

F Family (The Christian Home)

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

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

Contrary to what many think, the home and the church are *COMPLEMENTARY*. The strongest home is one built around a church, and the strongest church is one made up of families who attend faithfully and serve the Lord together.

It is little wonder, then, that Satan's arena of diabolic activity is in our homes and in the churches. This is truly an age when many homes and marriages are "on the rocks" instead of being built upon THE Rock (*Matthew 7:24-27*) and when many Baptist churches are departing from the Word of God.

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

THE FIRST HOME

Open your Bible to *Genesis 2:15-25* and read this passage carefully.

A. What did God say was not good for man?

B. How was the first woman made?

C. In this passage, God says the woman is to be an H__ __ M__ __ for the man.
(This means that she complements and completes her husband: she is his counterpart.)

D. In marriage, what is a man to **leave**? _____

E. In marriage, what do the couple **become**? _____

F. According to *Genesis 3:16*, in marriage, where is to be the woman's **desire**?

G. Look up: *Matthew 19:4-6*.

What did the Lord Jesus Christ say concerning the permanency of the marriage relationship? _____

H. Look up: *Romans 7:1-3*.

According to God's plan for marriage, the bond of marriage was to be broken only by _____.

I. Look up: *Hebrews 13:4^a*. What two things does God say are honorable?

1. M_ _ _ _ _ .

2. The bed U_ _ _ _ _ (i.e., premarital chastity).

Note: There is divine forgiveness through Jesus Christ when one acknowledges the sin of fornication and/or marital infidelity (*I Corinthians 6:9-11*), although the scars and consequences do remain (*Proverbs 6:32-33*).

THE HUSBAND'S DUTY TO HIS WIFE

A. *Genesis 2:24* — he is to _ _ _ _ _ unto his wife.

B. *Ephesians 5:25* — he is to _ _ _ _ _ his wife.

C. Husbands are to love their wives as:

1. C_ _ _ _ _ loves the C_ _ _ _ _ — *Ephesians 5:25*.

2. The love they have for their own _ _ _ _ _ — *Ephesians 5:28*.

D. He is to P_ _ _ _ _ for his wife — *I Timothy 5:8*.

E. *I Peter 3:7* — he is to give H_ _ _ _ _ to his wife.

F. *I Corinthians 7:3* — he is to render due B_ _ _ _ _ to his wife.
(He is not to use her as an object for his personal pleasure.)

G. *I Corinthians 7:5* — he is not to D_ _ _ _ _ [withhold from] his wife.
(This is referring to the physical intimacy of marriage.)

H. *Ephesians 5:23* — he is to be the _ _ _ _ _ of his wife and the home.
(This has nothing to do with being a “dictator.” It means he is to be in the place of leadership.)

THE WIFE'S DUTY TO HER HUSBAND

- A. *Ephesians 5:22* — she is to _ _ _ _ _ to her husband in his exercise of leadership in the home.
- B. *Ephesians 5:33^b* — she is to _ _ _ _ _ her husband.
(A wife should never criticize her husband in the presence of others.)
- C. *I Timothy 5:14* — she is to G_ _ _ _ the home.

Note: The Bible does not teach it is wrong for a wife to take a paying job — especially in a time of genuine need — but her **priority** is to be a homemaker. When a job or career causes a wife and/or mother to neglect her husband or to give second best to her children, she ought to quit her job and trust the Lord! God never intended for children to be left in the care of others while their mother worked.

- D. If your husband is not a Christian, follow the teaching of *I Peter 3:1*. (The word “conversation” means a “godly manner of life.”)

Note: Never deliberately disobey your unsaved husband, even if it means having to miss attending church meetings. Appeal to him as your authority (*Proverbs 25:15*), pray hard, and let God deal with him! **Never** push the Bible down his throat. Instead, seek to be a “living Gospel” to him by following the scriptural pattern above. Earnestly pray for your husband and love him. Ask the Lord to open opportunities for you to witness to him or invite him to the church meetings.

- E. *I Corinthians 7:4-5* — she is not to D_ _ _ _ _ her husband.

Note: The physical union of marriage is intended for the intimate pleasure of **both** husband and wife. **Never** use this part of your marriage as a “bargaining chip” with your husband. A man and his wife must work together in this area to achieve oneness and true intimacy, understanding, and harmony.

PARENTS' DUTY TO THEIR CHILDREN

- A. Look up: *Psalm 127:3*. Children are the Lord's H_ _ _ _ _.
- B. Look up: *Proverbs 22:6*. Parents are responsible to _ _ _ _ _ up their children — not the government or the television.

☞ According to *Ephesians 6:4^b*, fathers are responsible to bring their children up in the _____ and _____ of the Lord. The word “nurture” means “discipline” (as in discipleship).

- **Children require discipline and should be taught obedience in the home. This will take real character on the part of the parents.**
 1. Children should be taught to *OBEY* without question and, when necessary or appropriate, without waiting for an explanation.
 2. Obedience must be instant and without argument.
 3. For character building, parents should allow no exceptions to this rule.
- **Children should be taught to work. Within their first year they can be taught to pick up clothes and toys (even if imperfectly).**
- **Children should be taught regular habits for happiness and usefulness.**
 1. They should go to bed at regular times without complaint. Bedtime is age appropriate, but it should never be late.
 2. They should have good habits of personal hygiene. — brushing teeth and washing hands, etc.
 3. They should be trained to be orderly and neat. (Parents must set the example in this!!)
 4. Any television watching should be very carefully controlled and limited. Children should *never* be permitted to watch television apart from parental presence! If you have a television set, have a policy of zero-tolerance for filth, profanity, violence, ungodly lifestyles, and false doctrine, etc. The same applies to the internet and electronic games.
- **Children need to be taught the art of living peaceably with others.**
 1. No fighting should be allowed.
 2. Children should respect the possessions of other family members (including their parents) and not take what is not their own.
 3. They should be taught to share their property.
 4. They should be taught to forgive and to genuinely ask for forgiveness.
- **Children should be taught the right use of money.**
 1. When old enough to do chores, children should earn some money of their own (but *not* for doing things they ought to be doing anyway, such as making their beds or cleaning up their rooms).
 2. They should be taught to tithe and give to the Lord and His work.

3. They should be taught how to spend money wisely.
 4. They should be taught to save a portion of money.
- **Children need time with their parents.**
 1. Each child should have “special” times with each parent, and special activities with the entire family together.
 2. Parents should lead their children in such a way that, in time, they can win that one to Christ.

All the above spell “TIME” and “EFFORT.” That’s what it takes!! Many modern-day parents are too lazy (selfish) to give the time and to put in the consistent effort necessary to bring up godly children, wanting instant results. In some instances, they’d almost be happy to let others do it for them.

Determine here and now that you will follow God’s pattern and dedicate yourself to its consistent application while you have children in the home.

C. It is important to understand your children as they REALLY are in God’s sight.

Look up: Proverbs 22:15^a and Psalm 58:3. They are all born with a “sin nature.” They are not “perfect little angels!”

D. God’s Provision for the Correction of Children:

1. *Proverbs 13:1* — a father’s _ _ _ _ _ .
2. *Proverbs 22:15^b* — the _ _ _ .

Much of today’s humanistic philosophy says it is wrong to spank children, but the Bible says it is necessary and right — **provided...**

- a. The rod is applied to the right place. Never strike your child across the face, chest, back, or legs, etc. Apply the “*board of education to the seat of learning!*”
- b. The rod is applied in love — *Proverbs 13:24^b*. Never spank your child in anger or to take out your own frustrations. Send your disobedient child to his or her room and wait for a few minutes to think things through and, if necessary, to calm down.
- c. The rod is applied early in life — “...while there is yet hope...” *Proverbs 19:18^a*.
- d. The rod is applied effectively — *Proverbs 19:18^b*. Children will cry when they receive a proper spanking. Sometimes, they will also do their best to make you feel like an ogre. Don’t spare it!
- e. The rod is applied consistently. Don’t spank for wrongs the child didn’t know about; don’t spank for last week’s wrongs; **DO NOT EVER NOT SPANK WHEN YOU SAID YOU WOULD!**

- f. The rod is applied coherently. A child needs to understand why he or she is to receive a spanking. Remind them of what was said.
- g. There is a time of loving assurance and prayer soon after the rod has been applied. **Never** apologize for spanking. Always return to the room to assure the child of your love and to pray together afterwards — *Proverbs 13:24^a*.

CHILDREN’S DUTIES TO THEIR PARENTS

- A. *Exodus 20:12* — they are to H_ _ _ _ _ their parents.
- B. *Proverbs 13:1* — they are to listen to their parents’ I_ _ _ _ _ .
- C. *Ephesians 6:1* — they are to O_ _ _ _ their parents.

FAMILY LIFE — GOD’S HEAVEN ON EARTH

“In the house of the righteous is much treasure” — *Proverbs 15:6.*

- A. Look up: *Ephesians 4:31-32.* List the **six** things that need to be put out of your family and home life:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |

...and the **three** things you need to set in place:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- B. Look up: *Deuteronomy 6:5-7.* What should be the two features of your home?

- C. Look up: *Joshua 24:15^f.* What was Joshua’s motto for his home?

- D. There is a wonderful trilogy of the Christian home found in the Psalms. Take time to read the following:

- The BUILDING of the Home — Psalm 127.
- The BLESSING of the Home — Psalm 128.
- The BEHAVIOR of the Home — Psalm 131.

ESTABLISHING A “FAMILY ALTAR”

One of the greatest blessings you can enjoy in your home is to have what is sometimes called a “family altar.” This is a definite time, place, and event in the routine of your home where the whole family meets around the Word of God — to read, to pray, to sing, and to talk.

In our fast-moving society, it will be one of the most difficult things for you to do — but one of the best.

A. The Responsibility for a Family Altar:

Look up and read: *Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21; I Peter 3:7 and I Corinthians 14:35.*

This responsibility rests upon _____.

B. How to Establish a Family Altar:

1. Decide upon the most suitable time for **your** home. If appropriate, call a family conference to make this decision.
2. Make a definite commitment to the Lord to the establishment of your family altar. Plan to stick to it.
3. Work out a plan of Bible reading and devotional material. This will vary depending upon the age of any children. Talk to a pastor if help is needed in selecting some good material.
4. Do it! Right away! Then be ready to resist the Devil as he throws his fiery darts of opposition and obstruction.

C. Suggestions for a Productive Family Altar:

1. Always read a portion of scripture. The book of Proverbs is excellent for the whole family.
2. Consider having a hymn-/chorus-of-the-month. Learn it as a family.
3. Use “prayer cards” for a family prayer time. Make these up yourself; and include your pastor(s), evangelists (missionaries), church members, relatives, and the unsaved. Each family member can take one card to pray over.
4. Be brief. Don’t attempt to make it a “church service!” It is far better to be brief and consistent than drawn out and haphazard.
5. Involve the entire family. What you do will obviously vary with the age and stage of your children.
6. Use some variety. Reading through a good Christian biography is one helpful adjunct.

7. Keep it informal, Biblical, and open for suggestion and improvement.
8. If you miss a day or a week, don't always try to "catch up" — but be sure to *always* go on!

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

IMPORTANT NOTE

Christian homes and marriages are NOT exempt from pressures and troubles. There may be times when serious problems arise. Always feel that you can confidently (and confidentially) speak to your pastor about such matters. He believes the Bible has the answer and is more than willing to counsel with you. But be willing to accept Bible answers and principles over worldly "solutions!"

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read: Proverbs chapters 10 through 15.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to memorize: *Joshua 24:15*.