



Eleventh Annual

Greater Kanawha Valley Lectures

August 5 through 8, 1997

The Family



Washington Street Church of Christ

601 Washington Street

Saint Albans, West Virginia 25177

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Under the Oversight of the Elders
Washington Street Church of Christ
601 Washington Street
Saint Albans, West Virginia 25177

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Christ the Head of the Family

Gary Workman

- I. Christ should become the head of the family from the moment the family unit begins.
 - A. Young people should make a firm decision to marry only a Christian.
 - B. Marriage plans should not be made without frequent and serious spiritual discussions.
 - C. Love and courtship should progress only with a clear understanding that Christ will be the head of the home.
 - D. The wedding ceremony should reflect the desires of each partner to establish a Christian home.
- II. If Christ is the head of the family, faith in God and respect for the Bible will be an essential element in the home.
 - A. The entire family will attend church regularly.
 - B. Time will be set aside each day for home Bible study and worship.
 - C. Children will be trained early in the admonition of the Lord and encouraged to become active Christians.
 - D. Guidelines for the children's behavior will be set and enforced.
- III. If Christ is the head of the family, each member of the family will conform to the Bible concerning his role.
 - A. Husbands and wives will demonstrate love and cooperation as God intended.
 - B. Fathers and mothers will love their children and provide for both physical and spiritual needs.
 - C. Children will obey their parents in the Lord, willingly and happily.
- IV. If Christ is the head of the family, each one's speech will reflect it.
 - A. Family members will work at communicating effectively so as to understand each other well.
 - B. Family members will speak with love and kindness, even under stress.
 - C. Abusive speech and filthy words of the world will never be used in the home.
 - D. Praying together as a family will be a regular event.

V. If Christ is the head of the family, it will be evident by the way we set our time priorities.

- A. The family will plan the activities of the week so that there is no conflict with the activities of the church.
- B. Occupational duties or school activities will not be allowed to encroach on church or family time.
- C. Recreational activities will be planned so as to involve both family and fellow-Christians.
- D. House guests will not interfere with commitment to the Lord.

VI. If Christ is the head of the family, care will be taken not to undermine faith and enthusiasm by undue criticism.

- A. Conscientious parents will refrain from criticizing the church or its leaders in front of the children.
- B. Discouraging words and critical attitudes will be held to a minimum in child discipline.
- C. Parents should keep their disagreements between themselves and not argue in front of the children.

VII. If Christ is the head of the family, we will remember the golden rule.

- A. Each member of the family will strive to be unselfish.
- B. Loyalty to God and the family will be practiced in social circles, in the workplace and at school.
- C. Love — all three kinds — will be practiced.

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Humanism and Evolution **by Tim Nichols**

INTRODUCTION: The philosophy of humanism and the theory of evolution are two bodies of false ideas that threaten the home as God would have the home to exist. In effect, each relies upon the other and they give the illusion of supporting one another.

- A. Humanism declares that man is the highest order of being and evolution presumes to provide the framework of scientific proof for this declaration.
 - 1. Both tend to speak and write of religious belief in a very condescending way.
 - 2. One who has never really considered the evidence involved might almost admire them for their apparent concern for the ignorant and deluded believer in God.
 - a. As a general rule they respond to attempts made to get them to debate the evidence by saying that those who believe in God simply do not belong in the discussion.
 - b. They regularly suggest that there is a need to separate religion (at least religion that involves a belief in God) from both science and public debate (and education).
 - c. At the same time, they feel free to regularly proclaim the nonexistence of God!

- B. In this lesson we will examine humanism and evolution, show how they threaten the home, and attempt to help us to be prepared to meet their threats with truth.

- I. What is "humanism?"
 - A. As humanists describe themselves in Humanist Manifesto I and II, we can easily see what they believe and what their goals are.
 - 1. They reject the notion that God exists.
 - 2. They see man as simply another animal who is the product of natural forces.
 - 3. Humanism considers "the complete realization of human personality to be the end of man's life and seeks its development and fulfillment in the here and now."

4. They are not opposed to religion, as long as God is removed from it. In fact they have a desire to take over religion, deport God from it, and use what is left for their purposes. "Certainly religious institutions, their ritualistic forms, ecclesiastical methods, and communal activities must be reconstituted as rapidly as experience allows, in order to function effectively in the modern world."

B. Humanism has influenced the thinking of millions who are not aware of actual source of their ideas.

1. The assumption that the highest goal of man is his own happiness and achievement seems to be accepted by many as an unquestioned truism.

2. Self-help, "you can do it" programs tell us that "what the mind can conceive, man can achieve."

3. These can seem so positive, so motivating, and so elevating that men seem to seize them as truths without questioning them.

II. What is "evolution?"

A. Briefly, the theory of evolution holds that random natural forces have created all life (and all else) including man.

1. It is supposed (without proof) that over a period of some 4.5 billion years life formed from non-living material and then reproduced itself.

2. Through a series of random, positive mutations, life forms continued to improve and reproduce (from pond scum to man).

3. With each change the strongest and fittest species and the strongest and fittest within each species survived and reproduced.

B. In all fairness, we note that there are some who generally accept this theory while attempting to hold onto a belief that God simply used these means to create life as we know it. They are called "theistic evolutionists."

1. Among "theistic evolutionists" there are some who attempt (unsuccessfully) to reconcile the Biblical account of creation with this false theory.

2. Every attempt that I have seen has simply ignored or altered the Biblical account while leaving the theory of evolution intact. When something has to "give" they give up Bible truth for unproved human dogma.

III. How do they threaten the home?

- A. When people are truly convinced that man is the highest order of being and that he is simply an animal among other animals, they will tend to live like animals.
 1. With evolution as a "scientific" foundation for humanistic philosophy there is absolutely no anchor for any moral principles.
 2. With all of the high-sounding moral goals for a better world expressed in Humanist Manifesto I and Humanist Manifesto II, no solid reason can be given to any given individual for behaving in any particular way.
 3. All conceptions of absolute standards of right and wrong are swept away.
- B. Humanism and evolution are also threats because they are remarkable examples of careless thinking.
 1. If a child grows to adulthood believing that these are good examples of how to reason effectively he will have a poor pattern for how to reason about anything else.
 2. "If sophisticated, educated, and distinguished adults can draw these conclusions from the available evidence, then I can jump to any conclusion that suits me without feeling a duty to show how the evidence requires it."

IV. How can we prepare ourselves and our children?

- A. Study to know how to think rationally yourself, and then teach your children what you have learned.
- B. Go beyond simply telling them what to think.
- C. Show them why you know that God exists, that Jesus is the Son of God, and that the Bible is the inspired word of God. This will be good for both of you.
- D. Use some of the very good material available that examines the evidence suggested by evolutionists for their theory. The Christian has nothing to fear and much to gain from an honest and fair examination of facts.

CONCLUSION: May our love for truth and our love for children move us to action.

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The Responsibility of the Church to the Family

Gary Workman

- I. It is the responsibility of the church to present the word of God so as to teach and train husbands to be strong, spiritual leaders — both in the church and in the home.
 - A. Without spiritual leadership in the right direction the members of our family may get off course and miss heaven.
 - B. The church must encourage husbands to accept their responsibilities and not abdicate all family matters to their wives.
 - C. The church must encourage and teach fathers to be able to train up their children in the Lord (Eph. 6:4).
 - D. Above and beyond the regular worship and Bible study times, the local congregation can provide opportunities for companionship and spiritual encouragement for families.
 - E. The attractions of the world need to be offset by the attraction of wholesome, spiritually oriented periods of fellowship.
- II. It is the responsibility of the church to present the word of God so as to teach Christian women to be loving wives and responsible mothers.
 - A. The church must encourage wives by teaching the beauty of the God-given relationship between husband and wife — the husband providing godly leadership and the wife joyfully cooperating and helping.
 - B. The church should teach Christian women to be aware of the importance and great responsibility of motherhood. Mothers should be encouraged to stay at home for the sake of the children if at all possible.
 - C. The church needs to help Christian women to accurately see that the service they render in the home and for the family is also service to God.
 - D. A challenge facing the church today is to help Christian women to understand and willingly accept the restrictions of God's plan for them in the church.
- III. It is the responsibility of the church to present the word of God so that children will know how to please and serve the Lord.
 - A. Our Bible classes should be focused on teaching God's word, not on entertainment.

- B. Bible lessons and sermons should include topics that will address the needs of our young people and their future roles as husbands, wives and parents.
 - C. The church should always uphold respect for authority — in the home, the church and the nation.
 - D. Adult Christians in the church of today have the responsibility to prepare the leadership and membership of the church of tomorrow.
- IV. It is the responsibility of the church to help keep Christian families intact in an age when “alternative lifestyles” abound.
- A. The church should not dodge teaching and upholding the truth on marriage-divorce-remarriage.
 - B. Help — both spiritual and physical — should be available to families in crisis.
 - C. There should be regular preaching and teaching against fornication, homosexuality, abortion, and other immoral practices that are popular today.
 - D. Surrogate Christian “parents” and “grandparents” can be of great encouragement to dysfunctional families.

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THE FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CHURCH

Terry Jones

INTRODUCTION:

1. Over the last few decades there has been a noticeable decline in the Churches of Christ.
 - A. Churches that are actually experiencing growth seem to be a rarity. Many churches have actually decreased in size.
 - B. Sadly, there are many churches that have actually apostatized all together.
2. Ironically, over that same period of time we have seen an obvious decline in the family.
 - A. Divorces now occur almost as frequently as do marriages.
 - B. The traditional American family has now taken a back seat to the more modern dysfunctional family.
3. It would appear that these two areas of failure are not totally unrelated.
4. Brother Thomas Warren has observed that, "If the homes from which the members of a local congregation come are what God would have them to be, then it is practically assured that the local congregation will be what it ought to be. On the other hand, if the homes are not what they ought to be, then it seems rather absurd to think that the local church will be what it ought to be" (The Spiritual Sword, July, 1984).
5. It would seem ridiculous to think that we could separate the church from the families that make up her membership. As a matter of fact, as those families go, so goes the church.
6. Let us now use the word FAMILY as an acrostic to aid us in our discussion of "The Family's Responsibility to the Church."

DISCUSSION:

- I. FAITHFUL.
 - A. Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary defines faithfulness as "dependability, loyalty, and stability."
 - B. The church is in great need of families who are dependable and loyal.
 - C. God demands faithfulness among His people (1 Cor. 4:2; 1 Tim. 3:11; Titus 1:6).
- II. ABSTAIN FROM SIN.
 - A. Families are often faced with tempting situations that will lead to sin.

- B. “In America, there seems to be four ways to achieve success: money, beauty, intelligence, and athletic ability. We are bombarded with subtle and direct temptations to worship these ‘gods.’ But Jesus never taught that these would lead to success” (What Every Family Needs, Carl Brecheen and Paul Faulkner, p. 179).
- C. The Bible sternly warns that we should abstain from sin:
 1. Idols (Col. 3:5; Heb. 13:5; Lk. 12:15).
 2. Immorality (1 Thess. 4:3; 1 Pet. 2:11).
 3. Every form of evil (1 Thess. 5:22).

III. MINISTER.

- A. To minister means to serve.
- B. Jesus is our example (Matt. 20:28).
- C. When we minister to the needs of others, we minister to Christ (Matt. 25:31-46).
- D. We need families who are patterned after the example of Joshua (Josh. 24:15).

IV. INVOLVED.

- A. The family’s responsibility to the church is not just to attend worship services, but to be actively involved in the activities and work of the church.
- B. Those who are not actively involved in the word of the church will eventually die spiritually (Jn. 15:1-8).

V. LOVE.

- A. It is the responsibility of every family to demonstrate love.
 1. Love God (Deut. 6:5; 1 Jn. 4:19).
 2. Love parents (Eph. 6:1-2).
 3. Love spouse (Eph. 5:22-28).
 4. Love brethren (1 Jn. 2:9-11).
 5. Love enemies (Matt. 5:43-44).
- B. Jesus said that His disciples would be known by their love (Jn. 13:34-35).

VI. YOUTH.

- A. Often, young families are so busy with careers, school activities, athletics, etc. that they do not have time for the church.

- B. It seems as though we are constantly telling ourselves that we will soon be able to give more time to the church.
- C. The Bible teaches that we should get our priorities straight and serve God in our youth (Matt. 6:33).

CONCLUSION:

1. Every family has a great responsibility to the church. We have noticed six areas of responsibility:
 - Faithful
 - Abstain from sin
 - Minister
 - Involved
 - Love
 - Youth
2. May God help us to have the kind of families that we ought to have so that the church will be what it ought to be.

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Personal Responsibility In The Home
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PURPOSE: To emphasize the Bible teaching of personal responsibility (obligation) of each family member in the home.

Text: 1 Peter 2:21

I. Introduction

- A. The home was designed by Jehovah (Genesis 1 -2).
- B. We are created to glorify Jehovah (Isaiah 43:7).
- C. Therefore the home that is pleasing to God is one that glorifies him (Genesis 18:19).

II. THESIS: Jehovah as provided the greatest example of how to apply personal responsibility in our living, in the person of Jesus.

III. DISCUSSION:

A. IN OBEDIENCE

- 1. To God - Hebrews 5:8; John 5:30; Phil. 2:8
- 2. John 8:29; 1 Corinthians 11:3
- 3. Family - each must fulfill their roles as God has designed. Jesus has never failed to obey the directives of His Father - John 12:49
 - a) Husband - Fulfill your role leader, head and provider.
 - b) Wife - Why should you obey your husband? Because it is Christ like. Because God has commanded it.
 - c) Children - Luke 2:51-52

B. IN LOVE

- 1. God Matthew 22:37-40; John 14:31
 - a) If we do not love our families then how can we say that we love God? (1 John 3:17-18; 4:19).
- 2. The Church (His Bride)
 - a) Romans 5:5-8 cf. Acts 20:28
 - b) Ephesians. 5:25
 - c) Matthew 4:4; 6:33

C. IN BEING FAITHFUL

1. To God
 - a) Hebrews 3:1
 - b) 1 Samuel 2:35
 - c) 1 Thessalonians 5:24
2. To The Church
 - a) Hebrews. 3:5
 - b) Ephesians 5:23
3. Until death or even if it causes your death. Revelation. 2:10.. Jesus was!
 - a) Be faithful to your spouses.
 - b) Be faithful to your children.
 - c) Be faithful to your families.

D. IN BEING THE PERSON THAT GOD WANTS US TO BE

1. Because he understands us- Hebrews. 4:15-6:1ff
2. We should not try to be anyone else but ourselves.

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. 1 Corinthians. 11:1
- B. God wants us to be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans. 8:29).
- C. Jesus as a role model for us to follow has shown us real personal responsibility in all areas of life.
- D. Follow Jesus today (Matthew. 8:22; 9:9; 16:24*; Mark 10:21).
- E. Pattern your life after Him.

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PHYSICAL STEWARDSHIP
MICHAEL FORESHA
TEXT: PROVERBS 3:6, 1-10

PURPOSE: To impress upon the minds of the listeners the importance of understanding stewardship.

PROBLEM: Debt on the increase. Americans owe.
Wages have only increased minimally Bankruptcies on the increase
Savings minimal or nonexistent Spending is increased
End result-contributions have decreased

So even though a congregation has “good numbers” on the board it is possible that many within those numbers do not understand nor appreciate the meaning of Christian stewardship.

BALANCING FAMILY OBLIGATIONS

(1) **PROMOTE** (further) the works of the Church through contributions
1 Cor. 16:1-2

(2) **PROVIDE** for family 1 Tim. 5:8

(3) **PAY** taxes as a citizen of his country Matt. 22:21; Romans 13:1-6.

As mentioned earlier the works of the Church have suffered. We need to put God first. Here are some steps to follow to put us back on track.

I. THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GOD’S OWNERSHIP

- A. GOD owns all Deut. 10:14; Psalm 24:1.
- B. GOD the wealth of all the earth’s goods Psalm 50:9-15.
- C. GOD is head above all 1 Chronicles 29:11-12.
- D. GOD gives to us 1 Tim. 6:17.
- E. GOD gives us the power to get wealth Deut 8:18.
- F. GOD’s gift the means to provide for family Eccles. 2:24; 3:13; 5:18, 19.

If God owns all, then we are entrusted with them.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF BEING TRUSTEE’S OF LIFE’S POSSESSIONS

- A. Defined = “the manager of a household or estate” Vines
- B. Described as faithful, wise and good Luke 16:2; 1 Cor. 4:2; 1 Peter 4:10.

- C. Duty Luke 17:10.
- D. Decide between “good and faithful” servant Matt. 25:21, 23, or “wicked and slothful” Matt. 25:16.

Make the choice? We must manage those things entrusted properly.

III. ADMINISTRATION OF THE SAME FOR THE WILL OF GOD

- A. Give to further the works of the Church 1 Cor 16:1-2.
- B. Giving not lost, but invested Matt. 6:19. True riches in heaven.
- C. Giving - We cannot out give God Prov. 11:25; Luke 6:38.
- D. Giving - A good harvest depends on proper sowing Prov. 11:24; 2 Cor. 9:6-11.
- E. Giving - More blessed to give Acts 20:35.

Principle of reaping and sowing - We shall reap what we sow.

IV. ATTITUDE

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Negative 1. Grudgingly 2 Cor. 9:7. 2. Of necessity 2 Cor. 9:7 3. Of covetousness 2 Cor. 9:5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Positive 1. Cheerful 2 Cor. 9:7 2. A willing mind 2 Cor. 8:12 3. Plan ahead 2 Cor. 8:10 |
|---|---|

It is not the oppressiveness of duty but the response to a personal relationship with God.

V. AIM

- A. Seek ye first the kingdom of God Matt. 6:33.
- B. Seek to trust in God not riches 1 Tim. 6:17, 19.
- C. Seek proper priorities.
 - 1. Father in heaven.
 - 2. Family.
 - 3. Finances.
 - 4. Fun.
- D. Seek to give God the first fruits Prov. 3:6, 9-10.
- E. Seek to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ Col. 3:16.
- F. Seek things above Col. 3:1-3.
- G. Seek God’s approval.

Conclusion: Romans 13:11 Time to wake from our sleep.

Need to get back on track:

- (1) Acknowledge
- (2) Accept
- (3) Administration
- (4) Attitude
- (5) Aim

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The Truly Successful Husband

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I. Develop a close relationship between yourself and God.

A. Unless this relationship is nourished, the marriage relationship cannot be as God wanted it to be.

B. How can this relationship between a man and God be developed to its greatest capacity?

1. Take time to know God's will by studying the Bible.

2. Spend time with God in prayer and meditation.

3. Put God first by being a faithful, working member of the church.

II. Realize that you have responsibilities.

A. Man was given the responsibility of leadership in the home.

1. Your wife cannot properly fulfill her role as a submissive helper unless you fulfill yours as a responsible leader.

2. Unless you realize your God-given role, you cannot properly raise your children.

B. The wife needs man's godly, loving leadership in order to be emotionally healthy.

1. It gives her direction and purpose in the home.

2. It provides a sense of security.

III. The husband's responsibilities include:

A. Spiritual leadership for his wife and family.

1. By teaching discussing God's word

2. By active participation in the church

3. By the example of a well-lived life.

B. Physical provision for the material needs of wife and family

1. By responsibly holding down a job

2. By not squandering money on selfish interests.

3. By being both generous and responsible in family expenditures.

C. Protection of his family.

1. From physical dangers.
2. From spiritual dangers.

IV. "Husbands love your wives."

- A. Mentally regard her as your own body — Eph. 5:28.
- B. "Know" your wife on every level — physically, intellectually and emotionally — I Pet. 3:7.
- C. Make your wife your best friend by shared interests and leisure time spent together.
- D. Communicate with your wife by baring your feelings and responding to hers with something more than grunts and monosyllables.
- E. Be considerate of your wife by being neat and helpful around the house and by complimenting her for all of the work she does in the home.

V. Husbands, keep your marriage vows.

- A. Decide in the beginning that you will never violate these vows.
- B. Keep your love alive for your wife by constantly romancing her.
- C. Help her to remain attractive and interesting by having a positive attitude toward her needs for clothes and grooming.
- C. Don't look elsewhere for sexual attraction, love and close companionship.

VI. Make whatever personal or monetary sacrifices necessary in order to preserve and nurture your marriage.

- A. Be the mate who doesn't stop giving or forgiving at the 50% mark!
- B. Most husbands are selfish. Be selfless and giving as Christ loved the church — Eph. 5:25.

VII. Help each other get to heaven.

- A. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 states: "Two are better than one." Make sure you conduct your marriage so that you both are "better" able to reach heaven as a result.
- B. Serving the Lord together makes life satisfying and rich, and makes heaven more achievable.

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The Successful Christian Wife

Sunny Workman

1. Respect the fact that God made woman as a helper for man, and not vice versa.
 - a. If you try to rule the roost, you will be going against God's arrangement.
 - b. If you rebel against God's arrangement, you will never achieve true happiness even if you are successful in bringing your husband into submission. Who wants to be married to a milktoast who can be intimidated by a woman?
 - c. If you rebel against God's arrangement, you will most certainly not have God's blessing on your home and may jeopardize your own salvation.
 - d. If you rebel against God's arrangement, you may also help to destroy the marriages of your children by giving them a bad example to follow.
2. Realize that God made you to be a companion for man. This means that you are to satisfy his emotional needs as his mate, his best friend, and his lover.
 - a. Some animals produce offspring without having anything further to do with each other after the mating occurs. They are mates. But God made humans to live on a higher level than that.
 - b. Some animals share responsibilities after mating occurs. The male helps the female to feather the nest and care for the offspring until they are old enough to be on their own. They are not only mates but friends — at least for awhile.
 - (1) Are you a real friend to your husband? Do you share his interests? Would he rather be with you than with some of his buddies?
 - (2) But God made humans to live on an even higher level than that.
 - c. Some animals are not only mates and friends, but lifelong lovers.
 - (1) Think about swans. They have an emotional attachment to each other that lasts for life.
 - (2) But God gave humans even greater capacity as lovers than that. With them, it's instinct. With us, it's in the heart and soul.
 - (3) Determine that you will always be your husband's lover, and make sure that you take care of yourself and present yourself in such a way that he will always be yours.

3. Respect the fact that God made man and woman with different natures.
- ++ In *My Fair Lady*, Rex Harrison asked: “*Why Can’t a Woman Be Like a Man?*” Don’t respond in like manner by asking: “Why can’t a man be like a woman?” He can’t because God made him to be like a man. You might as well ask, “Why can’t a dog be like a cat?”

Therefore:

- a. Realize that his nature is different, and be informed enough to understand what these differences are.
 - b. Make a decision to accept his nature as it is: Don’t gripe at your husband for not talking enough, not being emotional enough, and not doing things the way you would.
 - c. Be alert enough not to forget these differences when difficulties arise, and have enough self-control to control yourself.
4. Help your husband get to heaven.
- a. To do this you must be faithful in every way. For example, don’t betray his trust by criticizing him to others — even to the children. Remember that he is the head of the home, and respect him as such.
 - b. Realize that your feminine ways and intuitive sensitivities are powerful tools that can soothe his soul, day in and day out, when he feels that life is going against him.
 - c. Know that the strength of your character can be a shining example that can inspire him to live with greater faith in God and can lead him all the way to heaven (1 Pet. 3).
 - d. If he needs to make changes in his life, encourage him to make them by being an encouraging person rather than discouraging.
 - (1) Tell him the positive things about him before mentioning any shortcomings. If improvements need to be made, tell him that you know he is really a good person at heart and that, if he really wants to, he has the capacity to climb to a higher level. And tell him that you will make greater efforts as well.

- (2) Husbands, like children, live what they learn and become like they are treated. If your husband is treated with contempt and the attitude of an enemy, he will become YOUR enemy and maybe God's enemy too.
- (3) You will not be successful if you try to nag your husband into heaven (Prov — nagging woman; “without a word” — 1 Pet. 3). Nagging is negative, and is resented. You need to be positive.
- (4) You should love him into higher levels of living. A warm embrace with gentle expressions of deep devotion will motivate your husband more than 10,000 words of advice. He will not care what you know or say unless he knows how much you care.

Conclusion: Be a soul mate to your husband. He should be able to clearly see that you genuinely care for his well-being here, and that you care enough to get him to heaven in the end.

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BEFORE YOU MARRY
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What Should a Christian Consider?
How Should A Christian Prepare?

INTRODUCTION:

1. From the very beginning God knew that it was not good for man to be alone so He created woman and instituted marriage for the fulfillment of their happiness (Gen. 2:18-25; Pr. 18:22).
2. Except for becoming a Christian, choosing a marriage partner is the most important decision a person will make in life.
3. When entered into properly, marriage can provide the highest form of happiness. However, when taken lightly, it can provide a lifetime of heartache and misery.
4. Because of the gravity involved in this decision, marriage should never be entered without serious consideration and proper preparation.
5. Let us examine several things that a Christian should do in preparation for marriage.

DISCUSSION:

I. CHILDHOOD ENVIRONMENT.

- A. Parents have a great opportunity, as well as, a God-given obligation to teach and prepare their children how to have a successful home of their own.
 1. The degree of success achieved in any marriage is directly linked to the instruction received in the home from infancy to adulthood.
 2. "It is during this time (from the child's infancy to, say, age 18) that parents have the time, the opportunities, and the great obligation to so train the individual child that he or she will have the background which will compel him or her to choose for life a Christian companion"
(Roy Deaver, The Spiritual Sword, October, 1984, p. 12).
- B. God has made it abundantly clear that the home is the proper training ground for marriage (Eph. 6:4; Deut. 6:6-7; Pr. 22:6).

II. COMMIT TO MARRY A CHRISTIAN.

- A. Men and women should, at an early age, make a commitment to themselves and to God that they will marry only a Christian, and then, stick to that commitment.

- B. If it is the case that Christian marriages are the best marriages, then why should anyone want to settle for anything less?
- C. Multitudes have deceived themselves into thinking that they could marry a non-Christian and achieve the same results only to end up in disappointment, disaster, and divorce.
- D. God wants everyone to marry a Christian and has clearly voiced His disapproval of any other kind of union.
 - 1. One of the major contributing factors to God's bringing the flood upon the earth was "that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose" (Gen. 6:2).
 - 2. Abraham sought a wife for Isaac among God's people (Gen. 24).
 - 3. God forbade Israel to marry outside the nation (Deut. 7:1-6).
 - 4. Only Christians can fulfill God's plan for the home ((Eph. 5:22-6:4).

III. COURT CAREFULLY.

- A. Dating leads to marriage. Young people often jump in and out of dating relationships without considering that it could lead to marriage, or that it is preparation for marriage.
- B. One should be very careful during courtship.
 - 1. To preserve moral purity (Heb. 13:4; Gen. 39:8-9; 1 Tim. 4:12; 5:2, 22; 2 Tim. 2:22).
 - 2. To preserve spiritual purity (1 Cor. 15:33; Amos 3:3).

IV. CHOOSE AN ELIGIBLE MATE.

- A. One who has never previously been married (1 Cor. 7:8-9, 28).
- B. One whose former mate is dead (Rom. 7:2-3).
- C. One who is divorced as a result of their former partner being guilty of fornication (Matt. 19:9).

V. CONSIDER COMPATIBILITY.

- A. It may be that opposites attract, but successful marriages are the result of a union of two people who are compatible with one another.

- B. Married couples should share common goals, enjoy the same activities, have the same religious convictions, etc.

VI. CONSULT GOD.

- A. Through prayer.
 - 1. We should never make any important decision before earnestly seeking God's guidance and wisdom (Jms. 1:5).
 - 2. Parents ought to pray for a godly mate for their children, and, those contemplating marriage should pray that God would bless them in selecting a suitable mate (Matt. 21:22).
- B. Through studying God's word.
 - 1. The study of God's word will help us in every facet of our life (2 Tim. 2:15).
 - 2. We should study the Bible to learn the proper role of both husbands and wives.

VII. CLEAVE TO YOUR MATE.

- A. Upon the institution of the marriage relationship, God said, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24).
- B. To cleave is to unite, to cling together, or stick fast.
- C. God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16) and intends for every marriage to last a lifetime (Matt. 19:6).

CONCLUSION:

- 1. We have discussed several things that one should consider in preparation for marriage.
 - 2. Marriage is a decision that will determine one's happiness for the rest of his life.
- Therefore, it should not be done in haste without careful consideration and preparation.

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Biblical Sexuality
by Tim Nichols

INTRODUCTION: Some would suggest that a thing as personal and complex as our sexuality cannot be reduced to rules and principles that would apply to all mankind. But there is a God in Heaven who has spoken concerning it and we have a duty to hear and heed what He has revealed concerning this area of our lives.

- I. He has revealed truths.
 - A. Marriage is a part of God's plan for man and woman (Genesis 2:23, 24, Mark 10:2-12).
 - B. Marriage is a commitment that is made between a man who is authorized to have a wife and a woman who is authorized to have a husband.
 - 1. Any other combination is not a scriptural marriage.
 - 2. Two of the same gender cannot form a marriage.
 - C. Marriage cannot be dissolved except for fornication (Matthew 5:32, 19:9).
 - D. Otherwise, marriage is for life (1 Corinthians 7:39, Romans 7:2).
 - E. Remaining unmarried is a morally right option (1 Corinthians 7:1, 7, 8, 25, 26; Matthew 19:9-12).
 - 1. Some would have been wise to consider this option in the midst of first century distress.
 - 2. Some, whose previous sins leave them with no other morally right option, must remain single for this reason.
- II. Prohibitions.
 - A. Sexual relations outside of marriage are sinful (Deuteronomy 5:18; Romans 1:22-27; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 6:18; Ephesians 5:1-3; Colossians 3:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7; 2 Timothy 2:22).
 - B. This would include every variety of sexual perversion of which we have heard and all of those about which we have not yet heard (and do not wish to hear).
- III. Obligations.
 - A. Husbands and wives have an obligation to be available to each other (1 Corinthians 7:1-8; Proverbs 5:15-23).

- B. They are to leave their original homes and cleave to their spouses (Genesis 2:24).
- C. They must not, as a general rule, depart from each other (1 Corinthians 7:9-12; Mark 10:9).

CONCLUSION: As the world continues to ridicule such things and to attempt to press us into its mold, let us hold fast the God-revealed traditions that we have received.

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WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY
Frank Higginbotham
Acts 10:24-48

- INTRODUCTION:
1. All of us would like to be successful with our families.
 2. Cornelius was a successful family man.
 3. He possessed qualities that made him a success.
 - a. He was a devout man.
 - b. He feared God with all his house.
 - c. He gave much alms to the people.
 - d. He prayed to God always.

I. CORNELIUS RECEIVED RESPECT FROM HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

- A. When he offered an invitation, it was accepted.
- B. Many times we are turned down. Psalms 122:1.

II. CORNELIUS HAD A PRAYING FAMILY.

- A. Prayer is vital to having a successful family.
- B. We all need prayer.
 1. We must pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
 2. God has promised to listen and to answer our prayers. 1 Peter 3:12;
1 John 5:14; 1 Peter 5:7;
 3. Peace of mind comes from prayer. Philippians 4:6-8.

III. CORNELIUS RESPECTED THE WORD OF GOD.

- A. Many today have no respect for the Bible. 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Acts 17:11.
 1. Some want more than the Bible. Revelation 22:18.
 2. Some want less than God's Word. Revelation 22:19.
 3. Some twist the Word of God. Galatians 1:6-9.
- B. The Bible is God's way of bringing salvation to man. Romans 1:16;
1 Corinthians 15:1-3.

IV. CORNELIUS TAUGHT HIS FAMILY TO FEAR GOD.

- A. Fear means that we respect. Ecclesiastes 12:13; Acts 10:34,35.
- B. Many have no regard for God. Romans 3:18.
- C. Many are unable to instill a fear for God in their families. 1 Samuel 3:13.

V. CORNELIUS HAD A HOME OF LOVE AND HOSPITALITY.

- A. He 'prayed' his visitors to stay with him. Acts 10:48.
- B. Children are taught great lessons in a hospitable house.

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The One Parent Family
(Challenges, Needs, and How The Church Can Help)
Richard D. Melson

I. Introduction

- A. The world needs to hear the word of God - Jeremiah. 22:29
- B. We must go forward, back to the Bible - 2 Timothy. 3:16-17
- C. The word of God has all that we need to know how to cope with the daily issues of life.
 - 1. 2 Peter 1:1-3
 - 2. Psalm 119

II. Thesis: Single parent can live a faithful life before God, if he/she is willing to submit to God's word.

III. Discussion

A. The Challenges

- 1. Understand that this is not God's Ideal situation.
 - a) The family began with one man, one woman for life.
 - b) God's plan has been for children to have a father and mother.
 - c) God has provided for the replacement of the lost spouse.
- 2. Understand that as a single parent sacrifices will have to be made.
- 3. God's wisdom is different from the worlds, therefore be ready for the conflict.

B. The Needs

- 1. To be loved by the brethren.
- 2. To be respected by fellowman.
- 3. To provide financially for their family.
- 4. For the missing parental figure to be provided.

C. The Lord's Church Can Help

- 1. By fulfilling our responsibility to love our brethren.
 - a) By providing support to those who are single parents (James 1:27)

2. By practicing God's word daily.
 - a) When the father is not in home, godly brethren helping to provide the male guidance that is needed for the children.
 - b) Godly women helping to support a single mother.
 - c) By not condoning error.
 - d) Money is not always the answer.
3. Upholding the ideal family structure before and encouraging our young people not to settle for the ever changing winds of the world's definition of the "family"!
4. By helping to bear our brother's burden.

IV. Conclusion

- A. The family as many of us has known is vanishing. Not because God has changed it, not because the Bible has changed, but because people have moved away from God, His word and refused to have Him in their lives.
- B. God says the ideal, *is one man joined to one woman for life*, this is beginning of the family. Then they (a married man and woman) bring forth children. It is the role of the parents to raise their children.
- C. It does not take a village to raise to a child. It takes godly parents to raise a child.
- D. May we not run to Egypt for counsel, or so-called protection, but turn to Jehovah.
- E. If you are a single parent you can make it to heaven:
 1. Use must accept your burden, and endure.
 2. God can provide all that you need (2 Peter 1:3).

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AN HERITAGE OF THE LORD

Frank Higginbotham

Psalms 127:3-5

- INTRODUCTION:
1. An 'heritage' is an inheritance or gift given to us by God.
 2. God intended for us to find happiness through our children. Text.

I. HAVING A HERITAGE BRINGS RESPONSIBILITY.

- A. Children bring stewardship. Matthew 25:14-30.
- B. We are responsible for the care of our children.
1. We must provide for their physical needs. 1 Timothy 5:8.
 2. We also are responsible for the spiritual teaching of our children.
Ephesians 6:1-4; Deuteronomy 6:6,7.

II. THIS HERITAGE GIVES THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN GREAT LESSONS.

- A. Children teach adults great lessons.
1. We learn lessons of sharing, sacrifice.
 2. We learn lessons of forgiveness. Matthew 18:21-35.
 3. We learn how to deal with disappointments.

III. THIS HERITAGE BRINGS THE SATISFACTION OF SEEING OUR TEACHING IN THE LIFE OF ANOTHER.

- A. The Mother of Moses saw him make a great decision. Hebrews 11:24,25.
- B. Eunice and Lois led Timothy. 2 Timothy 1:5.

IV. THIS HERITAGE BRINGS AN EXTENSION TO OUR WORK.

- A. Our works live on after we die. Revelation 14:13.
- B. Our children continue to show our teaching after we are gone.
1. They become Christians. Mark 16:15,16.
 2. They teach their families.

V. THIS HERITAGE BRINGS AN ACCOUNTING TO GOD.

- A. All of us will give an account to God for our lives. Acts 17:30,31; 2 Corinthians 5:10.
- B. We will account for teaching done with our children. I Samuel 3:13.

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THE COST OF A BROKEN HOME

Charles C. Pugh III

INTRODUCTION:

1. "Every wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands" (Prov. 14:1).
 - a. Human experience and Biblical testimony affirm that one of the wisest things a person can do is to build a strong home.
 - b. One of the most foolish things a person can do is live in such a way, through attitude and action, that leads to the break up of his(her)home.
2. Many passages in the Bible which emphasize the wisdom of building one's home, keeping it intact through loyalty and faithfulness, and the awful price which will be paid if one does not do this.
 - a. British historian and journalist, Malcolm Muggeridge, once stated that modern man " . . . will remark on how, as we systematically destroyed or allowed to be destroyed, all the values and restraints of the Christian way of life . . . we remained convinced that each innovation, each new assault on marital fidelity, on the sanctity of the home . . . was bound to be conducive to our well-being."
 - b. Prov. 5:1-23; 6:20-35 is one great section in the Sacred Scriptures where there is an emphasis on (1) the value of the home and (2) the cost of a broken home.
3. The high cost (i.e. the price paid by individuals, families, spouses, children, communities, schools, governments, nations, societies, civilizations, and congregations of the Lord's church) is manifest in many areas.

I. THE SOCIAL COST.

- A. The break up of the home causes social problems because the home is the basic unit of society.
 1. Prov. 6:33-35.

2. "The crucible from which all life springs is the family. The events within the family can make or break the individual and, collectively, civilization. This fundamental unit is the building block and was the building block of all social organizations from the tribe, village, and on to the most highly developed societies and civilizations. Will Durant said the family can survive without the state, but without the family all is lost. Therefore, not only must the family survive, but its internal workings must function in ways that turn out strong men and women - - not weak ones who eventually become casualties of one form or another or who may work actively against the best values and traditions of our country." (Harold M. Voth, M.D. "The Family and The Future Of America" in The Alabama Journal of Medical Sciences, Vol. 15, No. 3, 1978).

B. Examples.

1. Sociologists Sharon K. Houseknecht and Jaya Sastry examined data collected from four industrialized nations (the United States, Sweden, Italy, and the former West Germany) focusing on family structure and then on six measures of children's well-being (academic achievement, child poverty, infant mortality due to abuse, juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, and suicide). The study found that where family decline was greatest, the well-being of children was most threatened. They conclude, "Children are better off when they live in a society in which traditional family patterns are strong." (The Family In America, New Research, 3/97).
2. "The most serious negative effects of the functional decline of families have been on children. Evidence suggests that today's generation of children is the first in our nation's history to be less well-off psychologically and socially than their parents were at the same age. Alarming increases have occurred in such pathologies as juvenile delinquency, violence, suicide, substance abuse, eating disorders, nonmarital births, psychological stress, anxiety, and unipolar depression." (David Popenoe, Author and Professor at Rutgers University).

II. THE FINANCIAL COST.

A. Prov. 5:10, 6:26a, 31.

B. Examples.

1. Millions of divorced women in America live in poverty with millions of children.
2. TV Special "Divorce Is Changing America" noted the one thing that contributes most to economic crisis in America is divorce.
3. Strong correlation between broken homes and increased poverty rates (The Family in America, New Research, 3/97).
4. Individuals who believe it is important to have a good family life earn higher wages than those who don't place same value on family (Business Week, May 15, 1995).
5. Ps. 34:10; 37:25; Matt. 6:33.

III. THE PHYSICAL COST.

A. Prov. 5:11; 6:26b.

B. Examples.

1. A 70-year perspective study shows that the breakup of one's own marriage or the divorce of one's parents reduces the average life span (Family Research Council Perspective, American Family Journal, Jan. 1996).
2. School administrators blame "family break-up" for violence in schools. 77 percent of school administrators blame broken homes for school violence. [National School Boards Association, Washington Time, Jan., 1994, reported by John Knight's Fatherhood Statistics, fathermag.com].
3. Venereal disease child runaways, child pornography and other abuse.

IV. THE EMOTIONAL COST.

A. Prov. 5:4; 6:33.

B. Examples.

1. Scars on the body may eventually disappear, or become inconspicuous, but scars on the heart may remain a lifetime for husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, children, etc.
2. "Not many years ago, many so-called 'child specialists' were arguing that divorce had very little permanent influence on the development of children. Very few reputable psychologists or psychiatrists or marriage counselors would make such a foolish statement in our day. The studies which had been done by various scholars would not allow us to discount the detrimental influence of divorce on the lives of young people and older ones. One such study was conducted by Dr. Judith Wallerstein of San Francisco. Dr. Wallerstein's study was longitudinal in nature. This means that Dr. Wallerstein studied the effects of divorce on children five, ten, fifteen and twenty years after divorce. Hers was the first study ever written 'on the long-term consequences of divorce on the American family' [Judith S. Wallerstein & Sandra Blakeslee, Second Chances: Men, Women, and Children a Decade After Divorce (New York: Ticknor & Fields, 1990), p.x.]. Dr. Wallerstein found that in many cases the situation gets worse with time. After twenty years, many of the children of divorce were in worse emotional condition than after five years" (Winford Claiborne).

V. THE SPIRITUAL COST.

- A. Prov. 5:22-23; 6:32.
- B. This is the ultimate cost of a broken home.
 1. Broken homes among those who profess Christianity cost the church its influence for good (Titus 2:1-5; cf. 2 Sam. 12:14).
 2. Broken homes cause souls to be lost eternally (Matt. 19:1-9; Rev. 21:8).

CONCLUSION:

1. National magazine article entitled "Civilization is Headed for Collapse". In it were statements from two leading psychiatrists. One of them said "Destroy the internal structure of the family and you are going to wreck civilization."
2. The Bible teaches that one will pay an awesome price if he fails to take the word of God seriously and does not learn, obey, and live faithful to it. Whatever it costs us in this life to be faithful is less than what it will cost us eternally if we are unfaithful (Mark 9:43-48).

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SPIRITUAL STEWARDSHIP IN THE HOME

Paul E. Marty

Text: Psalm 127.1

Method: Topical Sermon

Thesis: To define and show some necessary things that must be in the home that has good spiritual stewardship.

Introduction:

1. What is Spiritual Stewardship?
2. Definition of terms:
 - a. Stewardship: The office, duties and obligations of a steward. (Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary).
 - b. Steward: Webster-1. One employed in a large household or estate to manage domestic concerns (as the supervision of servants, collection of rents, and the keeping of accounts).: manager.
 - (1). W.E. Vine: (oikonomos)-primarily denoted the manager of a household or estate.
 - (2) (epitros) steward in Matt. 20:8; Luke 8:3
3. Spiritual stewardship has to do with managing and or caring for spiritual matters and concerns.
4. With this understanding, let us look at spiritual stewardship in the home in the following major areas: Love, Respect, Obedience, Nurturing, Trust, faithfulness and forgiveness.

Body:

- I. Love in the Home. (1 John 4:7-8) God is Love.
 - A. The Husband for the Wife.
 - B. The Wife for the Husband.
 - C. The Parents for the Children.
 - D. The Children for the Parents.
 - E. All members of for God and man.
- II. Respect in the Home. (Proverbs 31:2, 4:11; Eph. 5:33).
 - A. Wife initiates respect in the home by respecting the husband (Eph. 5:33).

- B. Respect must be cultivated in our children if they are to survive spiritually.
 - 1. View children as eternal beings in the image of God.
 - 2. Honor God's plan for marriage and the home because children learn what they live.
 - 3. Discipline them (Heb. 12:9).
 - 4. Set the proper example (avoid hypocrisy).
 - C. Show respect for the children.
- III. Obedience in the Home.
- A. All must obey God. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).
 - B. The wife must obey her husband. (Titus 2:5) "Obedient to their own husbands..."
 - C. The children must obey their parents (Col. 3:20).
 - D. The Bible Chain of Authority (1 Cor. 11:3).
- IV. Nurturing in the Home. (Father's responsibility). (Eph. 6:4; 1 Thess. 2:11).
- A. Not Provoke.
 - 1. Means not to treat your child in such a way so as to anger, irritate, or cause anger. (e.g. James 1:5-8).
 - 2. Discipline our child by the use of reality. Real life consequences for the choices he or she makes.
 - 3. Do not make your expectations too high!!!
 - B. Nurture: Defined as to train by action.
 - C. Admonition: "To train by word."
 - D. Exhort: To urge to pursue a certain course of conduct. (1 Thess. 2:11).
- V. Trust in the Home.
- A. Everyone needs to trust.
 - B. Trust in God must be there. (Romans 8:28).
 - C. Children must be able to trust their parents. (Eph. 6:1-2).
 - D. Husband and wife must have a bond of trust for each other if the home is to stand. (Prov. 31:10-11, 27).
 - E. Older children must be entrusted with certain responsibilities according to age, ability, and past experience. (Eph. 6:4).

- VI. Faithfulness. It is a quality of God. (1 Cor. 10:12-13).
 - A. Husband/Father: Overall responsibility. (Eph. 5:23).
 - B. Wife/Mother: (Prov. 31:10-Valued above rubies). (Titus 2:3-5).
- VII. Forgiveness. (Ephesians 4:32). Forgiveness is a necessary part of the home because it is an attribute of God which we must copy.
 - A. Children are only going to practice forgiveness as they see it.
 - 1. Forgiveness is not an option. (Matthew 6:14-15).
 - 2. A grudge is too heavy for a man. Vengeance belongs to God.
 - B. If we are not forgiving, our children will not allow us to aid them when they need it most.

Conclusion: If we are going to be good spiritual stewards we must:

- 1. Have Love, Respect, Nurturing, Obedience, Trust, Faithfulness and Forgiveness in our homes.
- 2. We must have the proper roles in the home according to the pattern.
- 3. We must encourage, and support one another in developing these characteristics.
- 4. Remember, the best teacher is the example.

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Responsible Fatherhood
Steve Higginbotham
(Ephesians 6:4)

- Introduction:
1. Ephesians 6:1-2 says as much about parents as it does children.
 - a. Obviously, children are commanded to obey their parents - that responsibility falls upon the child.
 - b. However if a child is to be able to honor his parents - a responsibility falls upon the parents to conduct themselves in such a way to enable the child to honor and respect them.
 2. Fathers have been honored by God when God gave them the position of leadership in the home.
 3. And as leader of the home, we have the potential to influence generations to come; even long after we are gone.
 4. In this lesson, let us examine the biblical role of fathers and a couple portraits of biblical fathers.

I. Biblical Fatherhood

- A. A father must first be a good husband (Eph. 5:25-33).
- B. A father must be the head of his home (Eph. 5:23).
- C. A father must be a provider for his home (1 Tim. 5:8).
- D. A father must be the spiritual leader of his home (Eph. 6:4).

II. Biblical Portraits Of Fathers

- A. Abraham.
 1. (Gen. 18:17-19).
 2. God had confidence that Abraham could command his children.
 3. (Joshua 24:15).
- B. Job.
 1. Job was spiritual leader for his family (Job 1:5; 1 Tim. 5:8).
 2. Job had a positive outlook on life (Job 1:21; Phil. 4:11; Col. 3:21).
 3. Job was a humble man (Job 42:1-6).

- Conclusion:
1. May God help us to be the kind of fathers our children, our churches, and our nation needs.
 2. If you find yourself to be deficient, simply resolve today to begin fulfilling your God given role as a father.

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Responsible Womanhood

Boots Young

Since creation woman has been a very special part of God's plan. It is true that under the old law, a woman was not valued too highly, but Christ himself raised women to a place of honor in His kingdom. As we grow older we gain more insight and become more responsible.

Sadly we women have come from "Adams Rib" to "Woman's Lib". But we must not allow the worldly disdain of "homemakers" to affect our Godly influence. We must lead our younger sisters by example. Teaching is of no avail if we do not live the Godly life.

To be a responsible woman we must:

- Be content with ourselves and our lifestyle.
- Always conduct ourselves in a way that will make the younger women see God's light shining in us.
- Consider homemaking, child rearing and loving husbands and children to be a great joy and blessing—not a drudgery.
- Let our light always shine.
- Be loving, gentle, kind and patient.

I do not believe the words in this passage, -- "Workers at home", mean we women cannot work outside the home. This simply means we must be domestic. I admire the women who manage their homes, families, and outside employment. They do this with much expertise—'Superwomen', truly. But God must be a vital influence in this way of life for it to succeed.

Let us study together our unified goal: That of being a responsible woman.

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Marriage-Divorce-Remarriage
Holger Neubauer

- I. Introduction: Before the church was established on Pentecost; before the law was give at Sinai; before any formal worship had been authorized by God; God established the holy institution of marriage.
- A. God created marriage in the beginning (Genesis 2:21-24; 1 Timothy 4:3).
 - B. God created marriage to be a relationship between male and female (Genesis 1:6, 27).
 - C. Marriage is to honor societal regulations (1 Peter 2:13; John 4:18; Matt. 25:1-13).
 - D. God created marriage to be a lasting relationship (Malachi 2:16; Romans 7:1-4).
- II. God allows one and only one reason for divorce and remarriage.
- A. Jesus set forth in unequivocal terms the law of divorce and remarriage (Matthew 19:3-9).
 - B. Jesus' law is the only authoritative law for both the Christian and the non-Christian (1 John 3:4; John 12:48).
 - C. Jesus' law on marriage is the final court of appeal (Isaiah 22:22; Rev 3:7; John 10:35).
 - D. Jesus' law on marriage, divorce, and remarriage demands repentance when the law is broken (Acts 17:30, 31; Matt. 3:8).
 - E. Jesus' law on marriage, divorce, and remarriage demands repentance even when it is broken before the individuals breaking the law are Christians.
- III. False doctrines about marriage must be refuted. Only true marriages are honored by God and all other relationships that involve conjugal activities are sinful (Hebrews 13:5). All attempts to justify marriages that are sinful will end in judgment (1 Peter 1:24, 25; Jude 3; Titus 1:4).
- A. Baptism does not justify sinful relationships. Biblical repentance requires separation of sinful relationships (Philemon 18, 19; Luke 13:3; Ezekiel 33:14, 15).
 - B. The guilty party does not have the freedom to remarry. This position allows greater liberty for sin. (Romans 3:8; Proverbs 13:5).

- C. The so called “Pauline Privilege” does not grant another reason for divorce and remarriage. The word “bondage” from the Greek “dedoulotia” refers to the bondage of slavery not the marriage bond (1 Cor. 7:15).
- D. The adultery of Matthew 19:9 is not the divorce itself. This view makes the Lord an nonsensical babbler. Adultery ought to be understood in its normal sense unless a compelling contextual reason exists for an alternative meaning. None exists in Matthew 19:9, therefore this view is also false.

Conclusion - Divorce and Remarriage

The Church is designated as the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Tim 3:15).

- A. If the Church will be true to scripture, she will uphold God’s truth in this vital area.
- B. Every generation of the true new testament Church must be willing to be the salt and the light upholding this significant truth that each generation be exalted and not become a reproach.

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Considering Abortion and Euthanasia
by Tim Nichols

INTRODUCTION: In many ways this lecture is closely related to the two others that I have been asked to deliver this week. If we accept the notions that life has evolved from dead matter, that man has evolved from lower life forms by random, and that man is the highest order of being, then the question of when it is morally allowable to terminate a life can only be answered by turning to one's own subjective judgment. The question of when it may be legally permitted can only be answered by soliciting the collective judgment of men who refuse to acknowledge that God exists. The Christian, however acknowledges that God exists and that He has spoken to us by His inspired book. They are afraid to refuse to hear "Him that speaketh... from heaven" (Hebrews 12:25).

I. IT IS CONTRARY TO THE WILL OF GOD TO SHED INNOCENT BLOOD.

- A. Although civil government acts with Divine authority when it takes the lives of evildoers from them (Romans 13:4), the shedding of innocent blood (putting to death of innocent persons) is always wrong.
 - 1. This includes vengeful vigilantism (Romans 12:19).
 - 2. This includes all situations in which innocent lives are taken.
- B. The word of God is quite explicit concerning this matter.
 - 1. It is among the seven abominations hated by God (Proverbs 6:16-19).
 - 2. It was among the sins of Israel as a consequence of their having allowed themselves to be influenced by the practices of the nations that they had failed to drive out of the land (Psalm 106:34-38).
 - 3. It is a sin frequently condemned in the Old Testament (1 Samuel 19:4, 5; 2 Kings 21:16; 24:4; Psalm 94:21; Isaiah 59:7; Jeremiah 7:6-10; 22:3, 5; Joel 3:19).
 - 4. It remains, in the New Testament, an abhorrent thing in the eyes of God. There is no excuse for ignoring what God has said among those who do not like to retain God in their knowledge (Romans 1:28-32).
- C. We, like Israel, are in danger of allowing ourselves to become like the world in which we live.

1. We first become too accustomed to the evil that is done among us.
 - a. It seems that we felt a sense of righteous indignation when we first saw our government grant the "right" to kill babies and when we first began to hear of the exploits of "Dr." Kervorkian.
 - b. It appears, though, that we have begun to become numb in the presence of such evil and that we no longer feel as we once felt.
2. For those who seem to be able to act only upon their feelings, there seems to be a willingness to begin to "look the other way" as these things are going on. Things do not tend to "seem" to be so evil when they are done openly and regularly.
3. If our silence seems to give approval, today, will not our children and grandchildren feel free to actually participate in the evil that we have ignored?

D. Regardless of our "feelings" let us resolve to always act upon right and Divinely-given principles.

1. Let men say that we are acting out of passion and not reason.
2. I, for one, wish that I could rekindle the feelings that I once felt concerning these sins.
3. Strong emotion is not, however, the primary animator of the Christian's hands and vocal cords.
4. Devotion to the God who has once for all delivered truth for our humble reception will carry us through the difficult decisions of life.
 - a. When He speaks, we must listen.
 - b. What He speaks, we must teach.
 - c. When we are taught what He speaks, we must act upon it.
 - d. Acting upon Divinely-revealed principles is a thing that can be learned by all types of personalities and temperaments.
 - e. To all present today, I can say that the taking of an innocent life is a sin that you have a duty to oppose in every righteous way at your disposal. God has spoken.

II. THE CHILD IN THE WOMB IS AN INNOCENT CHILD.

- A. Concerning some matters, we can know nothing apart from Divine revelation.
 - 1. Since man cannot answer the question, "When does life begin?" we need to seek the answer from God's word.
 - 2. The answers offered by medical "experts" in white coats, supreme court justices, neighborhood philosophers, or "good buddies" down at the factory are not the final answers.
- B. What does the Giver of life have to say?
 - 1. God knew David when he was yet in his mother's womb (Psalm 139:13-17).
 - 2. He knew Jeremiah before his birth (Jeremiah 1:4, 5).
 - 3. John the Baptist was a "babe" (Greek = brephos) when he was in his mother's womb and Jesus was a "babe" (Greek = brephos) when He was lying in the manger (Luke 1:41; 2:12, 16).
- C. Calling a baby a fetus does not change his or her status before the God who has created him or her.

III. A MAN OR WOMAN WHO HAS NOT COMMITTED A CRIME WORTHY OF DEATH IS AN INNOCENT PERSON WHOSE LIFE MUST NOT BE TAKEN BY MAN.

- A. The one whose had deliberately takes the life of such a one does not have eternal life (1 John 3:15).
- B. This truth is Divine and it will stand the test of all circumstances.
- C. Human principles are constantly changing and rest upon sand.

CONCLUSION: God has created us. He has spoken. Hear Him. Trust Him. Believe Him. Obey Him.

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Love - The Heart of the Family
Johnny Ramsey

Introduction:

- A. The home is a foretaste of glory divine.
- B. A vestibule of heaven.
- C. The contentment of great families.
- D. A challenge for others.
- E. An Influence in the community.
- F. A blessing to the world.

I. What Is Love?

- A. I John 4:8
- B. I Corinthians 13:1-8
- C. Romans 13:8
- D. John 3:16
- E. II Corinthians 5:14; 8:9; 9:15

II. We should not love:

- A. I John 2:15-17
- B. II Timothy 4:10

III. Love and forgiveness go together:

- A. Hebrews 8:12
- B. Romans 6:16-18
- C. John 14:15
- D. Galatians 6:1-2
- E. I John 4:18-20
- F. John 21:15.

IV. An absence of love produces envy, bitterness and calamity:

- A. Proverbs 14:30
- B. Mark 15:10
- C. I John 3:11-12
- D. Proverbs 6:16-19

Conclusion:

Homes that radiate the Love of God are a rare blend of peace, joy and contentment that will be a blessing to all mankind -- Galatians 5:22-23.

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RESPECT FOR PARENTS AND OTHER ELDERS

Charles C. Pugh III

INTRODUCTION:

1. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:1-3).
2. Respect - "an act of giving particular attention: consideration . . . high or special regard: esteem" (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary).
3. The Bible teaches respect for parents and other older people (Eph. 6:1-3; Lev. 19:32; I Tim. 5:1, et al).
4. Consider the following implications.

I. HONOR.

- A. Greek is timao: "to treat with honor, manifest consideration towards, to treat graciously" (Bagster); Noun form refers to honor which belongs, or is shown, to one: the honor of one who outranks others; fix the value of something.
- B. When one honors his parents he will:
 1. Be kind to them (Eph. 4:32).
 2. Not speak harshly and/or disrespectfully to them or about them (cf. Ex. 21:17; Prov. 30:11).
 3. Not dishonor their name (Prov. 22:1).
 4. Not bring them unnecessary heartache (cf. Gen. 37:35; I Kings 18:33).

II. OBEDIENCE.

- A. We must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).
- B. God has so placed children in the home that they are to be subject and obedient to their parents, and to the judgment of their parents (Prov. 1:8).
- C. Jesus' example (Luke 2:51).
 1. Subject means "to obey, to submit to one's control, to yield to one's admonition or advice" (Thayer).

2. If the Son of God did this, how much more should all children do it!

III. APPRECIATION.

- A. Most of us have parents (and even other elders) who have done far more for us than we have often deserved. Are we thankful and appreciative?
- B. Note the connection between disobedience, disrespect and ingratitude (cf. II Tim. 3:2).
- C. The day will come when it will be too late to manifest such. Therefore - "Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old" (Prov. 23:22).

CONCLUSION:

1. Honor - obey - appreciate your parents. Why? ". . . For this is right" (Eph. 6:1).
2. When one does such it will be well with him (her) (Eph. 6:2).
3. ABOVE ALL, may each love, honor, obey, and serve the heavenly Father (cf. Jesus - Luke 2:49).
4. ". . . We have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?" (Heb. 12:9).

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KEEPING THE FAMILY PURE
Frank Higginbotham
1 Samuel 3:13

- INTRODUCTION:
1. America and the church need more pure families. Proverbs 14:34.
 2. The family learns in two ways.
 - a. They learn by the things we teach. Deuteronomy 6:5-7.
 - b. They learn by the 'rod of correction'. Proverbs 23:13,14; Proverbs 19:18.

I. DISCIPLINE INCLUDES CORRECTION.

- A. Eli did not restrain his sons. 1 Samuel 3:13.
- B. There are two aspects of discipline.
 1. Teaching is a part of discipline.
 2. Discipline involves correction. Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 22:15.

II. THERE ARE MANY AREAS OF PURITY THAT WE NEED TO NOTE.

- A. We must guard our hearts. Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 5:8.
 1. Literature.
 2. TV & Movies.
 3. Modern dance.
 4. Hate.
- B. Purity of motives.
 1. No hypocrisy. Matthew 23.
 2. We must be moved by love. 1 Corinthians 13:1,2.
- C. There must also be doctrinal purity. Titus 2:1-8.

III. HOW DO WE INSTILL PURITY OF LIFE?

- A. We must take the time to pray. Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
- B. We must take time for Bible Study. Acts 17:11; Psalms 119:105; Psalms 119:11.
- C. We must take time to consider what Christianity means to us. John 3:16; 1 Timothy 4:8; Matthew 25:46.

- D. We must teach the value of family love.
1. There must be the proper example of pure love between the parents.
Ephesians 5:22-33.
 2. Children must learn to love parents and each other.

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Juvenile Delinquency
Steve Higginbotham
(Proverbs 1:10-19)

- Introduction:
1. The writer of Proverbs warned young men to avoid walking in paths which would lead to harm.
 2. Today, we are disturbed at the direction many of our youth have chosen.
 3. In one sense, times seem to be worse than ever before, but as Solomon once said, "There is nothing new under the sun." (Ecc. 1:10).
 - a. "Today's youth love luxury and have bad manners. They hold authority in contempt; they no longer stand up when an adult enters the room; they talk back to parents and contradict them; they talk too much in the presence of company; they talk nonsense instead of working; they put themselves all over the furniture; and they guzzle their food." (Socrates, 500 B.C., Athens Greece).
 4. Many juvenile delinquents are the direct result of adult delinquents who have not fulfilled their obligation toward them (Deut. 6:4-9; Eph. 6:4).
 5. In this lesson, let us examine some of the reasons for juvenile delinquents.
- I. Not All Good People Are Good Parents
- A. Children do not inherit the unrighteousness or the righteousness of their parents (Ezk. 18:20).
 - B. Children come into this world morally pure and it is through the process of choices that they become defiled.
 - C. Parents must assist children in the decision making process.
 - D. Ways to assist your child:
 1. Love them unconditionally (1 Cor. 14:4-7).
 2. Disciple them with love (Prov. 22:15; 23:13).
- II. Children Can Be And Are Adversely Influenced By The World
- A. (1 Cor. 15:33).
 - B. Don't deceive yourself into thinking, "My son/daughter would never..."
 - C. Ways to assist your child:

1. Be aware of adverse influences (Eph. 6:11).
2. Set an example before them (Mt. 5:16).

III. Because Children Have The Freedom Of Choice

- A. (Prov. 23:6).
- B. Righteousness is ultimately the choice of each individual (Rev. 22:17).

- Conclusion:
1. Every parent has been entrusted with an eternal soul, which is destined for heaven or hell.
 2. That child's destiny largely depends upon your life, and how seriously you accepted your responsibility as a parent.
 3. Resolve with determination to be the best parent you can be.

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TEMPORAL STEWARDSHIP
Jeremy Young

- Introduction:
1. The Bible instructs Christians to make the most of the time that we have in this life.
 2. We never know when time will run out (James 4:13-15).
 3. As Christians we are to be stewards of time (Eph. 4:15-17).
 4. We are to make the most of our time with our families.

I. Husbands take time with your wives.

A. Husbands love your wives

1. (Eph. 5:25) Love wives - be willing to give your life for her.
2. Show your love to her by treating her the way she should be treated.
 - a. (I Cor. 13:4-7) Characteristics of love. Men should learn this!
 - b. Too many men forget what love is.
3. Husbands need to make the best of their time with their wives.

B. Husbands need to learn what quality time is.

1. Quality time with wife is not . . .
 - a. Rushing around to leave for work.
 - b. A quick phone call while at work.
 - c. Complaining about little things.
 - d. Talking about business matters over a rushed dinner.
2. Quality time is . . .
 - a. Taking long walks together.
 - b. Sitting down for a nice dinner and spend time talking.
 - c. Taking long drives in the country.
 - d. Going out on dates.
3. Husbands must be understanding to the needs and wants of their wives.

II. Wives to Husbands

A. Wives be submissive to husbands.

1. Wives are to be as Sarah was to Abraham. (I Pet. 3:5, 6)
2. Wives are to love their husbands and be submissive to him. (Col. 3:18)

3. Though this is not popular in society today, the Christian woman will recognize that the man is the head of the house. (Eph. 5:23)

B. Women need to learn what quality time with husband is.

1. Quality time is not . . .

- a. Nagging.
- b. Reading a book in one room while he watches TV.
- c. A few minutes on the phone.
- d. Doing housework together.

2. Quality time is . . .

- a. Talking to him about what is important to you.
- b. Listening when he talks to you.
- c. Going on long walks.
- d. Doing things that are of interest to him.

3. Wives need to learn what the needs and wants of their husbands are.

III. Make most of time with children.

A. Parents need to make more time for their children.

1. Many children are being raised by the TV.

2. Parents have a responsibility to train their children in the ways of the Lord.

- a. Israelites were to do this. (Deut. 6:4-9)
- b. They failed to do this, their children forgot the Lord. (Ju. 2:10)
- c. We must take time to teach our children the word of God or we will lose them. (Eph. 6:4)
- d. Mothers train daughters. (Titus 2:3, 4)
- e. Example: Timothy was taught from childhood. (2 Tim. 3:14, 15; 2 Tim. 1:5) Grandmother and mother taught him.

3. Take quality time with children.

- a. Get involved in their lives.
- b. Set aside time to study the Bible with them. Teach them that God comes first.

B. Children make the most of the time you have with your parents.

1. Children obey parents.
2. Do not take your parents for granted.
3. We often assume that we will always have them with us.
4. Children need to spend quality time with their parents.
 - a. Set aside time to ask about their day and tell them about yours.
 - b. Be home for dinner. That is important to them.
 - c. Do activities with them.

- Conclusion:
1. We must recognize that our time is limited with our family.
 2. We must make the most of the time we do have.
 3. Husbands and wives need to spend more time together.
 4. Parents and children need to spend more time together.
 5. But this must be quality time. Not rushed time.
 6. Life is too short to ignore those that are most important in your life.

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THE UNBELIEVING WIFE

Holger Neubauer

1 Corinthians 7:10-16

Intro: Though the ideal marriage will always involve two Christians (1 Cor 9:5; Phil 1:9-10), occasionally either through the conversion of one spouse or through unwise decisions, Christians find themselves married to non-Christians. This lesson will be directed toward Christian husbands married to non-Christian wives.

- I. No justification for divorce.
 - A. Even when Christian men are married to non-Christian wives, God forbids that marriage to be destroyed (Matt 19:6).
 - B. This is the question Paul addressed in the first century at Corinth (1 Cor 7:16).
 - C. The “whosoever” of Matthew 19:9 is inclusive of every marriage of accountable individuals and no other reason for divorce is given in the so called “Pauline Privilege”.
 - D. The same law that applies to Christian marriages also applies to non-Christian marriages (Jude 3; Titus 1:4; James 4:12).
- II. Since the one law governs all marriages it makes little difference whether the “rest” in 1 Corinthians 7:12 refers to the rest of the questions that Paul had received from those at Corinth or the rest of the marriages which refer to Christians married to non-Christians.
 - A. First it must be noted that Paul was simply affirming what had been previously said by the Lord (1 Cor 7:10).
 - B. The word “depart” is from the Greek “chorizo” and was utilized by the Lord in Matthew 19:6. The wife is commanded not to separate and divorce herself from her husband.
 - C. Likewise, the husband was not to “put away his wife.” the word “aphiemi” embraces both the ideas of divorce and separation. Neither the husband or the wife is to destroy the marriage bond.

- D. Since there always exists the possibility of individuals doing what the Lord commanded not, Paul legislates that there should be no reconciliation and no remarriage to any other.
 - E. Some see the “unmarried” state as an equal alternative, but this would contradict Matt 19:6 and 1 Pet 3:7. The unmarried state implies the one partner in the relationship is unwilling to repent and reconcile.
 - F. 1 John 2:1 gives a similar use of the word “if”. Clearly, God does not grant permission to remain divorced or separated if He also legislates against it. Sometimes Christians are forced to remain single because after their leaving a marriage with no scriptural right, their spouses are unwilling to reconcile with them though they too would sin in remaining single.
- III. In verses 12-15 Paul speaks about a subject not previously addressed by the Lord, a relationship where Christians were married to non-Christians. The Christian man is told not to leave the marriage and is encouraged to look forward to the possibility of saving his wife (vs. 16).
- A. Paul first addresses the need for the Christian man to remain faithful to the Lord. If the unbelieving wife agrees to live with her husband’s service to the Lord, he is commanded not to send his wife away.
 - B. As Solomon’s heart was turned away from God by his foreign wives, so too the ever present danger of letting an unbelieving mate weaken the believer’s faith must continually be recognized (1 Kings 11:1-4).
 - C. The marriage to an unbelieving mate is secondary to the believer’s spiritual marriage to the Lord (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:31, 32).
 - D. If the unbelieving mate does not wish to continue in the marriage due to an unwillingness to allow the Christian to continue in his service to God, the unbeliever is to be allowed to leave.
 - E. The verb “dedoulotai” (depart), refers to a bondage of slavery, and hence Paul instructs that the marriage of a believer to an unbeliever must never become a relationship of bondage that stifles service to the Lord.
- IV. The Christian husband can influence the unbelieving wife unto salvation (vs. 16).

- A. However, Paul seems to be saying that because the unbeliever's conversion is uncertain, Christians should never consider leaving the Lord to maintain their relationships.
- B. One thing is certain, only faithful service will save the Christian and have a truly lasting effect on unbelieving spouses.
- C. Christians who are concerned with being salt and light will influence not only their families but all who come into contact with their lives (Matthew 5:13-16).

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THE UNBELIEVING HUSBAND
Jo Ann Neubauer

TEXT: 1 Peter 3:1-7; 1 Corinthians 7:10-14

THESIS: Let your husband see that you are a better wife for him because you are a Christian.

INTRODUCTION: A happy wife has the best husband, but more often makes the best of the husband she has.

- I. The Bible says in 1 Samuel 25:3-44 that Abigail was:
 - A. a woman of good understanding
 - B. beautiful in appearance
 - C. married to Nabal who was:
 1. harsh and evil in his doings
 2. called a scoundrel or son of Belial
 3. his name meant “folly”
 4. from the house of Caleb
- II. Nabal had an opportunity to choose God:
 - A. through the lineage of Caleb (v. 3)
 - B. had the influence of a “good and understanding wife” (v. 3)
 - C. He chose evil. (“Such a scoundrel that no one could talk to him.” v. 17)
- III. Unbelieving husbands have an opportunity to choose God through the influence of their wives.
 - A. Our conduct can influence them. (1 Peter 3:1)
 - B. Abigail unselfishly made haste to save her husband and her household.
- IV. Abigail kept her appearance beautiful.
 - A. In former times, women who trusted in God adorned themselves in submissiveness. (1 Peter 3:5)
 - B. Not the outward, but the inward person should be seen. (1 Peter 3:3-4)
- V. Why do women marry the unbeliever?

- A. Abigail was probably in an arranged marriage.
- B. Most often, women see something in him that is very appealing to her.
 - 1. outward looks and rose-colored glasses.
 - 2. They may share some of the same value system so she thinks she will one day convert him.
 - a. Erma's story
 - b. Diane's story
 - c. Susan's story

VI. God command us to walk as children of light (Ephesians 5:8) and approve the things which are excellent! (Philippians 1:10)

- A. Why then is it such a shock when we realize our bad choice and this is forever?
 - 1. Often this is realized right away when the husband does not change like she imagined.
 - 2. It is unfair to the unsuspecting husband if she did not verbalize her "desire to be faithful to God one day" during her courtship.
 - 3. Sometimes the realization comes when her children reach the age of accountability and go the way of the father.

VII. As parents, we have a responsibility in the molding of our children.

- A. Train them from birth the wisdom of being faithful to God.
 - 1. Teach them diligently. (Deuteronomy 6:7-9)
 - 2. Bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
 - a. She must be taught from God's teachings that a godly mate will help her and her children.
 - b. Never assume your child understands this on his own accord.
- B. Saying, "Make sure you marry a Christian" without applying it to Scripture won't drive the point across.
 - 1. Remember Susan's story. (She thought she was right in choosing her Christian mate.)

VIII. What do I do now that I am in this difficult and delicate situation?

- A. The Lord commands in 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 that we stay with our mates.

B. If he be willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. (v 13)

C. For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? (v 16)

CONCLUSION:

The effects of a father becoming a Christian are certainly far reaching in any family, and there is an eternal influence on his wife and children.

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Solutions to the Problem of Divorce
Johnny Ramsey

Introduction:

- A. Malachi 2:16: God Hates It!
- B. Matthew 19:6: Do Not Divide What God Joins.
 - 1. Sad Statistic: 1,200,000 Divorces Each Year In United States
 - 2. Genesis 2: From The Beginning . . . This was not God's Plan!

I. How To Correct The Problem:

- A. Be A Strong Christian.
- B. Marry A Strong Christian.
- C. Enter A Lifetime Commitment.
- D. Never Allow Materialism To Dominate.
- E. Faithfully Worship And Serve The Lord.
- F. Make Prayer And Bible Study Daily Habits.
- G. Be Active Members Of Christ's Church.
- H. Keep Thoughts Pure And Holy.
- I. Put Christianity First In Your Life!
- J. Have An Optimistic View Of Life.
- K. Keep Heaven Always As Your Goal.

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Keys To Effective Parenting
Steve Higginbotham
(Genesis 42:22; Ephesians 6:4)

- Introduction:
1. I don't know that an adult can engage in any job that is more important than raising children.
 2. However, raising moral children in an immoral age is a difficult proposition.
 3. The following suggestions, if followed, will help us to be better parents.

I. Teach Your Children The Virtue Of Honesty

- A. We face a national crisis concerning honesty today.
- B. Dishonesty strikes at the very heart of Christianity (Mt. 7:12).
- C. Honesty is a heaven or hell issue (Rev. 21:8; Heb. 13:18).

II. Teach Your Children The Virtue Of Reverence And Respect

- A. We are raising a generation who knows little about reverence and respect but who knows much about fun and frolic.
- B. Respect for God, His Son, the Bible, authority, and time honored traditions need to be valued.

III. Teach Your Children The Virtue Of Spiritual Development

- A. Children need to be taught the word of God and to love God (Deut. 6:4-9).
- B. Our children need to know about:
 1. Heaven and Hell.
 2. Sin and its consequences.
 3. Christ and His church.

IV. We Need To Discipline Our Children

- A. The demands of discipline:
 1. Make a clear distinction between your child and their behavior (Ps. 25:7).
 2. Be consistent.
 3. Don't make idle threats.

4. Frequently reinforce your child's good behavior.
5. Don't yell. If you get into this habit, your children won't think you really mean it unless you yell.
6. Parents should stand together in the disciplinary action.
7. Do what is best for your child, not always what is pleasing.

- Conclusion:
1. True love for your children demands that you teach them the virtues spoken of in this lesson.
 2. Let's work with diligence to be effective parents.

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Rewards Of A Christian Family
Johnny Ramsey

- I.
- A. Psalm 127:1; Genesis 18:19; Luke 1:6; I Samuel 1; Joshua 24:15; Proverbs 31:28.
 - B. These verses tell us of Dedication, Loyalty, Commitment and Sacrifice. Traits of a godly home! It takes effort to live for God and others, but that is the essence of Christianity.
- II. The Rewards:
- A. Peace on earth.
 - B. Joy for children.
 - C. Satisfaction for parents.
 - D. Strength in the church.
 - E. Hope of heaven in our hearts.
 - F. Godly influence upon others.
 - G. God will be glorified!

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