. If a husband and wife come to a confrontation, what then? _____

The husband is to be the head of the family—the final decision-maker, but no decision should be made without due consideration of the wife. Both must recognize that every decision made will not always be right. The wife is not responsible to God for the decision-making, but she is responsible for being in submission. The wife can make it harder or easier for the husband to fulfill his role. If she will not submit, then he has no authority over her. She must give recognition to the God-given role or else he cannot fulfill it. The smart wife is one who learns how to help her husband make good decisions. And.....she will not continually remind her husband of one wrong decision for the next 20 years—inferring that he can't make a good decision.

Three Challenges for the husband:

- 1. To learn how to make good decisions.

- 2. To avoid problems of headship—not to have two heads, or no head, or the head and the body reversed.
- 3. To expect submission from his wife, as he, himself, demonstrates submission to his God, Government, Employer, and Parents.

The Husband Needs to Love His Wife

A strong emphasis in Scripture is for the husband to love his wife! It is illustrated out for him to clearly see how this is to be done by examples and commands. The following will illustrate.

1. What relationship is used to show the proper relationship between husband and wife? (Eph. 5:23-33) _____

2. How is the husband to accept his wife?

a) Ecclesiastes 9:9 _____

b) Proverbs 18:22 _____

c) Proverbs 19:14 _____

d) Genesis 2:18-20 _____

3. How is true love characterized?

a) 1 Corinthians 13:4 _____

b) 1 Corinthians 13:5 _____

c) 1 Corinthians 13:6 _____

d) 1 Corinthians 13:7 _____

e) 1 Corinthians 13:8 _____

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

True or False

1. The idea that man is to be the leader in the home did not begin with a command from God.
2. As the leader in the home, the husband should always have the last word.
3. The wife is not responsible to God for the decisions made in the home.
4. The smart wife is one who learns how to get her husband to make decisions that pleases her.
5. Continually reminding her husband of his bad decisions should eventually cause him to straighten up.
6. Two "heads" are better than one.
7. Man's submission to God should set the right example for how the wife should be submissive to his headship.
8. People tend to think of servitude as bemeaning.
9. Love needs to be expressed, as well as shown.
10. Submission to authority is for everyone.

Lesson Three

The Role of the Husband (#2)

In this lesson, we continue to look at the basic role of the husband in the home. It is important that we do not have a one-sided view of his responsibilities. If we will listen to God's directions, we should have the proper view of such.

The Husband Needs to Live Considerately With His Wife

1. What does the expression "dwell with them according to knowledge" involve? (1 Peter 3:7) _____

2. How can the husband show he is doing the above? _____

It is important that the husband learn his wife's needs and problem areas. He needs to ask, "What does she need? What makes her happy? What makes her nervous? What makes her relaxed? What makes her depressed?" There are general problem areas that most wives would have to face that the husband needs to be aware of and help where he can.

- a) Low self-esteem
- b) Fatigue and Time pressure
- c) Loneliness and isolation
- d) Absence of romantic love
- e) Financial difficulties
- f) Sexual problems
- g) Menstrual and physiological problems
- h) Problems with children
- i) Aging
- j) etc.

There are some things that the husband needs to beware of in his dealings with his wife to help with their relationship.

- a) Criticism
- b) Little things are important
- c) Her need for security
- d) Cruelty, crudeness, dirty language towards her.
- e) Not recognizing her attempts to please you.
- f) Unfavorable comparisons with other women.
- g) Rejection of her opinions as unimportant.
- h) Hurting her feelings

The Husband Needs to Honor His Wife

1. What is another word for honor in 1 Peter 3:7? _____

2. How can the husband show that he honors his wife?

- a) Genesis 2:24 _____
- b) Matthew 19:3-12 _____
- c) Ephesians 5:25 _____
- d) Ephesians 5:28-29 _____

3. What are some reasons for honoring his wife?

- a) Genesis 1:27 _____
- b) Genesis 2:18 _____
- c) Genesis 2:20 _____
- d) 1 Peter 3:7 _____

Concluding Thoughts: There is a very important warning to be heeded concerning the husband's attitude and actions toward his wife. If there are children, they will learn the kind of attitude that is set before them. Men need to be good husbands! It should be a decision of the heart as well as the head. It is not a question of whether the wife deserves it, but of doing it. It should be a permanent decision. The church is made strong, as well as our society, by men who assume their God-given role in life correctly and effectively!

CHECK LIST FOR HUSBANDS

- | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> | |
|------------|-----------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 1. Do you remain indecisive or blame others when things go wrong? |
| _____ | _____ | 2. Do you believe women are inferior to men and cannot make important decisions? |
| _____ | _____ | 3. Do you feel the need to mistreat your wife physically at times? |
| _____ | _____ | 4. Do you use undesirable names to refer to your wife at times? |
| _____ | _____ | 5. Do you find it hard to say "I love you" and mean it very often? |
| _____ | _____ | 6. Do you allow nagging, bickering or picking to continually occur in your home? |
| _____ | _____ | 7. Do you have to contend with harboring resentments against your wife? |
| _____ | _____ | 8. Do you feel that housework is beneath your dignity? |
| _____ | _____ | 9. Do you refuse to help around the house to any significant degree? |
| _____ | _____ | 10. Are you stingy in spending on your wife, but liberal with yourself? |
| _____ | _____ | 11. Is it hard for you to account for where most of your money goes each month? |
| _____ | _____ | 12. Are you inclined to buy things on impulse and have trouble meeting your bills? |
| _____ | _____ | 13. Do you use your spare time mostly with others rather than your wife? |
| _____ | _____ | 14. Do you treat your in-laws with disrespect? |
| _____ | _____ | 15. Are in-laws allowed to interfere or set policies for your family? |
| _____ | _____ | 16. Do you see something funny only at the expense of others? |
| _____ | _____ | 17. If you are wrong, do you find it hard to admit to her? |
| _____ | _____ | 18. Do your primary interests in life center around things more than people? |
| _____ | _____ | 19. Do you spend time looking within your life and analyzing your purposes? |
| _____ | _____ | 20. Can you express devotion to your wife without expecting sexual remuneration? |
| _____ | _____ | 21. Do I have to be reminded of her birthday or our anniversary? |
| _____ | _____ | 22. We have discussed seriously our family's future and goals. |
| _____ | _____ | 23. I eat at least one meal daily with my family. |
| _____ | _____ | 24. My wife assures me that the money she receives each week is reasonable and adequate under our financial circumstances. |
| _____ | _____ | 25. I encourage my wife to develop her own potentialities by taking courses of training, leading to a richer spiritual, emotional, and intellectual life. |
| _____ | _____ | 26. I am aware of what is going on in my house between my wife and our children. |
| _____ | _____ | 27. I am more positive than negative in dealing with family members. |

- ___ 28. I regularly help my wife with the children and the "necessary drudgery."
- ___ 29. I never ask others to our house without my wife knowing in advance.
- ___ 30. I never tire in talking with my wife.
- ___ 31. I still court my wife.
- ___ 32. I feel that I am closer to my wife now than in the past.
- ___ 33. I allow my wife to use her abilities and talents to their fullest.
- ___ 34. I show patience in almost all situations.
- ___ 35. I allow her to make many decisions.
- ___ 36. I treat her as a partner, not as a servant.
- ___ 37. I forgive her when she makes bad decisions.
- ___ 38. She can talk with me about anything without my getting angry.
- ___ 39. There is nothing about which she is afraid to talk with me.
- ___ 40. I try basically to be unselfish towards my wife.

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

True or False

- ___ 1. **The Bible does not tell the husband to honor his wife, but she is to honor him.**
- ___ 2. **The husband or wife can fulfill their role even without help from their mate.**
- ___ 3. **There are some things that the husband needs to be aware of in regards to his wife's needs.**
- ___ 4. **To honor someone is to show proper respect for them.**
- ___ 5. **A wife should be honored by her husband because God gave her to him.**
- ___ 6. **Woman is said to be the "weaker" vessel.**
- ___ 7. **The decision to be a good husband is not only a decision of the heart, but of the head as well.**
- ___ 8. **A husband should be a good husband to his wife whether she deserves it or not.**
- ___ 9. **How the husband treats his wife in the home can affect the church also.**
- ___ 10. **The wife must allow her husband to be the head.**

Lesson Four

The Role of the Wife (#1)

Marriage is the joining together of two people by God to be a husband and wife. There are two different people with two different roles to play. A successful marriage will require both to work at their respective jobs. As with the husband, God's directions and instructions are also pointed and practical for the wife. James promises that the person who is a doer of God's word is the one to be blessed (James 1:25).

The Role of the Wife Should be Looked at from Four Views also:

1. **As one who is submissive to her husband;**
2. **As one who is a homemaker;**
3. **As one who loves her husband;**
4. **As one who beautifies the inner person.**

The Wife Needs to be Submissive to Her Husband

1. What reasons are given as to why women are to be in a submissive role?

- a) **Gen. 3:16** _____
- b) **1 Cor. 11:3** _____
- c) **Eph. 5:22** _____
- d) **Eph. 5:24** _____
- e) **Eph. 5:33** _____
- f) **Col. 3:18** _____
- g) **1 Tim. 2:11-12** _____
- h) **1 Peter 3:1** _____
- i) **1 Timothy 2:13** _____
- j) **1 Timothy 2:14** _____
- k) **1 Corinthians 11:8-9** _____

2. How would you understand the phrase “a help meet for Adam?” (Please check one of the following:

- _____ **1. In competition to man?**
- _____ **2. Equal role and authority with man?**
- _____ **3. Supportive of man?**
- _____ **4. Other?** _____

The husband has two loves: His wife and his job. The wife can compete with the job, or help with the job. The husband may find it hard to forgive a wife who stands in his way of succeeding in his job. The wife must believe in her husband.....and show it! The only security she has is her husband's ability and drive. Husbands must prove themselves in the eyes of their wives. If the wife makes her husband look bad in public, she is destroying his ego. She should support her husband's decisions as much as possible. They won't be right every time. But neither would they, if the wife were making them. Place emphasis upon the good and right parts of decisions—build on these!

Is the wife inferior because her husband loves and wants to dedicate his life to her? Is the husband inferior because his wife loves and wants to dedicate her life to him? Live for him and he will live for you—and vice versa!

3. What are some bad ideas about submission that must be overcome?

- a) Ephesians 5:21 _____
- b) 1 Corinthians 11:11-12 _____
- c) 1 Corinthians 7:2-5 _____
- d) Galatians 3:28 _____

Submission is expected of all—it is a way of life. The submissive role of woman is not man's doings, but God's. Each has roles to fulfill that God created us for. Subjection is not slavery—all are submissive to others. It does not belittle or demean the wife as less a person. Submission can show great strength of character. Jesus came as a servant of mankind. It did not belittle Him—because He knew who He was! (Matt. 20:28)

4. What are the dangers of a lack of submission?

- a) 1 Tim. 2:12 _____

The wife can keep her husband from fulfilling his God-given role. She can force her opinions and try to take over the role of head.

An example: A man's boss at work called to offer a new raise with a new job that he had gotten for him. It would require moving from Denver to Washington. But his salary would be doubled. The man was elated. That evening the wife of the man called the man's boss. *"What right do you have to offer a position to my husband before talking with me first. You have no right to require me to move from my family and friends."* The boss' reply to the woman was, *"Tell you husband for me, he is fired."*

- b) 1 Cor. 14: 34-35 _____

The indication from this passage is that women were up speaking before the congregation just like the men were doing. There is a sense in which women are equal with men, but obviously not the same role. The only way to secure full equality is to ***"Feminize" men or "Manize" women.*** As women assume masculine roles—sexual expression becomes confused and frustrating. She is a woman—she needs to be a woman, not a man.

- c) Prov. 19:13 _____

A wife can become a hindrance rather than a help. Instead of respecting her husband, she can run him down. Instead of boosting his feelings of importance and competence, she can destroy these feelings. An example: A boy grew up in a real bad slum area. He did not know his father. He went into the service as soon as he was old enough. He saved his money and had \$10,000.00 by the time he got out. He bought a cab. One day he saw a woman and said: *"I am going to marry her."* She was from high breeding—good background—college degree. She had all kinds of reasons to tell him to get lost, but she

didn't. Instead, she believed in him—married him. He became a successful business man—partly because she believed in him.

d) **Phil. 4:11** _____

Discontent can make a person miserable—as well as others around him. *"Godliness with contentment is great gain."* (1 Tim. 6:6). Some of the women's movements have brought on a lot of discontentment among women. Some is misleading. Some seem to infer that unless the woman seeks out the goals and activities characteristic of a man, she is inferior. It insultingly infers that a woman can only have dignity if she imitates the dignity of man. But woman has a dignity of her own! A masculine or neuter woman is a crippled caricature of God's creation. Women can become first-class females, but make very poor copies of males.

e) **Col. 3:19** _____

It is so obvious that when husbands do not carry out their responsibilities that the wife has real problems in dealing properly with him. So it is with the husbands when the wife will not carry out their responsibilities as they should.

5. Why do some women not submit to their husbands in some areas?

- a) **Acts 4:18-19** _____
- b) **Col. 3:19** _____
- c) **Gal. 6:7** _____
- d) **Tit. 2:4** _____
- e) **1 Cor. 7:13-17** _____
- f) **Tit. 2:5** _____
- g) **1 Cor. 7:10-11** _____

6. What principles will help a wife to submit to an undesirable husband?

- a) **Phil. 2:5** _____
- b) **Col. 3:18** _____
- c) **1 Pet. 3:5-6** _____
- d) **1 Pet. 3:1-4** _____
- e) **1 Pet. 3:6** _____
- f) **Prov. 15:1** _____
- g) **Matt. 5:43-48** _____
- h) **1 Pet. 3:7** _____
- i) **1 Cor. 10:13** _____

One fact that should stand out very clear in our study thus far—neither the man nor the woman can fulfill their role as it should be without the help, cooperation, and encouragement of each other. Once that a couple has come to the realization of what God expects of each, they

should make a commitment to do everything they can to help the other to do what God expects of him or her.

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

True or False

1. A successful marriage requires that both husband and wife work at their respective jobs.
2. God does not give a reason why women should be submissive, He just commands it.
3. The woman has an equal role and authority like the man.
4. The husband has two loves: His wife and his job.
5. Husbands must prove themselves in the eyes of their wives.
6. Submissive is a one way street.
7. There are no dangers to a lack of submission.
8. The only way for there to be full equality between men and women is to "feminize" men or "manize" women.
9. A wife should boost her husband's feelings of importance and competence for her own good.
10. Discontent can make a person miserable as well as others around him or her.

Lesson Five

The Role of the Wife (#2)

The Wife Needs to be a Homemaker

The role of the wife and the role of a mother is not necessarily the same thing. Our emphasis in these studies is more designed to deal with the role of the wife in the home.

1. List the things that older women are to teach younger women as found in Titus 2:3-5.

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____
- g) _____
- h) _____

The expression, *“keepers at home,”* that is found in the King James Version has posed a problem with women who need or want to work outside the home. It may be worthwhile to spend a little time looking at this expression in the original language and other passages that may help to shed light on the subject. Other translations used the following expressions: *“Homemakers”* (NKJV); *“Workers at home”* (ASV); *“Homekeepers”* (Willians); *“Housekeepers”* (Berkeley); *“Domesticated”* (TCNT); *Home lovers”* (Phillips). The Greek word is made up of two concepts—one of them, obviously, being “home” or “house.” The second part is where the problem comes from—how to properly translate the idea. The term is defined by Young in his concordance as: *“one who keeps his own house.”* A similar concept is found in 1 Timothy 5:14—*“Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”* These young widows were not to be *“idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.”* (1 Timothy 5:13). It would seem obvious from the above thoughts that whether a woman works out of the home or not that one of her primary responsibilities is to “guide, manage, or keep her home,” and not to be idle, a gossip, or a busybody in other people’s lives.

2. What are the reasons given for women to do the things found in Titus 2:3-5?

- a) Titus 2:5 _____
- b) 1 Timothy 5:13 _____
- c) 1 Timothy 5:14 _____

3. What do you consider the primary responsibilities of a “homemaker?”

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

The Wife Needs to Love Her Husband

The passage in Titus 2:4 expresses this injunction from God to wives and mothers—that they are to, “**love their husbands, to love their children....**” There are two Greek words that our word “love” attempts to translate—*Phileo* and *Agape*. *Agape* is the highest concept of love, and is exemplified by God, Himself, by sending His Son to die for us. This kind of love is commanded of God’s people, not only towards our brothers and sisters in Christ, but even to our enemies; while *Phileo* is never commanded (one exception). It is usually a natural development of friendship and companionship between people. The one exception is here in this passage. The wife is commanded to love her husband and children.

1. How can this love be expressed or shown to the husband?

- a) Ephesians 5:24 _____
- b) 1 Cor. 7:3-5 _____
- c) Titus 2:3-5 _____
- d) Proverbs 19:14 _____
- e) Ephesians 5:33 _____

There are some important questions that could be asked to help give insight on how to show concern for one's husband—such as the following:

- 1. **What are his goals in life?**
- 2. **How can I help him reach these goals?**
- 3. **What signs does he give to let me know of a need?**
- 4. **What are his secret ambitions?**
- 5. **How does he differ from me?**
- 6. **Etc.**

A Wife Needs to Primarily Beautify the Inner Person

Males are more oriented towards seeing, while females are more oriented towards feelings. The tendency on the part of women is to over-dress outwardly in order to attract the male, rather than to get his admiration from her inner beauty. God wants to reverse that and says so in two specific New Testament passages: 1 Tim. 2:9-10 and 1 Peter 3:1-6. But there are other passages that also give emphasis to the woman beautifying the inner person.

1. Where should the emphasis be placed on woman's beauty?

- a) Prov. 31:30 _____
- b) 1 Pet. 3:1-6 _____
- c) 1 Tim. 2:9-10 _____
- d) Tit. 2:3-5 _____
- e) Isa. 3:16-24 _____
- f) Prov. 19:13 _____
- g) Prov. 31:25-26 _____
- h) Prov. 31:28-30 _____

There are special passages that need to be considered in light of the two Scriptures above: 1 Tim. 2:9-10 and 1 Pet. 3:1-6. When these passages are properly understood, it will make it easier to understand 1 Tim. 2:9-10 and 1 Pet. 3:1-6. Study carefully the following, and relate them to our two special passages above.

2. How do you understand the following Scriptures?

- a) **John 6:27** _____
- b) **Matthew 6:19-20** _____
- c) **1 Cor. 1:17** _____

Concluding Thoughts: A happy marriage and home is not one-sided—it takes both working at their special roles to find the peace, contentment, and happiness that God has intended to come from this special relationship between a man and a woman in the bonds of marriage. Ladies, evaluate yourselves in the following check list for wives.

CHECK LIST FOR WIVES

YES **NO**

- ____ 1. Are nagging, bickering or being picky a part of your activities in the home?
- ____ 2. Are you in subjection to your husband?
- ____ 3. Do you place him in the position of leadership?
- ____ 4. Do you take life, generally, without complaint?
- ____ 5. Are you a positive, affirming person?
- ____ 6. Are you a forgiving person?
- ____ 7. Do you often interrupt your husband when he is talking or telling a story?
- ____ 8. Do you put your husband down in public?
- ____ 9. Are you sexually responsive to your husband most of the time?
- ____ 10. Are you able to handle problems and pressure, or do you remain indecisive or blame others?
- ____ 11. Do you call your husband by ugly names? (Those he does not like)
- ____ 12. Do you express any resentment against your husband?
- ____ 13. Is your house reasonably organized and clean?
- ____ 14. How do you feel about housework?
- ____ 15. Are you extravagant when it comes to spending money?
- ____ 16. Are you inclined to buy things on impulse, then have trouble paying your bills?
- ____ 17. Do you spend at least one-half of your leisure time together?
- ____ 18. Do you treat his mother with disrespect?
- ____ 19. Are in-laws allowed to interfere or set policies for your family?
- ____ 20. Do you see something funny only at the expense of others?
- ____ 21. If you are wrong, do you find it hard to admit it?
- ____ 22. Do your prime interests in life center around things more than people?
- ____ 23. Have you thought what you would be like in 25 years?
- ____ 24. Is your husband bitter for marrying you?
- ____ 25. Do you store up grudges or resentments?

- ___ 26. Do you resent the submissive role God has selected for you?
- ___ 27. Is your house generally attractive and in order?
- ___ 28. Are you dressing as he would wish you to?
- ___ 29. Do you dress "your" age?
- ___ 30. Are you keeping up-to-date with his interests?
- ___ 31. Do you have good conversations about church and Bible topics?
- ___ 32. Do you have a daily time for Bible study and prayer?
- ___ 33. Do you try to be creative in your approach to everyday problems?
- ___ 34. Do you serve meals that have some variety and attractiveness?
- ___ 35. Are you childish: want your own way; pouting or making a fuss over trifles?
- ___ 36. Are you fun to be around?
- ___ 37. Do you have any bad habits your husband wants you to change?

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

True or False

- ___ **1. A "homemaker" is one who works in the home, not in the market place.**
- ___ **2. The Bible does not say anything about Gossip or being busybodies as being wrong.**
- ___ **3. Older women should teach younger women because they are more experienced.**
- ___ **4. God does not command young women to love their children because they do so naturally.**
- ___ **5. "Phileo" (love) is never commanded in the Scriptures, but one time.**
- ___ **6. A wife can show her love for her husband by showing him respect as leader in the home.**
- ___ **7. The tendency of women is to over-dress outwardly in order to attract the male.**
- ___ **8. It is a sin to dress up the outer man (body).**
- ___ **9. We cannot know when a passage should be taken in a figurative sense.**
- ___ **10. Inward beauty is easier than outward beauty.**

Lesson Six

The Ideal Husband and Wife

Are you married? Have you wondered if you made a wise choice of a husband or wife? Unfortunately, you are too late to undo a bad choice—you are hooked! You have only one thing you can do—***Do all within your power to make your marriage happy and successful!*** It probably wouldn't hurt your mate's feelings either if you would strive to be the **IDEAL** husband or wife!

Have you taken your vows seriously? There are no more solemn moments than when two people vow before God and family and friends....."*I will love, honor, and cherish.....until death do us part!*" Did we realize what we were saying? Are we not saying that I take that person as my partner for life—with all of his strengths, faults, etc., willingly? It is a relationship accepted for better or worse, in sickness or health, or in prosperity or adversity. We both promised to be faithful to each other until death. Just how serious were we when we said those vows?

The Ideal Husband

One of the ironies of life is that our close intimate persons often provoke us more than our enemies. We can easily put up a defense against others, but there is no easy defense of a hurt from a loved one. Thus, there is the possibility that our richest and deepest relationships will be marred with friction because of their closeness.

Obviously, there is no ideal husband or wife, but wouldn't it be nice to be married to such? The Scriptures could be combined together to show us what an **ideal husband** or wife would be like, such as the following:

1. To love his wife as Christ loved the church (Eph. 5:25).
2. To put her first before all others, even parents (Gen. 2:24).
3. To love her as his own body (Eph. 5:28).
4. To provide for her (1 Tim. 5:8).
5. Exercise headship in love, understanding, and regard for her desires (1 Pet. 3:7).
6. Will not be bitter against her (Col. 3:19).
7. Considers her happiness and pleasure (1 Cor. 7:3-5; 33).
8. He honors and cherishes her (Eph. 5:29; 1 Pet. 3:7).

Some ladies were asked to write down some characteristics of an **ideal husband**, and this is what they came up with:

1. He lets my soul be my own and does not attempt complete ownership.
2. Freedom from curiosity.
3. Peaceful and not fault-finding.
4. Covers his tracks and picks up after himself.
5. Finds pleasure in simple things.
6. Billy-goat appetite.

7. Compliments.
8. Knows when to be quiet.
9. Able to discuss any problem easily.
10. Have intelligent talks together.

I am sure that a different group of women today may come up with similar, but probably some different characteristics. The qualities that are listed for elders and deacons would be a good list to help identify the ideal husband as well (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5-9). There are other listings in Scripture that would serve this purpose well also such as: Eph. 4:24-32; Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Pet. 1:5-7; etc.

The Ideal Wife

When a young man is looking for a wife, he has some "ideals" that he would like in a wife, but he obviously does not expect perfection—even though she would come closer to such than he would. There are quite a few passages that give characteristics of what could be considered the ideal wife, such as the following:

1. She is submissive to her husband (Eph. 5:24).
2. She respects her husband (Eph. 5:33).
3. She loves her husband and children (Tit. 2:4).
4. She conducts herself discreetly and is chaste (Tit. 2:5; 1 Pet. 3:3).
5. She is a homemaker (Tit. 2:5; 1 Tim. 5:14).
6. She exhibits a meek and quiet spirit (1 Pet. 3:2).
7. She puts her emphasis upon adorning the inner person (1 Pet. 3:3-4; 1 Tim. 2:9-10).

Several Scriptures in the book of Proverbs deals with the kind of characteristics that a wife should or should not have:

1. To be good and virtuous (Prov. 14:2, 18:22; 19:14; 12:4; 31:10).
2. Fear the Lord and be full of good works (Prov. 31:30).
3. Don't be contentious or clamorous (Prov. 19:13; 21:9; 9:13).
4. Dress and make yourself attractive to your husband (Prov. 19:14; 11:22).
5. Make a special effort to get along with his relatives (Prov. 30:23).
6. Never pout, nag, or quarrel (Prov. 19:13; 21:9).

Someone has worked up a list of words that identifies the ideal wife as given in Prov. 31:

1. Trustworthy
2. Industrious
3. Thrifty
4. Capable
5. Energetic
6. Systematic
7. Acquisitive
8. Healthy
9. Appreciates

10. Watchful
11. Skillful
12. Heart of Charity
13. Has forethought--prepared
14. Appreciates beauty
15. Good reputation
16. Has financial ability
17. Dignity
18. Contentment
19. Wisdom
20. Kindness
21. Spiritual oversight

Jeremy Taylor has beautifully pictured to us the ideal wife in the following short article:

"A good wife is heaven's last best gift to man; his angel and minister of graces innumerable; his gem of many virtues; his casket of jewels; her voice his sweet music; her smiles his brightest day; her kiss the guardian of his innocence; her arms the pale of his safety, the balm of his health, the balsam of his life; her industry, his surest wealth; her economy, his safest steward; her lips, his faithful counselors; her bosom, the softest pillow of his cares; and her prayers the ablest advocates of heaven's blessings on his head."

Concluding thoughts of this chapter: What a wonderful world this would be if all husbands and wives would strive to be the ideal mate, work hard at it, and encourage each other to that end. If the husband would strive to love his wife as he should, he certainly would be blessed a hundred-fold more by doing so. And if the wife will reverence and submit to her husband, she will find that his love will be magnified upon her.

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

True or False

- ___ 1. Every husband or wife expects their mate to be the ideal person.
- ___ 2. One of the ironies of life is that our close intimate persons often provoke us more than our enemies.
- ___ 3. Women like for their husbands to know when to be quiet.
- ___ 4. The wife comes closer to being the ideal person than the husband does.
- ___ 5. Those who take their vows seriously will come closer to being the ideal mate.
- ___ 6. The Bible does not attempt to give us a picture of the ideal mate.
- ___ 7. Both men and women are in general agreement on what makes an ideal mate.
- ___ 8. It is foolish to think that anyone could be an ideal husband or wife.
- ___ 9. It would not be a blessing to be married to an ideal mate.
- ___ 10. Idealism needs to be pitched out the widow and settle with reality.

Lesson Seven

The Parent-Child Relationship (#1)

It is very important that each person in the home come to know and understand their role in the home as God has designed it. We have already looked at the husband-wife relationship. It is important also to recognize some basic things about the parent-child relationship. We need to stress that these roles must be recognized as God-given. The roles should be assumed and carried out as God has directed; otherwise, we are asking for trouble! May I suggest this "no-brainer!"

If God is God; and God is smarter than man; then, what He has given is the best for us to do!

The Rights of the Parents

According to the Word of God, there are at least three things that parents have a right to expect of children: (1) To love their parents; (2) To obey their parents; and (3) To honor their parents. I am aware that all three of these are as one thing, but I would like to look at each one separately for clarification purposes.

Parents have a right to expect their children to love them. While babies and small children seem to naturally be selfish and self-centered, they also can develop an attachment and even affection for their parents. It obviously would be more from a child's view point. The New Testament does talk about "natural affection" or "disobedience to parents" in the following passages—using the Greek word: **astorgos**. **This term is used in reference to affection of the family members.** The two passages below is calling it a sin not to have this affection!

2 Tim. 3:1-3

Rom. 1:30

As children grow up and have children of their own, they normally will come to love their parents deeply and show it in very concrete ways. Charles Hodge told about a most impressive incident in his life that illustrates this point. He watched Brother and Sister R. W. Hartin of Cedar Hill, Texas sign deeds giving their farm to Medina Children's Home and the Dallas Home for the Aged. It was valued at \$500,000.00. Brother Hodge said he was not so much impressed with the largeness of the gift, as he was with the children's reaction to their parents giving away the farm. The Hartins had lived most of their lives very modestly. They had seven children who also had modest means. None of the children tried to sabotage the gift. Instead, they were thrilled at it. All seven children were present at the signing and with deep pride they stood with the other guests as they gave a standing ovation to their parents. All seven children were Christians and all were thrilled with their parents giving away the "home place." Brother Hodge stated: *"It was the greatest thing I ever saw and I am glad my kids saw it."*

We often talk about parent's responsibility to children, but we also need to talk about what parents have a right to expect of their children. These children did not disappoint their parents!

Children should come to love their parents.

1 John 4:7

Jesus demonstrated His love for His mother, even while being crucified, requesting that the Apostle John take care of her for Him (Jn. 19:26-27).

We should love our parents because they first loved us (like God—1 Jn. 4:19). Our parents gave us life and from the earliest moments of this life, they hedged us about with love. They tried to help shape us in the right direction. They refused to ruin us by giving us too much freedom to soon. We may never know how many times they went before God's throne in our behalf. If we do not give them the love they deserve, we may end our days haunted by a painful remembrance of our neglect and abuse of our parents.

Prov. 10:1

Prov. 17:25

Parents have a right to expect their children to obey them. The natural outcome of love for parents is obedience. Jesus learned obedience by His sufferings (Heb. 5:8-9), and sometimes children may have to suffer some chastisement or discipline to learn to be obedient. The following passages emphasize this concept:

Eph. 6:1

Col. 3:20

Prov. 1:8

Heb. 12:7

Prov. 22:15

Children need to be taught at an early age to be obedient to their parents. To disobey is a sin. The call of a loving parent should be gladly heard and should not have to be told over and over. God gives His reasons for this need of obedience: (1) "It is right;" (2) "It is a command;" and (3) "It is well pleasing to the Lord."

A chapel program, at which I was privileged to be, was quite remarkable and sobering. Four young men were speakers for the occasion. They were introduced by Richard Gunn, then director of special prison services for the state of Tennessee. These young men were allowed to visit high schools and colleges and tell their story of: (1) How they became criminals; (2) How they were convicted; (3) How they felt about all of this; and (4) To serve as a warning to young people. The remarks of one of the young men were: *"I was brought up in a Christian home by Christian parents, and I had a good education. But you're not sent to prison for going to school and certainly not for going to church. I'm in prison because I made the wrong decision. I made a foolish choice. I traded my freedom and opportunities for a 'mess of pottage.'" When all four young men had finished speaking, the entire student body burst spontaneously into applause. They were deeply touched.*

Children must be willing to be taught, trained and disciplined so that they can grow up to be responsible people in society.

Parents have a right to expect their children to honor them. Some Parents act so foolishly before their children that it is hard for their children to respect them (Prov. 14:1). Wise Parents will build their houses, teach their children *"the way of wisdom"* and lead them *"in paths of righteousness."* (Prov. 4:11). However, respect for Parents is an understood and accepted principle in all societies. One of the sinful acts listed in Rom. 1:18-32 was being *"disobedient to parents"* (v. 30). It is also seen in God's general condemnation of the world at large in 2 Timothy 3:2. God makes it very clear in His Word (both Old and New Testaments) that he wants children to respect their parents:

a) Exodus 20:12—*"Honor your father and mother...."*

b) Ephesians 6:1-2—*"Children, obey your parents...honor your father and mother..."*

Israel was condemned for their lack of such (Isa. 3:1-5). Eli's children did not respect God, nor their father and were punished by God (1 Sam. 2:12-24; 3:14). One of the things that I have personally appreciated so much is the respect that our children have shown to us, and they have taught their children as well to respect us. It is a great blessing!

How is respect shown? A helpful way of getting an understanding of a word like "respect" is to get a list of synonyms to clarify the gist of the word; such as: Admiration, Hold a High Opinion or Regard for, Deference, Esteem, Reverence, Value, Defer to, Look up to, Appreciate, Recognize, Obey, Acknowledge, etc. The Scriptures give several indications of how this respect is to be shown in the following passages:

- 2 Timothy 3:2** _____
- Ephesians 6:1-2** _____
- Proverbs 31:28** _____
- Proverbs 23:22** _____
- Proverbs 22:1; 19:26** _____
- Matt. 15:3-6** _____
- _____
- _____

We show our respect by words, attitudes, looks, and deeds. We all need to be respected—even our children as well! God can command us to respect, honor, obey our Parents, but respect is something that we also have to earn by our actions, attitudes, looks, and deeds! Gaining our children's respect is not an automatic response on their part. They are not robots, but have a mind of their own with which to observe, reason, and conclude certain things. So, it might be well for us to look at how Parents can gain the respect of their children.

Gaining our children's respect. Hypocritical, insincere, and dishonest Parents will find it very hard to have the respect of their children. Such actions probably will frustrate children rather than evoke respect. There are some basic things that must be in place if we can rightfully hope to win their respect. Let's look at some of these from Scripture:

Genesis 1:26—They deserve our respect because they are also created in the image of God. Job showed respect for servants in his house because of this very thing (Job 31:13-15). If we do not respect them, why should they in turn respect us?

Ephesians 6:4—They should respect us because we help to see after their spiritual well-being. Job showed this concerned for his children (Job 1:5). Abraham is used as an example by God of a father who would teach his children after him (Gen. 18:19). Teachable opportunities that occur every day need to be taken advantage of (Isa. 28:9-10).

Hebrews 12:9—They should respect us because we help teach them to discipline themselves. All proper discipline is an effort to help the person to learn how to discipline themselves. It must be done correctly. God warns fathers not to provoke their children to wrath (Eph. 6:4). Respect will come as the child see the value of discipline and becomes more self-disciplined.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7—Proper teaching in everyday situations can help the child make good application of the Word of God for his life.

Proverbs 19:18—Discipline children early while there is hope of correction. If Parents wait too long to deal with a problem child, they may fail later in helping to make needed changes (Prov. 3:11-12).

How do I show honor or respect to parents? Honor or respect is something that I feel inside of me for another, but for it to be beneficial and pleasing to God, it must be shown.

1. By watching how I talk about them before others. (Jas. 4:11).
2. By watching how I talk to them and my actions toward them ((Exo. 21:15, 17; Deut. 21:18-23).
3. By the kind of life I live before them (Matt. 5:16).
4. By seeing after their needs (1 Tim. 5:8).

Concluding Thoughts: It is possible that neglecting to help our children to respect their parents could result in disrespect for all authority. And the opposite could also be true—helping our children to respect us will make it easier for them to respect others. Most of all, it should lead to a respect for God!

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

True or False

1. Parents have no rights when it comes to their children.
2. Children cannot love their parents until they are out on their own with their own families.
3. Children are naturally selfish when they are little.
4. Children should obey their parents because it is right.
5. Honor and respect go hand in hand.
6. The Bible calls it a sin not to have "natural affection" for family members.
7. Jesus set an example of how a child should treat a parent.
8. Children sometimes have to be disciplined in order to learn obedience....like Jesus.
9. Children should be willing to be taught by their parents.
10. Lack of respect for parents is condemned and can invalidate our worship.

Lesson Eight

The Parent-Child Relationship (#2)

"I have my rights and they ought to be respected!" Yes, we have our rights, but so do all others around us. Should my rights infringe on your rights? Being concerned and respectful of others is also a basic right that we all should enjoy. Our society talks a lot about people's rights! Our Constitution is based on certain **"Inalienable rights."** And...people's rights should be respected by others. Our Law Courts should uphold the correct rights of its citizens.

But what about children, do they have rights? To whom can they appeal if their rights are neglected or taken from them? Will our Law Courts uphold their rights? Just what are their rights? Who determines what these are and who should enforce them? We believe that children have some God-given rights, and we believe that children have a right to expect certain things from their parents. We can't look at all of them obviously, but we do want to look at four of these.

The Rights of the Children

Children have a right to be wanted and loved by their parents! We believe that this right is both commanded by God and is a matter of common sense (Titus 2:4). The ungodly were condemned in Paul's 2nd letter to Timothy because (among other things) they were without natural affection (3:3). If parents are commanded to love their children, there must be a need for such. This right is probably one of the most scientifically proven facts about children. Tests have been run to see what an absence of love would do to small children and the outcome has been shown to be disastrous!

When a society shows less and less love and respect for children, it is a sure sign of disaster ahead. A few years ago, a 28 year old father of three became an object of a manhunt. He had killed his wife and two of his three daughters. The 3rd was found in a trash dump with her throat slashed barely alive. When he was caught, he confessed, but had no regrets! How could anyone kill his own family and have no regrets?

But what about those fathers and mothers who don't really care about their children—neglecting them and not showing true love for them—what is done about them? Instead of being punished, they are often featured in the company newsletter as an example of devotion and efficiency to the COMPANY! They are not reprimanded, but get a raise at work for their dedication beyond the call of duty to the COMPANY! And all the while their children are growing up as strangers in the home. A therapist or a coach may have to try, as best they can, to fill the role of parent. And then, there are those parents that abuse their children: Mentally, Sexually, and Physically—often causing great harm to the child for life. **Children have a God-given right to be loved and wanted by their parents!** The wise man states it clearly: *"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers."* (17:6)

Children need to know they are loved by words, by looks, and by actions. Parents need to make time for them, know their interest, know about their problems, and have a listening ear. Remember, they have needs that need to be met. But what if they do not appreciate our love? That is their problem. They have a choice to accept or reject our love. But they still have a right to be loved by their parents.

Children have a right to be provided for! **“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”** (1 Timothy 5:8). The Apostle also stated a general truth in 2 Corinthians 12:14: **“For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.”** These provisions are obviously food, clothing, and shelter (the necessities of life)! And where parents love their children, they will provide for them and even sacrifice for them.

But there is a danger here that must be avoided! Love does not mean I give my children everything they want! To give them “brand-named” clothes when it puts the household budget in the red is not good common sense nor good use of money. Children need to be provided enough so they will be appreciative. But when they are not appreciative, they probably are getting too much and being spoiled. Parents have the obligation to provide what they need, not necessarily what they want. When healthy, wholesome food is put on the table, it shows love and concern for the child. But when they are continually fed junk food, it shows a lack of love or concern for their well-being. Such is not love, but indulging and spoiling children.

What if children do not appreciate how we provide for them? If the parent has used the best judgment and common sense in what he provides, and the child does not appreciate such—then, that becomes their problem. But they have a right to be provided for by parents.

Children have a right to be taught and trained correctly! There is a strong emphasis upon this in Scripture (Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:21; Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Proverbs 1:7-8; 22:6, etc.). The reason may be because it is more critical than the rest. Unfortunately, this is the most neglected by busy, unconcerned parents. Following are some suggestions of what children need to be taught and trained in:

1. Children need to be trained early in life on what is right and wrong, what is kind and courteous, what is appropriate, and things to avoid.
2. They need to be taught how to make good, solid, sound, and lasting decisions for their lives.
3. They need to be taught to follow rules laid down for their good.
4. They need to be given meaning and purpose for their lives. Don't let them grope around, seeking a reason for their existence. (This seems to be one of the reasons for suicide among teens).
5. They need to be taught how to treat others about them:
 - a) With honesty and truth;
 - b) With respect and concern;
 - c) As they would like to be treated!
6. They need to have their horizons broaden through varied experiences in life.
7. They need to be challenged to set and achieve worthwhile goals in life.
8. They need to have help from parents to build good self-esteem and confidence in themselves.

9. They need help to deal with peer pressure.
10. They need help to build a strong faith in God.

It is important that parents be in charge! They are the more experienced, more mature, and more knowledgeable. And yet, all the time parents are trying to work themselves out of a job:

- a) By preparing the child to handle responsibilities in real life;
- b) Teaching skills that help them to become independent;
- c) Teaching them courage, a sense of responsibility, willingness to cooperate, ability to communicate, and the ability to make good decisions.

It is important that children are taught to respect their parents (Proverbs 19:26; 20:20; 30:17, etc.). A lack of respect will boil over into other areas.

Failure to give proper discipline shows a lack of love (Proverbs 13:24; 2:11-12; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15, 17). God has warned parents about indulging their children. A child has a right to be disciplined by parents when needed. When we fail to do so:

- a) We permit selfishness, envy, and anger to control their lives.
- b) Instead of helping them, we hurt them.
- c) Instead of loving them, we hate them. (Don't flatter yourself by saying: "*Oh, I love my child too much to discipline*")—No! God says you hate your child! He deserves better of you!
- d) The child can become cruel, rude, overbearing, and untruthful. A child deserves to be disciplined to save his soul from death. A parent who will not do so is not a wise parent nor a loving parent.

What if they do not appreciate our teaching, training and discipline? That is then their problem....when we have done the best we can in love. They make the choice to accept or reject our efforts. But they have a right to be taught, trained, and disciplined for here and eternity.

Children have a right to have proper parental examples set before them! We know the importance of examples not only from everyday life with people, but from straight-forward Biblical teaching (1 Peter 2:21; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Timothy 4:12, etc.). One of the greatest institutions is the home. One of its most effective tools of teaching is a godly example by parents. Children have a God-given right to expect this of their parents. Evaluate the listing that follows:

- a) Parents who respect God, Christ, the Church, the Word of God, Messengers of God, etc.
- b) Parents who have godly attitudes and godly lives.
- c) Parents who are not hypocrites or always complaining about others.
- d) Parents who serve as a positive model—not a negative one. An unfaithful father not only can destroy his marriage, but teach his daughter to distrust men and teach his son to doubt the desirability of a family.
- e) Parents need to show proper masculine and feminine roles in the family (Leadership and submissiveness).

Parents can either build or destroy their children's lives by their examples. A 17-year-old delinquent girl out west told her probation officer that she had never known a day when her parents did not fight. Such is sad!

Concluding Thoughts: Children have a right to be (1) wanted and loved; (2) provided for; (3) taught, trained, and disciplined to be prepared for life; and (4) proper examples set before them! When parents have done the best they can in love and children do not appreciate nor accept what parents try to do, then the burden is upon the child. One thing for sure...they may chose not to follow the way they were taught and examples set before them; but, they won't find it easy to put aside these things without dealing with their consciences!

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

True or False

1. Children have a right to be wanted and loved by their parents.
2. Lack of respect for children is a sure sign of disaster ahead for society.
3. Parents who do not really care about their children are often featured in their company newsletter as an example for other employees.
4. While parents are trying to train their children, they are trying to work themselves out of a job.
5. Parents should be punished who neglect the rights of their children.
6. Parents who supply everything their children want are not providing the best training for them.
7. Parents who honor their children need to be in charge.
8. When parents do not give proper discipline to their children, they are teaching them to disrespect their parents.
9. One of the most effective tools that parents have is their godly example.
10. When parents do the best they can, the burden then is upon the child to do right.

Lesson Nine

Love in the Home

Both parents and children have a God-given right to be in a home that is filled with God's love. One of the basic needs of man is to have a sense of belonging, a sense of being wanted, a sense that someone cares. But we have a problem with the use of the word "love" in the English language. It can be used in various ways! We need to make a distinction in what we mean by the word "love." The Greeks had words to indicate these differences--Eros, Storge, Philia, Agape. We need to see how each of these words plays a vital role in building a wonderful home.

Love in the Home**A. Eros**

- 1) Not used in New Testament
- 2) Word carried over into our language: Erotic, Eroticism.
- 3) It deals with sexual interest, arousal, or fulfillment.
- 4) "Passionate feelings which desires the other person for themselves."
- 5) "Seeks to satisfy a strong urge or need within—with a certain person."

B. Storge

- 1) Use in N.T.
 - a) Rom. 1:30—astorgos—"without natural affection" (unloving—NKJV)
 - b) Rom. 12:10—philostorgos—"kindly affectioned"
 - c) 2 Tim. 3:3—astorgos—"without natural affection" (unloving—NKJV)
- 2) "That feeling that draws 'blood relatives' together even when **Agape** or **Philia** are not present."
- 3) The natural bond!

C. Philia

- 1) Used many times in N.T.
 - a) Tit. 2:4—Philia—"To love....husbands....children."
 - b) Rom. 12:10—Philostorgos—"Kindly affectioned"
- 2) Defined:
 - a) "Affection, delight in the presence of another, a warm feeling, tender affection, closeness."
 - b) Friendship or companionship usually involved.
 - c) "It is something spontaneous and not something under control of one's will."
 - d) "Cannot be commanded—other than to put yourself in a frame of mind or circumstances that helps to promote such."

D. Agape

- 1) Used rarely by the Greeks in their writings.
- 2) Used many times in the N.T.
- 3) It is more clearly defined by it's used in the N.T.
- 4) Defined:
 - a) "Godly love"
 - b) Not affection or sexual feelings—Not an impulse of feelings.

- c) It is an exercise of the mind or the will.
- d) “I will try to think, speak, and act towards another in a way that is best for them, not for me necessarily, regardless of my feelings for or about them.”
- 5) Commanded by God. (Jn. 13:34)

Storge’s role in building a loving Home!

- 1) “The family connection.”
- 2) God’s condemnation of the Gentiles—“They were without natural affection.”
 - a) Family bonding was not there.
 - b) There needs to be close family ties for the good of all.
 - c) “*As goes the family, so goes the nation.*”
 - d) Might say this of the church as well!
 - e) The home must foster this feeling of family.
- 3) Illustration:
 - a) A family may fuss and fight with one another, but be together against an outsider.
 - b) A Married child might drive a distance to be with parents, but argue with them while there.
 - Then, do the same next month or next year.
 - Why? Storge—family connection.
 - Storge does not guarantee that Philia will be there.

Storge & Philia combined.

- 1) God wants His people to have a similar sense of family, but he tied Philia with it!! (Rom. 12:10).
- 2) It may be important to realize—must not try to force Storge on non-blood relatives—could create a problem.
 - a) But both Philia or Agape can be involved.
 - b) This is illustrated in adoptive children.
 - c) And may explain why they seek for their real parents—it is a strong urge.

Philia’s role in building a loving Home!

- 1) Friendship, companionship, affection that comes naturally—not forced or coerced.
- 2) This can develop naturally in a family that creates the proper atmosphere for Philia to grow.
- 3) A need to form habits of showing affection early with children.
- 4) Parents show affection—Philia not Eros—before their children!
- 5) When Storge and Philia are combined and practiced in the home, it will be strong.
- 6) Danger—the hot and cold of Philia at times.
 - a) “*I no longer love my husband or my wife.*”
 - b) Philia has waned between then.
 - c) They need to do those things that help Philia to come back naturally.
 - d) Do what you did at first to bring it on—Court your wife anew!!
 - e) Illustration:
 - “*I no longer love my husband.*”
 - “*I want to get a divorce.*”

- “He has hurt me, and no longer loves me.”
 - “What should I do?”
 - Do the things that create Philia again!
 - Outdo him in doing good to him.
 - Do to him what you would want done to you.
- f) Even in this situation—Agape is usually still present in some instances.
- g) Agape can help to bring back Philia also.

Agape’s role in building a loving Home!

- 1) Agape—The love of God for those who did not deserve it.
- 2) Agape—That which desires the good, even of one’s enemies.
- 3) Agape—A decision to do good, not evil, to others even if they do not deserve it.
- 4) This love is primarily of the mind—the will!
- 5) It is the one that can rebuild Philia in a marriage or home.
- 6) It is the one that can stabilize a home in any situation.
- 7) It is the one that can carry a family through the rough times.
- 8) Every home can become strong through Agape!

Eros’ Role in building a loving Home!

- 1) Eros needs to be between a husband and wife.
 - a) Unfulfilled desires here can bring disaster—Break-up of home, unfaithfulness of one or both, divorce, etc.
 - b) Constant bickering and arguing—even in front of children.
- 2) The need of Eros in a marriage can help avoid sexual deviations:

a) Fetishism	f) Exhibitionism
b) Pedophilia	g) Incest
c) Transvestism	h) Masochism
d) Voyeurism	i) Bestiality
e) Sadism	j) Rape
- 3) Eros needs to have Philia & Agape to make the sexual act totally satisfying.
 - a) Seeking to please one another.
 - b) Do for your mate what you would like done for you.
 - c) This may be ecstatic at one time when all combines.
- 4) Philia with Eros is the best definition of Romantic love.
 - a) The great mysterious force that all normal people long for and seek after.
- 5) To reduce love to Eros (sexual) can lead to homosexuality.

Concluding Thoughts: Proper understanding of love in its over-all picture can certainly help build a strong marriage. This is especially true where each of these areas are worked at.

1 Cor. 8:1—“*Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.*” (Builds up) (Makes strong).

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

True or False

1. Love compels parents to provide for the wants of their children.
2. Parents who love their children will not use physical punishment to correct them.
3. The satisfying of Eros in a marriage can help avoid sexual deviations.
4. There is no stronger human love known than the love of a mother for her child.
5. Agape was rarely used by the Greeks in their writings.
6. Philia is an affection that is natural, not forced or coerced.
7. A married child might drive a distance to be with parents, but argue with them while there.
8. Storge may be the reason why adoptive children seek for their real parents.
9. Philia can be hot and cold at times.
10. The best is found in a marriage that combines Storge, Philia, Agape, and Eros.

Lesson Ten

Fatherhood at its Best

"*You are going to be just like your dad!*" This can be a compliment or a derogatory statement. But such a statement shows fathers do have influence upon their children. And potentially—what a wonderful influence they can have for good! We attended the funeral of an elder in Indiana, PA—Ralph Stutzman (Monday, June 12, 2000). Some wonderful things were said about his attitudes and life that were good and correct. But one thing impressed me:

- I saw his children sitting together.
- They were all faithful Christians, involved in the church!
- And training their children to be Christians as well.

Ralph not only blessed the church by his own attitudes & actions; but, through his children & children's children, he has & will bless the church. What an encouraging sight that was! Prov. 20:7—"*The just man walks in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.*" What a challenge father's have! We will be looking at our topic using the expression: "**You are fortunate indeed, if....**" I hope these thoughts will be an encouragement to us all.

You are fortunate indeed, if you have a Father in your home! God intended that there would be a father & mother in each home. Special provisions were made in the O.T. to compensate for the loss of a father in the home.

Deut. 25:5-6

Our society today is gravely affected by fathers being absent in the home. There are various reasons that could be given for such:

1. Some through divorce—splitting up the home.
2. Some just leave their family—abdicate their responsibilities.
3. Some through unfortunate death.

So many children & teen-agers live in a fatherless home. Those homes no longer have a father-image to be set before them. They no longer have the leadership & security that God designed fathers for. ***Fortunate indeed are you if you have a father in your home.***

You are fortunate, if you have a Father who really cares! God placed the responsibility primarily on the father to care for his family. He is the head of his family.

1 Cor. 11:3

Eph. 5:23

The man has been designed by God to take the lead & responsibility of his family.

1 Tim. 5:8

Jack Exum said that he wanted to be like his dad early in life. His dad had a hairy chest—so he wanted a hairy chest. Someone told him if he would eat boiled okra, it would make hair grow on his chest. He didn't like it—but would eat 2nd & 3rd helpings. Then, he would watch his chest to see the hair grow. Of course—it didn't! But the power of influence is well illustrated!

Unfortunately, in some homes, fathers have fallen down on the job. They have not provided for their families because of: immaturity, indifference, sorriness, laziness, selfishness, drunkenness, drugs, etc. Which is worse? No father in the home, or—A father who does not really care?

1 Sam. 3:12-14

You are fortunate indeed if you have a father who cares!

- 1) Who is trying to live up to his God-giver responsibilities;
- 2) Who provides food, clothing & shelter—and a stable home;
- 3) Children need to know that their father loves them and cares for them.

Three young children are anxiously looking out the window. Their noses pressed to the windowpane as they look for their father to come home. He is coming home from a hard day's work for his family. As he enters—he feels welcomed & loved by his family. As these children grow into teen-agers & adulthood—will they still appreciate & love their father?

Prov. 10:1

You are fortunate indeed, if you have a Father that sets a good example! God has placed a heavy responsibility upon fathers.

Prov. 22:1

Prov. 19:1

Fathers need to care & show it by providing for his family. But he also has the responsibility of passing on a good name to his children. Children need to be able to take pride in their father's life lived before them.

God has placed the responsibility of teaching on fathers.

Eph. 6:4

Fathers can't teach what they do not know. They need to know the Lord, His Word, and how He wants us to live. Children need moral & spiritual training. They need to be taught manners, courtesy, obedience, respect, unselfishness. Children are the products of what they are taught.

Prov. 22:6

Prov. 13:1

Prov. 19:8

God has placed the responsibility of discipline upon fathers.

Prov. 13:24

Children need to be taught & disciplined to do right. Discipline needs to begin early. It needs to be based upon truth and accompanied by respect and love. It is being done to accomplish future good for the child. But the teaching & training process can be undermined by a wrong example of the father. A failure to teach, train, and discipline can produce:

- a) Juvenile delinquents.
- b) Criminals
- c) Irreligious persons
- d) Dependent orphan children
- e) Immorality of all kinds.
- f) Even the downfall of a nation.

But even so—a bad example (hypocrisy) will do the same.

- a) Children need fathers who set an example for them to follow.
- b) They need to see fathers who love their mothers.
- c) They need to feel loved and secure in their father's care.
- d) They even need to see tears of penitence & asking for forgiveness.
- e) They need a father who can sincerely say: *"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."* (1 Cor. 11:1)

Concluding Thoughts: You are fortunate indeed if you have such a father! May we indeed honor such fathers! And may we, even more, honor the Father of us all—by submitting our lives to His Will! (Ps. 128:1-4).

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

True or False

- ___ 1. Parental examples are vital for children to see.
- ___ 2. Of late, a child is fortunate if he even has a father in the home.
- ___ 3. Fathers can bless their home by providing a great example for all to follow.
- ___ 4. Absent fathers cannot provide leadership and security that children need.
- ___ 5. Children need to be able to take pride in their father's life lived before them.
- ___ 6. Fathers can only effectively teach what they have experienced.
- ___ 7. Children are the product of what they both see and hear.
- ___ 8. Children need especially to have a father that loves their mother.
- ___ 9. Children need to see tears of penitence and asking for forgiveness by a father.
- ___ 10. Children need fathers who can sincerely say: *"Imitate me, just as I also imitate my father before me."*

Lesson Eleven

Motherhood at its Best

Society has set aside a special day to give honor to mothers. We believe it is fitting to do this because God decreed such long before man did—to honor mothers.

Exo. 20:12 _____

Eph. 6:1-3 _____

Those who respect God & His Word will honor their mothers! Let's take a look at how Jesus pointed out "***Motherhood at its best***" in a story about a mother and daughter (Matt. 15:21-28). The mother was greatly concerned about her daughter who was ill. She was a Canaanite woman. Mark said she was a Greek (or Gentile). (Mk. 7:24). More specifically, she was a Syropheonician by nationality. What was significant about this? She was not a Jew, nor a Jewish proselyte. Yet, she had characteristics of LOVE & FAITH that are greatly to be praised. She lived along the coasts (border) between Galilee & Tyre & Sidon. We do not know that Jesus actually went into the Gentile settlements. He came close to the borders where they lived. The woman "***came out of the same coast***"—possibly indicating she left her village to go into a more Jewish village.

Jesus showed the woman's great example of humility, love and faith! She cried to Jesus for mercy! Living this close to the Jewish settlements:

1. She was probably aware of the Jewish hope of a Messiah;
2. That He would be a Son of David..... (Mark 3:8);
3. She obviously had had some exposure to what Jesus was doing.

Her cry: "***Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a demon***" did not fall on deaf ears. And notice that she was asking for mercy upon herself! the reason would be obvious—she was hurting because her daughter was hurting. Love deeply identifies with its object!

The condition of her daughter is described as:

1. Mark 7:25—"***Had an unclean spirit***"
2. Matt. 15:22—"***grievously vexed with a demon.***"

She wanted Jesus to cast the evil spirit (Demon) out of her daughter. Demon-possession, as described in the Gospels, was a very pitiful sight. This terrible condition of her daughter helped her to:

1. Overcome the PREJUDICE of her neighbors;
2. Overcome the INSULTS of the Jewish people;
3. Overcome the PRIDE of her heart.

The response of Jesus and His Apostles was unusual, at first. Jesus ignored her—said nothing—He was silent. It isn't very pleasant to be ignored! It hurts our pride—we are SOMEBODY! Such can be humiliating. But Jesus had a purpose—to bring out her great Faith & Perseverance. The Apostles were put out with her. They had come to this area for privacy—but she was messing it up. The Apostles wanted Jesus to send her away--either by totally refusing her; or, by healing her

daughter and getting rid of her. Jesus' reply to the Apostles (which the woman probably heard) was: **"I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel."** Jesus did not come to work among the Gentiles—but Jews. Gentiles were not in Jesus' plans at this time. What a blow—enough to send most people away! But not this woman! She cries again for help: **"Lord, help me."** She was persistent. She shamelessly kept asking for help. She even fell at his feet to pay homage to him—appealing to His compassion.

Jesus talks to her, now! But, oh how different from what she wanted to hear! **"It is not fitting to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs."** The Jews were the children of God. The Gentiles were the outcasts—the dogs. This was a very humiliating statement. And yet, it did not stop this woman! Just how much more can this woman take? Just how great was her love for her daughter? Her response was remarkable! That which could have been taken as a great insult—she turned around. Yes, Lord I know you don't take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs; That would not be fitting! But, even the dogs are allowed to eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table and that takes nothing away from the children! Whatever scraps Jesus had left—she would accept! Anything to help her daughter!

Her great reward! Jesus remarked about how great her faith was! She had caught a true glimpse of her sinful life in God's eyes. She, as well as we all, are all unworthy in God's sight.

Matt. 18:4

Was it worth the great humiliation she went through? Yes! It was all worth it! She had been victorious! She had found the mercy & blessings of God for her life! Jesus said: **"Be it unto thee even as thou wilt."** The Demon was cast out—without Jesus having to be there. What great HUMILITY, LOVE, FAITH!

Concluding Thoughts: Why shouldn't mothers be honored who would do what this woman did? A mother wanted to spend Saturday afternoon downtown, shopping. Her husband reluctantly agreed to give up his golf and spend the afternoon with the children. Upon the mother's return, the husband handed her the following report:

- Dried tears—9 times.
- Tied shoes—13 times.
- Toy balloons purchased—3 per child.
- Average life of balloon—13 seconds.
- Cautioned children not to cross street—21 times.
- Children crossed street—21 times.
- Number of Saturdays I will do this again—0 times.

There is no stronger human love known than the love of a mother for her child. There is no segment of our society that is more fitting to be honored. What an example for daughters to emulate! To witness such love & devotion is worthy of emulation. To see the willingness to shamelessly humble one's self to gain help for her child is a great challenge for all. The rewards of Motherhood can be great!

- a) But it will have its times of agony, trial, frustration, sorrow.
- b) But it will also have its great times of joy & gladness.
- c) True loving Motherhood pays a great dividend in the lives of children.

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

True or False

- ___ 1. God has placed the responsibility of discipline upon mothers in particular.
- ___ 2. Jesus' illustration of motherhood through this Syro-Phonessian woman shows clearly the great love of a devoted mother.
- ___ 3. Even though this woman was not a Jew, nor a Jewish proselyte, yet she had the characteristics of love and faith that demanded great praise.
- ___ 4. The woman knew that Jesus was a son of David.
- ___ 5. Jesus, at first, ignored the woman.
- ___ 6. Jesus said to the woman that He could only give the crumbs to her.
- ___ 7. This woman was rewarded for her faith, humility, and love by making her a Jewish proselyte.
- ___ 8. Father's love for children is probably not as strong as a mother's love is.
- ___ 9. Loving motherhood pays great dividend in the lives of Christian, because she stays home with them.
- ___ 10. There is no ideal mother!

Lesson Twelve

The Training of Children (#1)

We are firmly convinced that one of the primary reasons that children are lost to the Lord's church is the lack of proper training in the home. Parents obviously appreciate whatever help they can get at times, but when there is not a shouldering of this responsibility by parents, it brings dire circumstances. Good parental training is a must in every home, especially in the one that is suppose to be "Christian!" General facts show that the need is becoming greater each year.

2 Tim. 3:1-4

Years ago, America was considered a very good Law-abiding nation, but today, that image is continually being down-graded! It is a great privilege that human's have to bring children into the world; but, it is a crime against humanity when these parents will not shoulder the grave responsibility to teach and train their children. Divorce, Separation, Working mothers with small children are continuing to take its toll on the home. The change for the better has to start in the home and its Righteous training!

Eph. 6:4

Prov. 22:6

Deut. 6:4-9

Areas of Training: Mental, Physical, Spiritual, Social

Quote: *"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."* We have no intentions of laying all the problem of teens at the feet of parents, but without doubt, the major part does lie there! 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 hard to develop all of these areas equally and correctly. Jesus is our perfect example:

Luke 2:52

One lady stated: *"I don't teach my children, I let the school do that!"* She is very badly mistaken! She is teaching whether she realizes it or not. She couldn't stop teaching her children

unless she died. The real issue is.....**What kind of teaching and training is she doing?** This is the vital question! It should be obvious to all of us that we 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;
6. By our affection for them, or lack of it.

And, at the same time, they are learning from our teaching the following:

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;
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 or else someone will teach them incorrectly.

Our teaching needs to be well-rounded (covering all the bases). The following suggestions help us to see the need for a complete training, as much as possible.

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, rather than be influenced wrongly.
4. Help him to:
 - a) Avoid bad or undesirable habits (Swearing, Drinking, Smoking, Lying, 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, sense of humor, and good taste.
 - d) And have a good spiritual outlook on life.

This teaching must be by:

1. A saturation method. In doors, out of doors, 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, 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: The next lesson will continue with the concept of training, stressing the means and methods that need to be used to be as effective as possible in the training process.

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

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 a form of 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.**

Lesson Thirteen

The Training of Children (#2)

Essential Elements in Child Training

For parental teaching to be most effective, the following things would seem to be very important to help accomplish this end:

1. **We teach by "Words!"** Ideas can be relayed to another person by words. These words can be powerful (Rom. 1:16). But these words must be used correctly to teach correct ideas (Deut. 6:6-7).
2. **We teach by an example that is consistent with my words!** Inconsistencies between words and actions cause confusion. Children seem to be able to deal a little better with the inconsistencies of those about him, but not with those in his parents (Matt. 23:23).
3. **We teach by portraying correct images.** We must portray correct images of what a man should be and what a woman should be. None of this "uni-six" business. They need to know who they are, accept it, and be proud of it. They need to see the correct image of a good father and mother (Gen. 18:19). Abraham portrayed the true father image before others. Today, we have too many Dagwood Bumsteads and Archie Bunkers that appear foolish, to be laughed at, and not respected and followed. Our children want to imitate, but they need correct images to imitate. They need to see what a true, devoted Christian is like so they can be challenged to be such.
4. **We teach respect for law by our words and actions.** They need to see in parents, not only respect for God's law, but also man's law. Respect for law is showing respect for authority. The home is the primary place to learn this respect. They need to see the rewards for obedience to authority; that it is not bribery, but a right conscience, long life, and an eternal inheritance. They need to see that to disobey is to dishonor. Children need to understand that Law is the dividing line between good and bad, right and wrong, what they can do and what they cannot do, and between respect and disrespect, etc.
5. **We teach by disciplining.** Discipline is helping the child to learn what to do and not what to do (Prov. 22:15). Discipline serves as the reminder....*"Don't do that again."* This discipline must and does come out of love for the child (Prov. 13:24). When parents fail to discipline, it shows insecurity in their authority. It also shows a real concern for the child.

We believe that the following thoughts are also essential elements in child training:

1. **Let children know what is expected of them.** They are happiest when they know the extent of limits. The most confused and unhappy children are those who have no reasonable, consistent discipline.
2. **Explain the reasons for rules.** Rules and regulations are necessary, but should not be meaningless. Without such, a child will not always do what is right.

3. **Make regulations flexible.** Parents need to be firm, but not unreasonable. There are times when there can and should be exceptions to rules.
4. **Avoid unnecessary clashes of will.** Do not make issues out of non-essentials. Help to channel the child's initiatives.
5. **Substitute Acceptable activities for the less acceptable ones.**
6. **Teach children to be thoughtful of others and their property.** Thoughtfulness is not natural, but must be learned. Show the outcome of such actions.
7. **Give children responsibility.** A child needs to feel that he has a place to fill. Avoid undue pressure with responsibilities.
8. **Avoid excessive criticism.** It is natural to scold a child, but it can be discouraging. Criticism offers no solution.
9. **Be a good listener to your children.** A child needs to talk and needs to be heard by Parents. Insight and understanding is gained by such.
10. **Give children a part in family planning.** Children are part of a family. Show several choices where a decision has to be made.
11. **Spend time with your children.** Association often means love to them. You will also be able to better influence them and understand them.
12. **Assure your child that he is loved regardless of his behavior.** Good discipline is helped by security. Show the difference between the person and the act.
13. **Look for the causes of misbehavior.** Try to always understand why children do what they do. Understanding and removing these causes will help in the challenge of discipline.
14. **Work towards self-discipline.** Self-discipline must be the goal for the good of the child. They must be prepared to meet life well when they leave home.
15. **Consider your punishment carefully.** We learn through the penalties of our mistakes. Help them to learn there are consequences for misdeeds.
16. **Seek professional help.** Certain children may need special help. Physical causes may be involved in misbehavior.
17. **Realize the impact of a Christ-centered living upon discipline.** Discipline needs to be a way of life. It is learning to control one's self, to be unselfish, and to be mature. When parents can set proper examples, the child can learn easier.
18. **Pray for your child!**

Things to Avoid in Child Training

Sometimes it is important for parents to look at themselves first to find possible answers as to why they are having problems with their children. The following list of thoughts may be helpful in evaluating ourselves as parents:

1. **Do I give my child plenty of money to spend as he likes?**
2. **Do I permit him to choose his companions without restraint or guidance.**
3. **Do I let him spend many hours on the streets with companions of low ideals?**
4. **Do I make no inquiry as to where and with whom he spends his leisure time?**
5. **Do I allow him to go out nights as he pleases and return when he gets ready?**
6. **Do I teach him to expect pay for all the work he does at home and for all the service he does for others?**
7. **Do I allow him to think that good manners are a substitute for good morals?**

- 8. Do I let him see that church attendance is non-essential and unimportant?**
- 9. Do I not trouble him to get interested in the Bible and the saving of his soul?**

The following thoughts are given as reasons for problem children (child delinquency):

- 1. Parents use no discipline or discipline is very severe.**
- 2. Dictatorial and rigid parents. They fail to know the meaning of teaching, advising, and leading their children.**
- 3. Constant tension created in the home by quarrels and disagreements of maladjusted parents.**
- 4. Permit children to associate with companions who are likely to exert a bad influence.**
- 5. Parents who have no interest in religion, take no active part in the work of the church, and do not insist on their children doing so.**
- 6. Parents who are drunkards or habitual heavy drinkers, chronic parasites on the community, and have low moral standards.**
- 7. Parents who fail to make their children feel loved, wanted, or an important part of the family unit.**
- 8. Parents who pet and pamper their children. Too much freedom and lack of seeing after. Let them have their way. Children that rule the home.**
- 9. Older children in the family are delinquents or criminals who set a bad example for the younger children.**
- 10. Parents who see little value in education and do not cooperate with school authorities in keeping children in school.**
- 11. Broken homes by separation, divorce, death, poverty, or other circumstances.**
- 12. When both parents work away from home and have little time to be with or supervise their children.**
- 13. When the family lives in a crowded house, delinquent area of the community, and in a state of dire poverty.**
- 14. Parents who allow their children to roam streets late at night and return home in early morning hours.**
- 15. Parents who protect their children in everything or reject them by constant criticism and condemnation.**

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 help our children to grow out of **selfishness** (Heb. 5:12-14; 6:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:1-2). We need to make sure that they know that we love them dearly (Tit. 2:4).

QUESTIONS IN REVIEW

True or False

- 1. It is not all that important to teach respect for law.**
- 2. Children should be given rules to follow in the home.**
- 3. Excessive criticism does not really solve the problem with a child.**
- 4. The ultimate goal of discipline is self-discipline.**
- 5. Parents must not try to make every decision for a child.**
- 6. Broken homes can be one of the biggest reasons for child delinquency.**
- 7. Selfishness is natural for a small child, but it should not be for an older child or an adult.**
- 8. Everyone will make a choice of a standard by which to make their decisions.**
- 9. Children need help to make the right decision of a standard for decision-making.**
- 10. Parents who are not a good listener to their children will often lose them.**

