

*Study Guide*

# The Christian Home



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**SUNSET**  
International Bible Institute



# THE CHRISTIAN HOME



BY

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Arranged for study by  
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## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

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critical articles and reviews, including translation.

## DISCLAIMER

The textbooks used in this course were selected by Charles Speer. He considers them to be the best reference books available written by knowledgeable authors on the Christian home. “*His Needs, Her Needs*” written by Willard F. Harley, Jr. and “*The Strong Willed Child*” written by Dr. James Dobson will be valuable resources for your study on this important subject. These books will re-enforce and enhance the teaching you will receive from viewing the video lessons by Charles Speer. As with all books written by men, there may be some things with which you and I would not agree. The principle, “use what is good and discard what is not good” applies to all books used with our courses. Please be wise enough to discard any and all teaching that is not biblical.

# Instructions and Requirements for Level II Students

## (Certificate of Basic Bible Study)

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Each lesson is built around the instruction on either the DVDs or the CDs. Listen to or view the lecture as you follow along in the course Study Guide.

**Reading:** Recommended reading consist of two books, the main one by Willard F. Harley, Jr. which is used extensively in this course entitled: "***His Needs Her Needs***" and "***The Strong Willed Child***" by Dr. James Dobson. The reading of these two books will greatly enhance your knowledge of the "Christian Home" as Charles presents it. (Reading these two books can be substituted for the assigned memory work)

**Tests:** There is a **Self Exam** at the end of each lesson. Preview each lesson by reading these questions first. There will be only two test to complete this course. The mid-term test will cover the first twelve (12) lessons, a final test will be given at the end of the study covering the last twelve (12) lessons. Each test will cover only the previous twelve lessons studied. **You must receive a grade of 70% or above to successfully pass this course. (The two major tests will be worth 70% of you final grade)**

**Memory Work:** Memory verses are to be done as you go through the study. You are asked to either write your verses in the presence of the administrator, correct them with a different colored pen and turn them in with the mid-term or final test or quote them to the administrator during the course of study. He will keep track of the verses completed and report them to us. Please be diligent in doing your memory work. All memory work must be completed to pass this course. There are 20 memory verses for this course. (**Memory verses will be 20% of your final grade**)

**Due with mid-term test:** (12 verses)  
Ephesians 5:22-33

**Due with final test:** (8 verses)  
Galatians 6:7; Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 20:7; 23:13-14; 29:15, 19

- All the Self Exams in the Study Guide are to be completed and inspected by the Administrator. (**10% of your final grade**)
- All the memory verses assigned must be completed and either written or quoted before the mid-term, (lessons 1–12), and final test, (lessons 13–24), are taken.
- All assignments, must be completed to pass the course.

**Grade:** Your total grade average for the course must equal 70% or above.

Readings or Memory verses	20%
Self exams	10%
Mid-term and final exams	<u>70%</u> 100%

# **Instructions and Requirements for**

## **Level III Students**

**(Bachelor of Biblical Studies)**

**(Certificate of Advanced Bible Study)**

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Each lesson is built around the instruction on either the DVDs or the CDs. Listen to or view the lecture as you follow along in the course Study Guide.

**Reading:** You will be required to read two books, the main one by Willard F. Harley, Jr. which is used extensively in this course entitled: "***His Needs Her Needs***" and "***The Strong Willed Child***" by Dr. James Dobson. The reading of these two books will greatly enhance your knowledge of the "Christian Home" as Charles presents it. You must write a one page evaluation of each of these two books. (**This will constitute 15% of your grade**)

**Memory Verses:** You are required to memorize twenty (20) verses. These are to be done as you go through the study and the appropriate passages done at the appropriate time. The first 12 verses must be completed by the mid-term exam. The last 8 verses must be completed by the final exam. Either quote these to your Test Administrator or write them out and have someone correct them with a different colored ink and present them to your Test Administrator. (**Worth 10% of your total grade**) Please indicate which Bible version you are using.

**Due with mid-term test:** (12 verses)

Ephesians 5:22-33

**Due with final test:** (8 verses)

Galatians 6:7; Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 20:7; 23:13-14; 29:15, 19

**Notebook:** You may want to begin and complete a notebook consisting of material gained in this study. This is not a requirement but will be beneficial in your further study. Include in the notebook the following:

- a. Notes taken as you view/listen to the recorded lectures.
- b. Your returned test papers, including your memory verses.
- c. Any other material you may find important for later use in teaching.

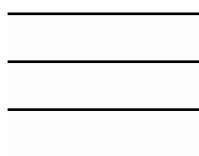
**Exams:** There will be two major exams for this course. One at the end of lesson twelve (12) and the final will be at the end of the course. Each test will cover only the previous twelve lessons studied. These two tests will be 70% of your total grade. Complete all "Self Exam" questions in your Course Guide and show them to your Administrator. (**5% of your grade**). A grade of at least 70% is required on the Mid-term and Final exams to pass this course.

**Grade:** Your total grade average for the course must equal 70% or above.

Readings and evaluation paper	15%
Memory verses	10%
Self exams	5%
Mid-term and final exams	70%
	100%

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## LESSON ONE

# False Philosophies in Marriages

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### INTRODUCING THE COURSE:

 here will be three major parts to this study of the Christian Home: 1) When you are single, 2) Marriage itself, and 3) Parenting and raising children. Much of the material presented in the second section of the study will be taken from the book: "*His Needs / Her Needs*" by Willard F. Harley, Jr.

There is a changing attitude toward marriage and the home. Long term commitment is on the wane. This is seen in our work environment and ethic and also seen in the attitude toward the marriage relationship.

What solutions can be extended toward young couples contemplating marriage? Do they see divorce as an option? Is pre-marital counseling important?

Why is it that many marriages do not last? What is being taught and modeled? What are the expectations in the young person? In John 8:44 Jesus said: "*He (the Devil) was a murderer from the beginning not holding to the truth for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*" If he can get us to believe his lies, he may well cause us to lose our souls and our marriages.

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**LESSON AIM:** To introduce and examine some false philosophies that can endanger marriage relationships.

**LESSON PREVIEW:** You will . . .

1. Understand that the false philosophy of "You can't change what you can't change" is a lie and will destroy the marriage relationship.
  2. Learn three other concepts concerning life in general that is destructive to every relationship and especially to the marriage relationship.
- 

**FALSE PHILOSOPHY NUMBER ONE: YOU CAN'T CHANGE WHAT YOU CAN'T CHANGE (Ecclesiastes 1:1-11).**

**A. Solomon's Illustrations from the Cycles in Creation (vs. 4-9).** "Under the sun" implies a closed system with no interference or interruption from without. It's a form of fatalism or determinism.

**B. Applies to Life in General and Child-rearing in Particular**

1. Life is boring, discouraging, frustrating – and therefore meaningless – because nothing can be changed. All things are set in motion, and that's it. That's the way it will always be!

2. It's the concept that I'm just the way I am. I was brought up this way. My dad/mom was that way, so I am too.
3. She's been that way for 20 years. She'll never change.
4. It's too hard to change. I can't do it. I've always been this way and always will be.
6. Change is always bad. Upsets things. Status quo is the norm.
7. We start with high goals, intentions, dreams. When those aren't met, we sometimes give up.
8. Children seeing divorce and thinking, "That's the way it is and will probably be for me some day."

**C. Christianity Is Built on the Biblical Premise That People Can Change**

1. People can repent. People can believe. Christians are to be transformed in their minds daily.
  - a. If we believe Scripture, we can change. So can the other person.
  - b. Through submission, humility, prayer, and the power of the Spirit in the inner man, we can become more Christ-like.
2. People settle for less than God intends they have in their children?

**FALSE PHILOSOPHY NUMBER TWO: LIFE IN THE FAST LANE IS THE BEST WAY (Ecclesiastes 2: 1-11).**

**A. Verse 11 Is the Key: "Pleasure." Uses the Word "I, Me, Mine" 45 Times**

**B. Different Expressions of this Philosophy:**

1. Laughter (v. 2): Whatever makes me laugh, keeps me happy – jokes (TV emphasis – sitcoms). Parties, everything must be fun.
2. Alcohol (v. 3): Modest controlled approach gives me pleasure. The concept that the successful, the beautiful, the young, the smart people drink.
3. Materialism (vs. 4-8). Expensive car for kids getting their first licenses.
4. Accomplishment (vs. 4-6) – challenge of a project and thrill of finishing.
5. Control over people (v. 7) – power, e.g. politics.
6. Amusement (v. 8) – Living for the weekend and pleasure.
7. Reputation, fame, status (vs. 8,9) – legendary, are we on top in our lives.
8. Sexual gratification.

**C. Application to Marriage**

1. Our society is inundated with these philosophies, in the media, through college life, growing up, on into adulthood.
2. Spend an inordinate amount of time on entertainment and fun. Life becomes unbalanced.
3. Much of the family budget is about lifestyle versus sacrifice for spiritual matters.
4. Marriages become about living for the weekend and recreation.
5. It's about, "Can't wait till we get to retire, so we can go on the road!"

**Question:** How do we spend the majority of our time and energy?

- a. Service?
- b. Visitation?

- c. Prayer and study?
- d. Or only for recreation and pleasure?
- 7. Children looking ahead to what marriage is all about – the fun, the sex, the money?
- 8. Getting our kicks in poor ways, through alcohol, pornography, partying, etc.
- 9. What will we model for our children? What kind of lifestyle will they see? We can't expect to be successful saying, "Do what I say, not what I do!"
- 10. Do we have the courage to protect our children from these influences, e.g. TV, friends, activities? God's people are in the world but not of the world.
- 11. Be careful not to teach (by word or example):
  - a. Selfish gratification.
  - b. Distraction from important pursuits in life.
  - c. Low purpose in life.
  - d. Always needing a "fix" of pleasure.
  - e. Fantasy world.

**E. Give Your Child-Rearing a High Purpose – Service to God as a Team, a Godly Family**

Focus your activities on giving to others. Grandparents can do this too.

**F. Life Is Not All about Work and Accomplishment and Drudgery Any More than It's All about Fun**

- 1. It appears the Lord created us to enjoy this world in a refreshing way.
- 2. These desires of the flesh have rewarding fulfilments in the Christian scheme of things.
- 3. It's when we work them in appropriately to bless our lives and refresh us that they aid us.

**FALSE PHILOSOPHY NUMBER THREE: POWER AND CONTROL  
(Ecclesiastes 4:1-6)**

**A. It's a Philosophy of Power, Pressure, Position, and Control**

Whatever it takes to get one's way, it will be done. There are many applications of this philosophy in the areas of business, government, church.

**B. It Can Show up in Families Too – Parents and Children, Child to Child**

- 1. Also in marriages. It's called "abuse."
- 2. It can take several forms – physical, emotional, mental.

**C. The Fruit and Consequences of this Philosophy**

- 1. It prevents the flow of ideas – getting to the right place and decision. Involves keeping score about who gets their way more times than the other.
- 2. It produces extreme cases of isolation – verbal or physical abuse, intimidation.
- 3. Takes the form of withholding what the other person needs – affection, sex.
- 4. Takes the form of manipulation of people and circumstances.

5. **Creates a war-like atmosphere** in the home.
6. The **ultimate end is loneliness** (vs. 4-8).

**D. The Biblical View of Who's in Charge Is Mutual Submission (Ephesians 5:20-21)**

1. When that principle is in place, it's not about who wins the argument or who's right, but getting it right.
2. It affects decision-making and conflict resolution in a biblical way.

**FALSE PHILOSOPHY NUMBER FOUR: HAVING LOTS OF FRIENDS (Ecclesiastes 4:7-12)**

“One Is the Loneliest Number” – but Christianity says, “where no one stands alone.”

**A. Places Where this Philosophy Thrives**

1. Pubs, bars and other night-time gathering places.
2. Having friends over all the time.
3. Going places with people all the time.
4. For some it's the reason for going to church, clubs, civic organizations.
5. Always having to have people around, can't stand to be alone.

**B. Effects this Philosophy Has on Marriage**

1. It inhibits personal time, and intimate communication.
2. A person doesn't learn the benefit of solace, meditation.
3. It indicates that a person can't deal with loneliness.
4. Often friendships become the highest priority – compromises are sometimes made for the sake of retaining or making a friendship.
5. Friendships become the end within themselves.

**C. Biblical Concepts**

1. Friendships are **opportunities to serve others** for their good.
2. Relationships are fostered to provide **opportunity to share the good news**.
  - a. The depth of relationship is important.
  - b. Christian friendships are for Christian reasons – edification, strength.

**NOTE:** The Lord's church is the belonging place. It is intended to fulfill the need for good fellowship others than with one's mate. And it's not just about having fun together. It's about partnering together in the Lord's work and cause. Picking people in the Body for fun and beyond.

**CONCLUSION**

Our society is throwing these lies at us all the time. We must renew our minds as to the biblical principles and applications so that our minds are renewed, lest we become worldly in our thinking and living.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON ONE**

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1. Solomon's expression: "under the sun" implies what concept?

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2. List the four worldly philosophy studied in this lesson.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Give six fruits or consequences of the philosophy of power and control.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_  
5) \_\_\_\_\_  
6) \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the biblical view of "Who's in charge"?

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5. Concerning the philosophy of having lots of friends, list five problems with this that affects marriages.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_  
5) \_\_\_\_\_

6. List two (2) biblical concepts of the philosophy of having lots of friends.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON TWO

# The Biblical Philosophy of Marriage

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### INTRODUCTION:

**T**his course is not primarily about how to get along better. Not just about communicating better, getting the sex right, meeting each other's needs so both will be happy. So much of the "marriage-help" resources are about that very thing – how to be happy, though married. It's almost built upon the so-called american inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

When the Sadducees posed a question to Jesus concerning post-resurrection marital relationships, the Lord answered, "*At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven*" (Matthews 22:30). Man and woman were created in the likeness of God. Man's image is to reflect God's glory. That is man's purpose on earth. He and she can do that as single people as well as one who is married. Thus, there is a higher calling, a higher purpose for human beings than simply being happily coupled (as our society seems to think).

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**LESSON AIM:** To impress upon the student the relationship of God's eternal purpose to the family relationship.

**LESSON PREVIEW:** You will . . .

1. Examine the eternal purpose of God for all His people as they live out their lives in this present world.
  2. Learn that God's eternal purpose transcends the individual and the family relationship, expecting the family to reflect the need for everyone's correct response to His Word.
- 

### THE ETERNAL PURPOSES OF GOD FOR ALL PEOPLE

#### A. The Story of Scripture Is God's Plan to Redeem Mankind from Their Condemning Sin

1. He predestined the Christ to die for our sins (Revelation 13:8; 1 Peter 1:18-20; Acts 2:23-24).
  - a. Revelation 13:8 – Jesus' death on the cross was pre-determined before time began.
  - b. 1 Peter 1:18-20 – Christ and the redemption He accomplished was planned before the foundation of the world and revealed to us in these last days.
  - c. Acts 2:23-24 – Christ was handed over to His enemies by God's set purpose and foreknowledge.

- d. The plan was put in place, that Jesus would die for the sins of the world, before the creation of the world.
- 2. The church, which by definition, is the group of saved people, was also planned from eternity
  - a. Ephesians 3:10-11 – Paul informs us that, “The church is the ‘demonstrating’ and ‘proclaiming’ agent of God’s Great Commission.”
  - b. The Church’s eternal purpose was to demonstrate and to proclaim how God’s intent was to bring people together.
- 3. God wants all men to be saved.
  - a. 2 Peter 3:9 – “*...not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*”
  - b. 1 Timothy 2:3-7 – “*...who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*”
- 4. The reason we are still alive here on earth is to partner with God, to be co-laborers with Him (2 Corinthians 6:1) in fulfilling His purpose.
  - 1. That’s why we exist as a body of believers. That is the purpose of the existence of the church.
  - 2. That’s the purpose of our Christian marriages as well.
  - 3. We are to be a team for Him in Marriage and like every other endeavor, relationship, activity, decision should be submitted to the question, “How does this contribute to my carrying out the eternal purpose of God?”
    - a. What affect does it have on my **spouse** for salvation.
    - b. What affect does it have on my **children** for salvation.
    - c. What affect does it have on my **friends** for salvation.
    - d. What affect does it have on my **neighbors** for salvation.

## **B. Once Saved, We Come under Another Eternal Purpose of God – of Being Transformed**

- 1. Texts that speak of transformation that is to take place.
  - a. Once saved, one becomes the dwelling place of God: “*Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?*” (1 Corinthians 3:16; 11:1)
  - b. Once saved one is to become mature: “*Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect*” (Matthew 5:48).
  - c. Once saved one is to imitate Christ: “*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:*” (Philippians 2:5; 3:8-11, 12-14). Christians are to become like Jesus in every way.
  - d. Once saved one is to live a life of love: “*...and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God*” (Ephesians 5:2; 3:14-21).
    - 1) Be imitators of God.
    - 2) Christ is to dwell in your heart by love.
    - 3) Develop the character of Christ (Galatians 5:23).
- 2. Romans 8:29 – “*For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son ...*”

## **MARRIAGE AND GOD'S TWO ETERNAL PURPOSES FOR MANKIND**

### **A. God's Eternal Purposes and Parenting**

1. The Lord entrusts the children to parents.
2. They will grow up, and they will spend eternity somewhere.
3. Parenting is evangelistic – The most influential people in the lives of children are their parents.

### **B. God's Eternal Purposes and the Christian Family**

1. As our world goes crazy with aberrant relationships the family becomes extremely important in fulfilling God's eternal purpose.
2. A marriage that works attracts those who have tried other relationships that don't work.

### **C. God's Eternal Purposes and the Husband's Responsibility to His Family**

1. My spouse is entrusted to my care, by God. She / he is not mine; my spouse belongs God and He wants him/her back some day.
2. Paul likens a spouse's responsibility to that of Jesus and his bride (Ephesians 5:25-27).
3. He wants me to be a tool in His hand to save my spouse and to deliver her/him back to Him more Christ-like than when I got her!

### **Conclusion**

Thus every decision, every day, every part of our marriage must be aligned with accomplishing His two eternal purposes.

## **SELF EXAM FOR LESSON TWO**

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1. In God's eternal purpose, what is the parents responsibility toward their children?

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2. What is the husband's responsibility toward his spouse?

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3. What is the Christian family's relationship to God's eternal purpose?

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4. Charles list four (4) things that are to transpire once a person is saved. List these below.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON THREE

# While You Are Single

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### INTRODUCTION

The Christian home begins while people are still single. Being single seems to promote the concept that people don't have any responsibilities until they are married. Somehow the impression is that a person does not actually become an adult with actual responsibilities while still single. During the single part of a person's life, is a time of preparation for marriage and perhaps the remainder of one's life.

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**LESSON AIM:** To expose several things that can and should be given attention while one is still single.

**LESSON PREVIEW:** You will . . .

1. Learn that the single years can be filled with efforts to enhance one's personal development of his/her life.
  2. Know that developing one's personal life would include developing good habits and letting go of any bad habits one may have acquired.
  3. Discover that the single years can best be spent in establishing a strong relationship with God and with His people – the Church.
  4. Know that other things to be considered in the single years are career, how to handle money, and what you like or dislike in the opposite sex.
- 

### INTRODUCING THE LESSON

#### A. The Character of Life for Thirty-year Old Singles

Common statements made by single adults...

1. "I will wait to get involved in church work until I'm married."
2. "I don't need a budget right now... when I get married, I'll start being on a budget."
3. "I'll wait to find a career when I have to... when I'm married."
4. "If I don't get married, my life will be ruined."
5. "I don't need to save for anything yet... I'm single."

#### B. Common Myths (Misconceptions) of Single People

1. LIFE begins at marriage.
2. RESPONSIBILITY begins at marriage.
3. ACCOUNTABILITY begins at marriage.
4. CHRISTIANITY begins at marriage.
5. ADULTHOOD begins at marriage.

#### C. Average Age in America When People Get Married

1. The average age of first marriage for males is 28 years.
2. The average of first marriage for females is 26 years.

## **USE THE SINGLE YEARS FOR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **A. Get to Know Yourself by Spending Time Alone**

1. Learn that you don't have to spend every minute with someone or some activity.
2. Learn how to be alone and use that time to be useful in your development?
3. Learn how to be quiet – without music, entertainment, or people around at all times?
4. Learn how to think, contemplate and meditate when alone. Time alone is critical to getting to know yourself.

### **B. Reflecting on the Real You**

1. Take time to think, to be introspective in deep thinking about life.
2. Reflect on yourself: Who am I?
  - a. Reflect on your past, your future, your personality, your character.
  - b. Consider your likes and dislikes
  - c. Talents
  - d. Think about your strengths and weaknesses
  - e. What are your goals – whether a person is single or married.
3. Transformation process can take place while single.

## **DEVELOP GOOD HABITS.**

### **A. Become Disciplined in Your Lifestyle (Proverbs 1:1-7)**

*The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight; for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young – let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance – for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

### **B. Develop a Structured Life-style**

1. Develop the habit of completing projects on time.
2. Learn to use time wisely.
  - a. There needs to be time for one's spouse
  - b. There must be time for children in the home.
3. Eat right. – Keep the body healthy and strong.
4. Exercise responsibly.
5. Control your temper. – Anger management is extremely important.
6. Get rid of bad habits. Look at the list below and determine these and others will not be prevalent in you life.
  - a. Laziness.
  - b. Smoking.
  - c. Drinking.

- d. Drugs.
- e. Pornography.
- 7. Get counseling, if necessary.

### **C. Develop Balance in Your Life**

#### **DEVELOP A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

##### **A. Develop a Meaningful Devotional Life**

- 1. Read and study the word of God.
- 2. Prayer and meditation are important factors in developing a strong relationship with God.
- 3. Alone time with God is important in having an intimate relationship with God.

##### **B. Have Christian Groups of People for Friends**

- 1. Choose to be around godly people of all ages.
- 2. Choose to be around good parenting people.

##### **C. Take Good In-depth Bible Courses**

- 1. Take in-depth Bible courses that will challenge the established mind-set.
- 2. Establish good study habits in home Bible study.

##### **D. Make Church Attendance a Habitual Practice**

- 1. A strong relationship with a local congregation is important in growing spiritually.
- 2. Being in the assembly on a regular basis where you will receive all kinds of modeling from mature Christians.

##### **E. Be a Christian Active in Leading Others to Christ**

#### **FIND YOUR ROLE IN THE CHURCH**

##### **A. Be Willing to Try Things You Are Asked to do**

##### **B. Ask to Do Things – Don’t Wait for Other to Seek You out**

##### **C. Place Membership Somewhere – Don’t Be an “At-large” Christian**

##### **D. Serve, Rather than Be Served All the Time**

##### **E. Be In Regular Attendance at One Place**

Finding your talents and where they fit gets you ready for the future as a family member.

#### **WORK ON YOUR CAREER**

##### **A. Try Different Career Areas, If You Are Not Sure**

**B. Move to New Locales If Necessary.** Get out of your comfort zone. Be able to live different places.

**C. During the Time While Single, You Can Devote More Time to Career**

**D. Find What You Can Do That You Believe Benefits Mankind**

**LEARN TO HANDLE YOUR MONEY**

**A. Learn to Live on a Budget**

**B. Save for the Future**

**C. Become Disciplined in Spending**

**D. Make a Budget**

**E. Set Financial Goals – House, Children, Ring, Retirement**

**F. Be Liberal in Your Giving**

**LEARN WHAT YOU LIKE AND DISLIKE IN THE OPPOSITE SEX**

**A. Through Group Activities**

**B. Watching Friends Date**

**C. Dating Yourself**

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON THREE**

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1. What are five (5) common myths or misconceptions of single people?

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_  
5) \_\_\_\_\_

2. List five (5) areas a person can use to develop a strong relationship with God.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_  
5) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What five (5) things can a person do to find his role in the church?

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_  
5) \_\_\_\_\_

## **LESSON FOUR**

# How to Choose a Mate

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The subject of how to choose a mate well is an extremely important topic. Many people seem to go about making up their minds in a haphazard way. The question often arises, “How do I know if this is the man I should marry or not?” And the unwise answer given, “Oh, you’ll just know.” Unless one has determined ahead of time what is wanted in a husband or a wife, and what he/she is looking for – “you’ll just know” will be totally based on feeling. Feelings change and feelings aren’t always right. So, it’s good to study this subject and determine, “What am I looking for in a mate?”

Through the years of working with couples (whether married or dating), we have seen people who are in bad, unhealthy relationships. When discussing how they ended up in such a situation, many deny they had a choice.

1. He was the one ... there was nothing I could do about it.
2. I fell in love; there was no choice.
3. You know, “Love is blind.”
4. I had to follow my heart.
5. We had dated so long; there was only one thing left to do – marry.
6. No one else would date me ... I had no choice.
7. I was a senior and leaving college ... where would I have ever found a wife? I had to marry her/him.
8. I was pregnant ... I had to marry him
9. She was pregnant ... I had to marry her.
10. We had sex ... we had to marry to make up for the sin.
11. He is my destiny.

All of these statements imply that the person had no choice. Fate or destiny or a higher power was controlling their life.

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**LESSON AIM:** To give important instruction concerning reasons for entering a marriage relationship – both good and bad.

**LESSON PREVIEW:** You will . . .

1. Learn some unhealthy reasons for getting married and the bad consequences which can occur.
  2. List some healthy reasons for getting married and the good things that accompany this marriage.
-

## REASONS FOR GETTING MARRIED

Just as you need to seriously consider who you are going to marry, you must also consider why you want to get married. Consider first some unhealthy reasons for marriage.

### **A. Unhealthy Reasons for Getting Married**

1. *To spite or to get back at (punish) one's parents.*
  - a. The parents may be hurt because of the marriage.
  - b. The real result: The one who's likely to get hurt the most is the one marrying!
2. *Because one has a negative self-image.*
  - a. Marrying one's fiancé will make that person feel worthwhile and give them meaning to life.
  - b. The real result: Instead, what will probably happen is that person will feel more like a failure, and will feel worse about himself / herself!
3. *To be a therapist or counselor to one's fiancé.*
  - a. If a person is in serious need of a therapist or counselor, he doesn't need to get married yet.
  - b. The wife is not the one to give this kind of help! Don't try to rescue people from despair.
4. *Fear of being left as an old maid or old man.*
  - a. This is a scary thought for many of people
  - b. A tragic marriage is much more painful than remaining single, e.g. single at 30.
5. *Fear of independence.*
  - a. Some people don't want to be independent.
  - b. Just because a person wants someone to rely on is not reason enough to get married.
6. *Marrying on the rebound.*
  - a. It is critical that a person gets over the hurt of a break-up before making a commitment to marry.
  - b. While someone is hurting, he/she is not thinking clearly and not in any position to make such a major decision.
7. *Fear of hurting the other person.*
  - a. It may hurt him/her badly when you break up with them, but it will not compare with the hurt that comes with a marriage break-up.
  - b. It's better to hurt them a little now than to hurt them gravely later on after marriage.
8. *To escape an unhappy home life.*
  - a. Sometimes to escape either physical, emotional or verbal abuse.
  - b. Look for other ways to get away from an unhappy home besides marriage.
9. *Because one has had a sexual experience with someone.*
  - a. Don't feel obligated to marry him just because there has been a sexual relationship.
  - b. Once sexual intercourse has taken place, it does make it very difficult to make a break.
  - c. Marriage does not forgive the sin which has already taken place.

- d. This sin can be forgiven whether you marry or not. An unwise marriage just adds to the problems of this situation.
- 10. *Because of infatuation.*
  - a. That feeling of “falling in love” is usually infatuation.
  - b. Infatuation blinds you to reality – to the faults of the other person – to the problems marriage to this person would bring.
  - c. Infatuation is that feeling of being on “cloud nine.” This feeling will go away. Date long enough that this feeling goes away and you can see reality.

#### **B. Romantic Beliefs Scale**

- 1. I need to know someone for a period of time before I fall in love with him or her.
- 2. If I were in love with someone, I would commit myself to him or her even if my parents and friends disapproved of the relationship.
- 3. Once I experience “true love,” I could never experience it again to the same degree with another person.
- 4. I believe that to be truly in love is to be in love forever.
- 5. If I love someone, I know I can make the relationship work, despite any obstacles.
- 6. When I find my “true love,” I will probably know it soon after we meet.
- 7. I’m sure that every new thing I learn about the person I choose for a long-term commitment will please me.
- 8. The relationship I will have with my “true love” will be nearly perfect.
- 9. If I love someone, I will find a way for us to be together regardless of the opposition to the relationship, physical distance between us or any other barrier.
- 10. There will be only one real love for me.
- 11. If a relationship I have was meant to be, any obstacle (e.g. lack of money, physical distance, career conflicts) can be overcome.
- 12. I am likely to fall in love almost immediately if I meet the right person.
- 13. I expect that in my relationship, romantic love will really last; it won’t fade with time.
- 14. The person I love will make a perfect romantic partner; for example, he/she will be completely accepting, loving, and understanding.
- 15. I believe if another person and I love each other, we can overcome any differences and problems that may arise.

**SOURCE:** Adapted from Table 1 in Sprecher, S. & Metts, S (1989). Development of the ‘Romantic Beliefs Scale’ and examination of the effects of gender and gender-role orientation. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 6, 387-411. Copyright © by SAGE Publications. Reprinted with permission of SAGE Publications.

#### **C. Healthy Reasons for Marriage**

- 1. *Companionship.* (Genesis 2:18)
- 2. *To work together to fulfill your own and each other’s needs.*
- 3. *To fulfill sexual needs in the way God intends* (1 Corinthians 7:1-7).
- 4. *Love – not infatuation but real biblical love.*

5. *Because you are convinced that it is God's will for you to marry this person. "I was convinced we could do more as a team than we could do individually for the Lord. If I couldn't have done more with him for the Lord it would be better to remain single."*

#### **D. Why Some People Choose the Wrong Mate**

1. They don't get to really know the other person.
2. They live in a fantasy world.
3. They look for the wrong qualities in a person.
4. They confuse sex with love.
5. They have a poor self-image and self-esteem.
6. They succumb to pressures to marry.
  - a. Biological clock.
  - b. Now or never attitude.
  - c. Pregnancy.
  - d. Pressure from parents or grandparents.
  - e. Pressure from friends.
7. They have unconscious, neurotic needs that they are trying to fulfil in marriage.

### **THE REALITY OF CHOICE VERSUS THE FALLACY OF FATE**

Is this right—do we have choices?

#### **A. Biblical Examples of Choice – Good and Bad**

1. Adam and Eve, still had consequences.
2. Samson and his women (Judges 13 – 16).
3. Israel wanted a king (1 Samuel 8).
4. Absalom and Tamar (2 Samuel 13).
5. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11).
6. Joshua (Joshua 23-24) – Judges stories (The book of Judges). Did that which was right in their own eyes.
7. Solomon and his wives.
8. Jesus' choice to go to Calvary.
9. "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." "What must I do to be saved?"

#### **B. Choices Have Consequences**

1. The Bible states and exemplifies over and over that people are encouraged or commanded to make good choices.
2. Choices have consequences: built-in and some God-incorporated ones. God holds people accountable for their choices and actions.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON FOUR**

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1. List the ten (10) unhealthy reasons for getting married. (Some of these will be on your mid-term test)

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_  
5) \_\_\_\_\_  
6) \_\_\_\_\_  
7) \_\_\_\_\_  
8) \_\_\_\_\_  
9) \_\_\_\_\_  
10) \_\_\_\_\_

2. List five (5) healthy reasons for getting married as given in this lesson.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_  
5) \_\_\_\_\_

3. List the first four (4) reasons why some people choose the wrong mate.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON FIVE

# The Right Kind of Mate

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### INTRODUCTION

he climate in which our generation makes choices has changed since our parents and grandparents day; however the rightness and/or wrongness of decisions remains the same. The lies our media sends us concerning faithfulness, divorce, family, etc. are just that, lies.

There are truths that supercede all cultural messages, that last through all ages, all generations. One of these is God expects us to be sexually pure until marriage, yes, even today when we think no one is refraining from sex. Even people of high integrity are tempted to say, “surely God wouldn’t expect me to be different!” But God is an unchanging God (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8) and even though culture may change, He does expect us to be different. Marriage is meant to last a life-time. Even in a society where 50-60% of marriages end in divorce, God expects us to work at marriage to make it last.

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**LESSON AIM:** To present some character traits a person should look for when looking for a possible life-time mate.

**LESSON PREVIEW:** You will . . .

1. Examine several character traits that are important when contemplating marriage, a home and family.
  2. Understand that a life-long mate needs to be someone you not only love but like as well – someone you can live with the rest of your life.
- 

### CHARACTERISTICS TO LOOK FOR IN A PROSPECTIVE MATE

#### A. Someone as Much like You as Possible

You’ve heard that “opposites attract,” but that doesn’t mean they necessarily make a good marriage. Attraction and a lasting relationship are two different things! Look for someone with a similar background

1. If you are an only child and he/she comes from a family of 10, you would have a very different view.
2. If his/her family is very wealthy and yours is poor, you will handle money very differently.
3. If you have traveled all over the world and he or she has never left the county, your views of the world will be different.
4. Marriage is an adjustment – and every major difference in your background will add more and more adjustments.

5. Look for someone who has some of the same leisure time interests you do. It is very important in a marriage to share fun times together.
6. Look for someone who has a similar religion as yours. Many problems can arise in the relationship when you don't agree religiously.
7. Look for someone who has the same level of religious involvement as you do. A weak Christian married to a very strong Christian can be as rocky a relationship as a Christian married to a non-Christian.

**B. Someone Who Brings out the Best in You**

1. Different people bring out a different side in others.
2. With some people you're all laughs, others bring out the more serious side. Look for someone whom you can be yourself around – but your best self.
3. There's an old Johnny Mathis song that says, "It's not just for what you are yourself that I love you as I do, but for what I am when I am with you." Consider, is this the part of me I want to be the rest of my life?

**C. Someone You Can Respect and Submit to Easily**

1. Look for someone that it is easy to submit to, husband to wife (Ephesians 5:21) and wife to husband (Ephesians 5:24-25).
2. Wives are commanded to submit to their husbands – look for a man who will make it easy to fulfill this command.
3. Someone who submits himself to Jesus, who loves you like Christ loved the church, who gives himself up for you, is very easy to respect and submit to.

**D. Someone Who Is a Good Financial Provider and is Able to Handle Money Wisely**

1. You don't have to live in "high style" to be happy, but life is much easier if your husband can provide for your basic physical needs – food, clothing and shelter.
2. A weekly financial crisis of "just barely making ends meet," adds a lot of stress to a marriage relationship. Be sure they know how to handle money wisely too.

**E. Someone with Whom You Have Gotten along Well with in Courtship**

1. A relationship that has been full of big arguments, little arguments, breakups, should be a signal to you that something is wrong in this relationship.
2. Marriage is not the cure to what's ailing this relationship!

**F. Someone Who Is Empathetic and Sympathetic**

1. Someone who is able to truly understand your feelings and put himself in your place?
2. Not someone who is totally unable to understand your emotions? Is he too wrapped up in his own feelings and needs to empathize with you? Steer clear of someone like that! You will spend your life meeting his needs and never having yours met.

**G. Someone Who Is Emotionally Mature and Stable**

1. Not easily depressed, not overly jealous, not paranoid thinking everyone's out to get him.
2. Look for someone with a good self-image, who feels good about himself and confident of his abilities.
3. Someone who is in constant need of reassurance that he's a worthwhile person is probably not emotionally mature.
4. Look for someone who is basically a happy person, who has an optimistic view of life.

**H. Someone Who Is Spiritually Mature**

Look for someone who exhibits the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

**I. Someone Who Is a Good Prospective Parent**

1. Would you want this person be a good parent to your children?
2. Is this person unselfish enough to spend time with children, to help with all you have to do for the children?

**J. Someone Whose Habits Are Not Irritating to You**

Remember, you have to live with them. For the rest of your life! Little irritations turn into big problems as the years go on.

**K. Someone Who Is Well Thought of by Peers and Older People (Including Your Parents)**

1. Does he have friends?
  - a. Do his friends tell you you've made a good selection, he's a good catch?
  - b. Or do they try to warn you in subtle ways that you are making a mistake?
2. Do older people that know him feel like you are making a good choice? Listen closely to what people say about this person—they may know a side of them you don't. Honestly evaluate what they say, is it true?

**L. Someone Who Treats Their Parents and Your Parents Well**

1. This will give you a good idea of what his concept of family is all about.
2. If he treats his family with love and respect, it's likely he will treat you with that same respect after marriage.

**M. Someone You Can Love Just like They Are Now**

1. What you see is usually what you're going to get! Can you accept this person just like he is or do you hope he will change in some ways?
2. If he's not a Christian, are you counting on him becoming a Christian or having Christian values? It may or may not happen.
3. If he is a weak Christian, are you planning to make him much stronger? It may not work.

4. If he's fat, do you hope he will lose weight? If he's skinny, do you hope to fatten him up?
5. Do you think after you are married, you will talk him into changing careers. To be happy, people must feel accepted just like they are.

**N. Someone Who Is Adaptable and Flexible**

1. Is he/she too "set in their ways" to change? That will not work in marriage, because when a person marries, there will be lots of changes.
2. When circumstances change, is he/she able to adapt? If plans change is that person flexible enough to change with them? Marriage requires a lot of adaptability and flexibility.

**O. Someone Who Has the Ability to Work Through Problems**

1. Does this person have the ability to size up problems and attack them? When a problem arises, does it throw them off into a tail spin, or are they able to cope and look for a solution and a way out?
2. You need a mate who can work through problems because life is full of them. How does this person deal with problems? Draw away and run? Not finish anything?

**P. Someone Who Is Able to Communicate Feelings**

1. Can this person tell you how they feel about you? Can they communicate their needs and problems and inner thoughts? If not, you will spend your life trying to guess what they feel?
2. The silent type, is not the ideal mate, in spite of what the movies say! Many men are this way.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON FIVE**

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1. Write out the fifteen things that are important in looking for a mate that are given in this lesson. (Some of these will be on your midterm test)

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON SIX

# Pre-Marital Counseling

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### INTRODUCTION:

he marriage relationship is a very significant relationship and should not be entered into in a frivolous way, thinking that if it doesn't work out we can try with someone else. With the help of pre-marital counseling most hurdles in marriage can be worked out ahead of time. Good advice can help prepare wonderful, good couples for marriage. The wise man tell us in Proverbs 18:2:

*He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.*

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**LESSON AIM:** To reveal to prospective marriage partners the importance of pre-marital counseling.

**LESSON PREVIEW:** You will . . .

1. Learn five purposes which are the foundation of pre-marital counseling.
  2. See some of the things that a counselor can do to aid the couple in making important decisions.
  3. Investigate a number of important subjects which should/could be covered in the pre-marital counseling sessions.
- 

### PURPOSES OF PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

Five things Pre-marital counseling can accomplish.

#### A. Aid in Making Marriage Ceremony Arrangements

1. The counselor can work through the wedding arrangements with the couple.
2. An opportunity to defuse some well-meaning advice from relatives.

#### B. Build In-depth Relationships, for the Long-term

1. The Counselor becomes a resource for the marriage couple
2. Sensitive questions concerning sexual activities, etc.

#### C. Correct Faulty Information; Provide Good Information

1. A lot of wrong information influences marriages.
2. There is a great need for someone with good and godly information concerning marriages.

#### D. Provide Opportunity for Christian Growth

1. Opportunity to arrange Bible study with those who are not Christians.
2. Opportunity to mature and assure those who are Christians.

**E. Help Finalize a Marital Decision**

1. A Counselor needs to help a couple to think through the decision about getting married.
2. Help them see that the more problems they bring into their marriage the rockier their marriage will be.
3. Help them determine whether the marriage should even take place.

**PHILOSOPHY OF PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING**

**A. Facilitator of Discussion**

1. Facilitate a discussion between the couple.
2. Bring to their attention some things that they will talk about between themselves.

**B. Surface-er of Topics**

**C. Poser of Questions**

**D. Source of Information**

**E. Spiritual Guide**

**SUBJECTS TO COVER**

**A. An Evaluation Test**

1. Emotional compatibility.
2. Taylor/Johnson
3. Prepare and Enrich, etc.

**B. Financial Responsibility**

1. Using biblical principles.
2. Not just budgeting matters.

**C. Sexual Harmony and Adjustment**

**D. Communication Skills**

1. The Counselor must bring biblical principles to the relationship.
2. The importance of communication skills.

**E. Conflict Resolution** – How to resolve conflict.

**F. Gender Roles** – How to get along with each other.

**G. Decision-making Process** – What decision-making is based upon.

**H. Spiritual Unity and Individual Welfare**

**I. Sessions Topics to Be Covered**

1. Getting Acquainted
2. Where do we come from?
3. Taylor--Johnson Temperament Analysis test read-out
- 4-6. Sessions 4 through 6 – His Needs, Her Needs
7. Planning the ceremony
8. Fellowship together
9. Prepare and Enrich

**J. Possible Reasons for Not Marrying**

1. Opposing value systems of couples – these can cause many problems between husband and wife.
2. Marrying for the wrong reasons – never a good situation.
3. Marrying too soon after a divorce – marrying on the rebound is a minefield not easily maneuvered through.
4. Length of courtship too short – couples need adequate time to get well acquainted.

**K. What to Say When Advising People Not to Marry**

1. Give them specific reasons.
  - Be gentle, very reassuring.
  - You are concerned with what's best for them – make sure they understand this.
  - Don't sound parental. Don't take their reaction personally; act professionally.
  - It is their ultimate decision – do not manipulate them.
  - Ask them what would the alternatives be – make sure they understand the danger in making the wrong decision.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON SIX**

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1. There are five (5) purposes for Pre-marital counseling given in this lesson. List these below.
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5) \_\_\_\_\_
2. There are several subjects listed to cover during the Pre-counseling sessions. List five of these.
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5) \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON SEVEN

# The Biblical Foundation of Marriage

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### INTRODUCTION:

**W**hat is the biblical foundation for marriage? Before we go to the passage in Genesis where God instituted marriage, we want to look first at Matthew chapter 19. The Pharisees come to Jesus with a question that prompts a discussion on the validity of marriage and divorce. It seems obvious they have ulterior motives in asking the question. Jesus' answer takes them back to the beginning when God created all things including the oneness of the marriage relationship. It also caused confusion in the minds of His disciples

**LESSON AIM:** To examine God's design for marriage as He instituted it in the very beginning.

**LESSON PREVIEW:** You will...

1. Investigate the reasoning behind the question the Pharisees' presented to Jesus in Matthew 19.
2. See the attributes of marriage which God planned in the beginning.
3. Learn that the ideal set forth by God in the beginning included supplying all the needs of man and woman in the marriage relationship.

### THE PHARISES' QUESTION ABOUT THE RIGHT OF DIVORCE

#### A. The Pharisees' Question and Jesus' Answer (Matthew 19:1-9)

1. Their question was based on the teaching of Moses in Deuteronomy 24 and the rabbis teaching – what do you say is the right thing to do? (v. 7).
2. Jesus says they are asking the wrong question – what are the loopholes?
3. Jesus takes them all the way back to the original will of God concerning marriage.

#### B. The Disciples' Confusion

1. If God requires that a man not divorce his wife except for fornication, then it would be better to not marry.
2. Jesus' view of marriage is that marriage should be based on the ideal established by God in the beginning.

### THE ORIGINAL ARRANGEMENT Genesis 1:28-30

#### A. The Importance of Man and Woman and the Marriage Relationship – seen in five areas:

1. The diversity of man and woman (v. 27)
2. The identity of each one – made in the image of God.
  - a. Each one reflects the very nature of God.
  - b. Not just another creation like the animals.
3. The dignity of people – demands respect, dignity because he/she is made in the likeness of God.
4. The ability and the honor to procreate.
  - a. They are blessed to make new beings – God Himself created the first humans but blessed those humans to recreate themselves from that point on.
  - b. Man and woman have the privilege to pass on to future generations the same likeness that God gave to Adam and Eve.
  - c. This is accomplished in the marriage relationship.
5. The stewardship of man and woman. God gave Adam and Eve a stewardship of tending to His other creation – He gave them an assignment, a job.
  - a. They were to rule the earth, as a married couple.
  - b. They were to subdue the earth by becoming the dominant creature.
  - c. Adam was to take care of the earth and name the animals (2:15-16, 19)

**NOTE:** All the things God had created He gave to man to sustain them and aide them in ruling and tending the earth. *Think of the honor given to man to be stewards of all that God had created!*

### GOD'S ARRANGEMENT FOR SUPPLYING MAN'S NEEDS

- A. He Gave Them Rules for Healthful Existence**
  1. Rules for health.
  2. These same sort of rules protects marriages.
- B. He Informed Them That Aloneness Is Not Completeness**
  1. Single is acceptable but not fulness in every respect.
  2. The partner forms the “helpmeet” which is “suitable” or “fit” for the other and forms the unity of “one creation.”
  3. The mate for man is far above any animal.
- C. He Revealed That the Unity of Man and Woman Is the Plan of God**
  1. Woman is formed from a part of man and thus shares and completes his identity.
  2. Adam's realization:
    - a. “She is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh.”
    - b. Confirmed by God in His statement: “The two shall become one flesh.”
  3. There is a sharing of bone and flesh (v. 3).
  4. There is a unity – a oneness in the marriage relationship – a leaving and a cleaving.
  5. For this reason: 1) Need for a helper, 2) Woman being a part of man.
    - a. Leave father and mother – a statement of **independence**.

- b. Cleave unto wife – a condition of **cohesiveness**.
- c. Naked and unashamed – an expression of **intimacy**.

### **SELF EXAM FOR LESSON SEVEN**

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1. The dignity of man/woman demands respect and dignity for what reason?

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2. Give three (3) arrangements given by God for supplying man's needs.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

3. List five (5) things which reflect the importance of man and the marriage relationship.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Complete the following phrases:

a. Leave father and mother – \_\_\_\_\_

b. Cleave unto wife – \_\_\_\_\_

c. Naked and unashamed – \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON EIGHT

# The Value of Meeting Needs

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### INTRODUCTION:



arriage was designed by God in the beginning to meet the needs of the man and woman (Genesis 2:18-24). Marriage was also designed by God to be permanent (Matthew 19:4-9; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:10).

If two people are to stay together forever their needs must be met in the marriage relationship. Divorce and separation often come when one or both of the partners is not having his/her need or needs met and it comes to a point when they can't stand to have their needs unmet. This too, is the reason for many extra-marital affairs.

So we want to build an “Affair-proof” marriage for ourselves and to help others do the same. We can do this by becoming aware of the man’s needs and woman’s needs in marriage and learning to meet them.

In the study of these needs , we will find that men feel the “Five Needs of Women,” and women feel the “Five Needs of Men,” but the “Five Top Needs of Women” are much further down on the men’s list and vice-versa. The women’s needs have a much higher priority for women than in the man’s list.

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**LESSON AIM:** To inform the student of the value of meeting the needs of their marriage partner adequately.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES:** You will. . .

1. Learn that the success of any marriage depends greatly on each one in the marriage meeting the needs of their partner.
  2. Understand that marriage partners must be willing to meet their partner’s needs even though they are different than their own needs – thinking of their spouse’s needs above their own needs.
  3. Discover the concept of a “love bank.”
- 

### THE VALUE OF MEETING NEEDS

#### A. Expectations of Couples Getting Married

1. Very few people get married expecting major problems.
  - a. When a man and woman marry, they share high expectations.
  - b. They commit themselves to meeting certain intense and intimate needs in each other on an **exclusive basis**.
  - c. Each agrees to “forsake all others” giving each other the **exclusive right** to meet these intimate needs.

2. That does not imply that all needs are met by the spouse.
  - a. There are a few basic needs that each of us reserve for the marriage bond.
  - b. Most people expect their spouses to meet these special needs, since they have agreed not to allow anyone else to meet these needs.
  - c. Man's sexual needs are entrusted to his wife and to no one else to fulfill.
  - d. Woman's sexual needs are entrusted to her husband and to no one else to fulfill.
3. If these needs are not met married couples become vulnerable to extra-marital encounters.

### **THE SAME NEEDS WILL NOT APPLY TO BOTH HUSBAND AND WIFE**

#### **A. Needs Are Not the Same for Men and Women**

1. There are different needs connected with women.
2. The needs of men and women are so different, contributing to the difficulty to adjustments necessary in marriage.
3. A man can have the best intentions to meet his wife's needs, but if he thinks her needs are similar to his own, he will fail miserably.
4. When women assume that men appreciate the same gestures of kindness they like, they will fail too.
5. A marriage partner must prepare himself/herself to meet some needs in their partners that they themselves don't really appreciate.
  - a. If needs are **fulfilled**, the husband associates her with pleasure and love grows.
  - b. If needs are **unfulfilled**, the husband associates her with frustration and love diminishes.
6. Christian husbands and wives are susceptible to affairs as well as non-Christians.
7. A man may resign himself to just make the best of it, but this need goes unmet and as the months, or years go on, they may give in to the temptation of an affair.

#### **B. The Love Bank Concept (Read chapter 2 in the textbook: “*His Needs, Her Needs.*”)**

1. Each one of us has a “Love Bank.”
2. It has an account for each person we know.
3. Each person either makes deposits or withdrawals worth a certain number of love units.
4. Pleasurable interactions cause deposits.
5. Painful interactions cause withdrawals.
6. Every deposit or withdrawal is worth a certain number of love units
  - a. If an encounter leaves me feeling comfortable: Plus 1
  - b. If interchange leaves me feeling good: Plus 2.
  - c. If very good: Plus 3.
  - d. If it makes me feel exceptionally good: Plus 4.
  - e. Feel uncomfortable: Minus 1.

- f. Feel bad: Minus 2.
- g. Very bad: Minus 3.
- h. Worst experience of life: Minus 4.

### **C. The Possible Consequences of Unmet Needs**

1. A wife should be concerned about her spouse having an affair – if she doesn't meet her husband's needs?
2. A husband should fear that his wife might have an affair – if her needs are not being met?
3. Learning to meet these needs in each other:
  - a. Will “affair-proof” a marriage.
  - b. Will make a marriage more exciting and fulfilling and trusting – than ever before. A marriage will sizzle!
4. If one or more of a spouse's five basic needs goes unmet, that spouse becomes vulnerable to the temptation of an affair!

### **The Five Needs of Man and Woman:**

#### **Her Needs:**

1. Affection
2. Intimate Conversation
3. Honesty and Openness
4. Financial Support
5. Family Commitment

#### **His Needs:**

1. Sexual Fulfillment
2. Recreational Companionship
3. Physical Attractiveness
4. Domestic Support
5. Admiration

#### **Conclusion:**

Differences in priorities make it difficult for the two sexes to empathize with each other. “Why? each asks the other, “are these five things so important to you? None of them strikes me as so vital that I couldn't get along without them, at least for a while. What's the matter with you?” We need to accept that God made men and women different with different needs just like He made them with physical differences, and most of us think that works pretty well!

This misunderstanding can cause the couple to work at cross purposes – each trying to fulfill the needs he or she feels, not the needs the mate feels. Partly this takes place because there are also the needs each knows best how to fulfill. So wives often easily shower their husbands with affection because they appreciate it and want it so much themselves. Conversely, husbands smother their wives with sexual advances, because sex is one of their pressing needs. Each becomes confused when at best that mate responds with mild pleasure, and at worst becomes annoyed, irritated or frigid.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON EIGHT**

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1. How can we “Affair-Proof” our marriages. (pg. 30 in Introduction)

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2. What needs of a man and woman does God reserve for one’s marriage partner to meet exclusively?

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3. If one’s needs are not met sufficiently in a marriage relationship, what are the alternatives Christian people usually choose?

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4. Explain the “Love-Bank” concept in a concise paragraph.

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5. What is one of the main problems, even in a Christian marriage, to being able to meet one’s mate’s needs? (pg. 32, conclusion)

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## LESSON NINE

### The Fifth Need

#### He Needs Her to Admire Him – She Needs Him to Be A Good Father

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#### INTRODUCTION

 honest admiration is a great motivator for most men. When a woman tells a man she thinks he's wonderful, that inspires him to achieve more. He sees himself as capable of handling new responsibilities and improving his skills far above his present level.

Admiration not only motivates it also rewards his achievements. When she tells him that she appreciates him for what he has done, it gives him more satisfaction than he receives in his paycheck. A woman needs to appreciate her husband for what he already is, not for what he could become if he lived up to her standards. Ephesians 5:33, "And the wife must respect her husband."

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**LESSON AIM:** To expose the fifth need of both man and woman, how critically important these needs are and how to fulfill these needs.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES:** You will . . .

1. See the importance of a wife's admiration and pride in her husband.
  2. Learn the need and necessity of the man being the leader in the family and how this fills the need of his wife.
- 

#### THE MAN'S FIFTH NEED – He Needs Her to Be Proud of Him

##### A. Admiration – A Critical and Necessary Need

1. A wife's observation at age 30, after having been married for many years: "I have finally realized my husband is not going to be a doctor." When she met him, she thought, "He'd make such a good doctor" and spoke to him about that for many years. He was a good jeweler, but would never become a doctor!
2. Preachers are very sensitive to their wives' criticism. Lots of people can tell him at the back door how good his sermon was but until he hears it from his wife in the car on the way home, he won't believe it fully.
  - a. For men with low self images, admiration also helps them believe in themselves.
  - b. While criticism causes men to become defensive, admiration energizes and motivates them.

3. A daughter's criticism of dad causes him to become defensive and head off to another part of the house.

**B. A Man Expects, and Needs, His Wife to Be His Most Enthusiastic Fan**

1. The value of genuine admiration. Husbands draw confidence from his wife's support and can usually achieve far more with her encouragement.
  - a. Example: Wife in the stands yelling for him at a softball game.
  - b. Instead of "Behind every great man is a great woman" It should be "Beside every great man should be an admiring wife."
  - c. A man thrives on a woman's admiration. To a great extent men owe gratitude to their wives for this kind of emotional support. Without it, their confidence – the major source of their success – erodes and eventually crumbles.
2. Never fake your admiration. Flattering words can do more harm than good. To be of any value praise must genuinely reflect your feelings.
  - a. For some women this is harder than others. Some women are married to men that have little to admire. So they must work on a plan to create admiration.
  - b. Men need to look for characteristics they want to build in their life and look for things their wife can genuinely admire.
3. When wife begin to admire their husbands they need to tell him.
  - a. Express honestly how you feel. At first it will seem awkward, but it will get easier. A little praise will go a long way with a man.
  - b. Many men have wandered into affairs by finding someone who admires him when his wife only criticizes.

**THE WOMAN'S FIFTH NEED – She Needs Him to Be a Good Father**

**A. Wives Want Their Husbands to Take a Leadership Role**

1. To commit themselves to the moral and educational development of their children.
2. The "ideal" for a wife is to marry a man she can look up to and respect and then have her children to grow up to be like their father.
  - a. Proverbs 22:6 – "*Train up a child....*" Most women, no matter what they believe religiously, see wisdom in this verse.
  - b. They expect their husbands to play a key-role in "training up their Children."
  - c. Women have known for years what studies now prove: A father has a profound influence on his children spiritually.
3. In families where the father takes little interest in his children's development, the mother tries desperately to motivate him to change.
  - a. She buys him books on parenting and leaves them in convenient places.
  - b. She coaches him to attend seminars sponsored by the church or PTA.
  - c. She may even ask him to talk with a family councilor in the hope that he can be inspired to greater interest and commitment.
4. Her effort usually meet with only partial success.
  - a. She becomes frustrated by excuses, delays and unenthusiastic responses on her husband's part.

- b. She may start looking for other men in her family or one of her friends to meet the need.
- c. She thinks the need is the children's, but it's actually hers.
- d. She has the need to have a man contributing to the well being of her children. Sometimes a grandfather or uncle do, but sometimes she turns to someone outside the family.

**B. It Is Critical That Husbands Spend Time with Family**

1. When a family gets together as a unit and shared activities, a man can strengthen both his marriage and his ties with his children.
2. Fifteen hours a week of quality family time should be our goal. Start lower and increase.
3. Here are some ideas of what to do:
  - a. Meals with all the family present and good conversation
  - b. Going out for walks and bike rides.
  - c. Attending church services together.
  - d. Conducting family meetings.
  - e. Playing games together.
  - f. Attending sports events, concerts, movies.
  - g. Reading to children before bedtime.
  - h. Help children with homework.
  - i. Family projects that are fun for children .

**Conclusion:**

Families beginning family time with their children when they are young will have a lot more success than if they try to start this when the children are teenagers. The wife also wants her husband to help with the discipline of the children.

Many men view this need for family commitment as a very demanding role – sometimes too demanding. Not only must they act as good husbands, now they must be good fathers too. Because they fear being overcome by all this they may neglect the role of father, turning parenting over to the wives.

Men who accept the challenge of good fathering come away with increased marital fulfillment. Their effort comes back to them many times over in the admiration of their wives. The best husband is a good father!

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON NINE**

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1. What is the fifth need of man discussed in this lesson?
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2. What is the fifth need of woman discussed in this lesson?
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3. Two critical needs of the woman are:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON TEN

# His Fourth Need

## He Needs Peace and Quiet

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### INTRODUCTION

**H**e needs peace and quiet – “domestic support.” So deep is a husband’s need for domestic support from his wife that he often fantasizes about how she will greet him lovingly and pleasantly at the door, about well-behaved children who likewise act glad to see him and welcome him to the comfort of a well-maintained home. The fantasy continues as his wife urges him to sit down and relax before taking part in a tasty dinner, the aroma of which already wafts through the air.

Conversation at dinner includes nothing controversial. Later the family goes out for an early evening stroll, and he returns to put the children in bed with no hassle or fuss. Then he and his wife relax and talk together, perhaps watch a little TV, and go to bed and make love, all at a reasonable hour,

Women laugh at this fantasy! This is rarely reality. Just as women are moving toward careers, but deeply resent it when they have to work , so men are moving toward doing housework, they resent it if this is forced on them with no choice.

There are lots of funny jokes about women marrying men for their money. But the truth is – a women does marry a man for his money – at least she wants him to earn enough to support her, as well as (or better than) her father did when she was growing up.

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**LESSON AIM:** To investigate the man’s fourth need for peace and quiet and its effect on the family relationship.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES:** You will ...

1. Understand better the man’s concept of his relationship and responsibility in the family.
  2. Learn several principles of the division of labor in a home where both wife and husband work outside the home.
- 

### PEACE AND QUIET NEEDED BY MAN

#### A. The Expectation and Reality of Man

1. The perception of many husbands.
  - a. Many men feel overworked.
  - b. They perceive themselves as doing their utmost to bring in the money to provide their families with the quality of life they deserve.

- c. They consider this worth the effort. This takes a great deal of their energy.
  - d. Many feel they have little energy left to handle emergencies or crises.
  - e. Many times a mid-life crisis happens when all the man wants to just get off the treadmill.
2. In most marriages there exists an unspoken trade-off between husband and wife.
- a. He expects her to simplify his life by cooking, washing and ironing his clothes, keeping the house picked up, calling a repairman when necessary and attending to the basic needs of their children.
  - b. To the extent that she gives this kind of domestic support he enjoys his responsibility to provide his family with the income it needs.
  - c. In families where the wife has a full-time career, the typical husband still wants to be cared for in this way.
3. He may be willing to try to change – to adjust to some degree.
- a. But deep basic needs in men and women don't go away.
  - b. They don't stop working and crying out for satisfaction.
  - c. Though adjustments can and will be made by Christian husbands, there is still the biblical truth: she is to be busy at home (Titus 2:5).
4. Expectations in a home where both spouses work to make ends meet.
- a. In this situation the wife faces a serious dilemma.
  - b. She comes home as tired as he does, yet deep down he expects her to cook the meals, wash the dishes, iron the clothes, and entertain the children.
  - c. His logic and reasoning tell him she cannot handle all this and work too.
  - d. He manfully steps forward to offer help with the housekeeping and care of the children – but he still doesn't get around to helping.
  - e. Tempers flare, and arguments might mar this relationship. This is evidence of the underlying resentment and frustration he feels because one of his basic needs is not being met.
5. The husband's deep need for domestic support can cause problems in the home. Just because the man wants domestic support doesn't mean he should or that he wants to act like a lazy slob.
6. Every couple needs to understand a fair division of labor. First they need to break into categories the kinds of labor involved:
- a. Income-generating activities.
  - b. Child care.
  - c. Household responsibilities.
  - d. Repair and maintenance of the home, automobile, and mechanical possessions.
7. To create a fair division of labor, complete a work inventory – what does each partner do in each one of these areas. Estimate how much time is spent in each job weekly.

**NOTE:** An important factor to consider is the energy level of each partner. How much work can each one perform in a day? In some marriages there's a real difference in energy level . The one with the higher level may get more hours

than the other.

In determining your distribution of labor, be sure to take each other into account so that when you have finished, both of you feel comfortable with your part of the package. In some cases the total number of hours may be unequal, yet you both agree it is a fair distribution of labor. Fair is what you **both** think is fair.

## PRINCIPLES OF DIVISION OF LABOR

**A. Consider the Fairness:**

1. Expectations often are based on what took place in one's own family. Dad did the lawn, car, outside stuff, repairs, etc. Mom did the cooking, cleaning, children.
2. Or Mom did the mowing because she liked to, or because Dad was allergic to grass.
3. Or both did the dishes together. The bottom line is that you as a couple must determine what is fair and right for you as a couple.

**B. Consider Each One's Talents:**

1. Suppose the wife is not a great cook, but he likes to cook and is good at it?!
2. Suppose he's not a handyman, so call a repair man for those things around the house.
3. Don't make demands on the other that they can't handle because of lack of know-how.

**C. Consider the Likes & Dislikes of Each:**

1. She likes to do yard work, so they both do it. No competition or challenge to each other's expertise in this area.
2. If you do what you don't like a lot for a long time, you wear out. There are many things that we have to do that we don't like, but we can help each other avoid the drudgery with some creativity and swapping out.

**D. Consider Any Priorities You Both Have Set:**

1. What is a reasonable house cleanliness level, car care level, redecorating amount, yard work manicure.
2. When considering higher priorities that you have established—intimacy (going to movie), parenting (being with children on Saturday morning), outreach and church work (children's worship), civil service (voter registration, food bank).

**E. Consider the Energy Level of Each One:**

Who has more energy to give to home duties? Who gets up earlier. Who goes to bed earlier? Who gives out sooner.

**F. Be Willing to Negotiate When Things Change in the Work Load:**

1. As circumstances change: a child is born, a job change—travel, work load, project; a health change, aging parents' demands.
2. Necessity may demand adjustment. Nothing should be set in stone forever.

**G. Be Extra Sensitive When the Wife Is Working Outside the Home:**

1. If the wife is working a job outside the home, and while the husband reads the paper and relaxes in front of the TV all evening, and yet expects her to cook, clean, darn the socks, get kids their baths and then be ready to romp in the bedroom at 10:00, he's not divided the labor load fairly.
2. If she thinks that because she has to work and it's his real job to be the bread-winner, but because she HAS to work, she should just be able to relax while he cooks, etc..

**H. Share the Undesirable Tasks:**

Switch out unpleasant or hard tasks that no one really likes, e.g. cleaning bathrooms. There are probably tasks that no one likes. Don't banish someone to do them forever.

**I. Compensate for Homework:**

A teacher might have papers to grade or preparations for the next day. Perhaps one partner is going to school.

**J. Compensate in Special Circumstances:**

During brief periods of time (negotiation not needed under these temporary conditions), compensate, e.g. exhaustion, tax season for CPA, work load. A body compensates for its weak or sick members. A church does too.

**K. Do Not Compare with Parents – or Anyone Else:**

Don't compare spouse with father or mother, spouse with aunt or uncle or granny. "Why can't you be like ... ?"

**L. Practice Agape Love:**

Agape love is love that ACTS in spite of, because of spouse's needs, for the welfare of one's spouse. Never selfishly. Never spitefully. Never out of revenge. Not just when I feel like it. This is the COMMITMENT of our triangle.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.  
Love never fails.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON TEN**

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1. List the twelve (12) principles of division of labor between husband and wife.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON ELEVEN

# Her Fourth Need – Financial Security

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### INTRODUCTION:

 here are lots of funny jokes about women marrying men for their money. But the truth is—a women does marry a man for his money—at least she wants him to earn enough to support her, as well as (or better than) her father did when she was growing up.

Whatever women say in public about their willingness to share the burden of making a living, deep down inside them most married women resent working if their working is an absolute necessity. Even part time work sometimes irritates them if their income has to help pay for basic living expenses.

Many women do enjoy their careers and their jobs, but they need the money they earn to be unrelated to their basic living expenses. They need to spend “their” money as they see fit, while their husbands earn the money for necessities. A husband’s failure to provide sufficient income for housing, clothing, food, transport , and the other basics of life commonly causes marital strain.

Most women want to have a choice between following a career and being a homemaker – or possibly a combination of the two. Ideally, they want to be homemakers in their younger years, while the children are small. Later when the children have grown, they often want to develop careers outside the home. This is the ideal, but when times are tough, many women have to work just to make ends meet.

Sometimes it is not as much a “necessity” as they think. Sometimes a couple needs to look at their standard of living and see if it is set too high. An adjustment here may free the wife from having to work and she regains the choice.

Women themselves need to make the choice of whether or not to work. If they do choose a career, the money they earn should not have to be spent on basic support of the family. To put it all very simply, a family needs to learn how to live on what a husband can earn in a normal week.

Even when women earn a lot more than their husbands, they prefer to still live on their husband’s income. These women want to use their own incomes for other things – investments, private schools for the children, braces, vacations, Christmas, redecorating the house, college education. She wants to have the choice.

No matter how successful a career the woman might have, she usually wants her husband to earn enough money to allow her to feel supported and cared for. When a husband cannot earn enough money to cover his family’s basic expenses, the family has three alternatives:

- 1) He can work longer hours – perhaps take two jobs and become a stranger at home.
- 2 ) His wife can go to work which can mean a mixed blessing.
- 3) The family can lower their standard of living.

Every family, no matter how rich needs a budget. “Happy is the couple who tries to live on what they need not what they want.” When it comes to money and marriage, less may be more!

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**LESSON AIM:** To gain wisdom and knowledge on handling finances which will strengthen and enhance family relationships.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES:** You will . . .

1. Learn and commit to memory eight (8) biblical principles for handling money in the family setting.
  2. Study and learn six (6) wisdom principles for our society.
- 

### **Introduction**

- A. Finances are near the top of the usual list of problems in marriages.
  - 1. Not enough income to sustain a chosen lifestyle. Lot of pressure in today's world. Our economy is tight for many people. Affected by the level of lifestyle we have chosen to lead.
  - 2. Wasteful spending by one or both partners.
- B. For the Christian couple, it's not simply a matter of learning to budget better, although that might be one helpful matter. Jesus says a lot about the disciple and his money. He addresses more the basic needs of one's heart. Our approach will be to note the principle, explain it, and allow you to make specific application to your marriage.

### **BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR HANDLING MONEY.**

#### **A. Give Generously and Cheerfully to the Lord**

1. Context of 2 Corinthians 8-9 (esp. 9:6-8). Not just to the collection plate either.
2. Context of Haggai – Building their houses while the Lord's house lay in ruins.
3. Context of Malachi – God won't bless them if they give the cast-offs.
4. The affect this principle has on a marriage:
  - a. Creates a giving spirit.
  - b. Prevents materialism.

#### **B. Where Your Treasure Is, There Will Your Heart Be Also**

1. Context of Matthew 6:19-21.

In contrast to hypocritical or pseudo religion, Jesus speaks of true religion which includes “investing” your money wisely!

2. When we put money in a certain place, our heart follows. If we invest in houses, cars, RVs, SUVs, boats, land, stocks, you name it, we will be keenly interested in how that investment is doing. Little investment creates little interest.
3. Application to marriage.
  - a. Focuses the marriage on the mission.
  - b. Prevents idolatry.

### **C. Use Your Resources to Benefit People**

1. Jesus' teaching in Luke 16:8-9.
2. Other texts.
  - a. The Pharisees' thievery (Mark 7; Matthew 15).
  - b. The poor use of money for self (James 5:1-6) contrasted with what to use it for (James 1:27).
  - c. Use it to help needy relatives (1 Timothy 5:8).
  - d. Help the needy brother (1 John 3:17; James 2:15-16).
3. Affect on marriage
  - a. Helps us identify with Jesus' ministry to and mission among those outside society.
  - b. Makes us thankful for what we have.
  - c. Involves partners in service to others.

### **D. How We Use Our Money Affects Our Eternal Destiny**

1. Story of rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). Connected to previous criticism by those who loved money (v. 14).
2. Story of rich fool (Luke 12:16-21).
3. Affect on marriage.
  - a. Puts money in the stewardship category.
  - b. Sobriety in how I use money because of the consequences.
  - c. “*It is harder for a rich man ...*” (Matthew 19:23).

### **E. Life Is Not Guaged By How Much Money and How Many Things One Has**

1. Story of one who interrupts Jesus (Luke 12:13-15).
 

Life is not: “... *a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.*” (vs. 15,19)

Life is: “... *Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.*” (v. 23)
2. Our society, our culture describes the good life as having the means to buy things, trips, and pleasures. They say that's really living! “If I just had...”
3. Affect on marriage. – negatively affects marriage.
  - a. Goals in life become obtaining things.
  - b. This philosophy believes there is no life if a person is poor.

### **F. The Old Fashioned Way, We Earned It!**

1. “*If a man won't work, neither let him eat*” (2 Thessalonians 3:10). The Christian work ethic goes back to the Garden of Eden. The Lord gave Adam a job. It was work. There is an inherent good in work to put food on the table.

2. Our society has turned our jobs into the quickest way, the least painful way to make money to support our entertainment habits.
  - a. We endure the workweek because the real living takes place on the weekends.
  - b. We're looking for the shortcut, the way to win the lottery, the road of least and quickest resistance to retirement so we can travel and have fun.
3. Again, there is a connection between working hard, putting in a good days work to provide for our families. Hard work has some inherently good values to it.
4. The affect on Marriage of volunteer work where no pay is gained.
  - a. Volunteer work okay and good.
  - b. Church work is inviting.

#### **G. Life Is Learning to Be Content at the Moment with What You Have at the Moment**

1. I Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19 – Contentment cannot be had without godliness.
  - a. The opposite – “...people who want to get rich” (v. 9). They tend to be arrogant (v. 17) and self-centered instead of given to service (v. 18).
  - b. They will lose their souls (v. 10). Lack of contentment, then, results in all kinds of spiritual problems. *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”*
2. Philippians 4:4-13 – Paul had learned the secret of contentment. He was content when he had plenty and when in want. Our concept of contentment is normally tied to having a lot.
 

Paul gives the keys to learning to be content.

  - a. Rejoicing in the Lord and what He chooses to give us at any point in time (v. 4).
  - b. Trust in the Lord’s nearness and thus knowledge of our needs (v. 5).
  - c. Much prayer (v. 6).
  - d. Peace (contentment) results (vs. 7, 9).
3. Connected with “Do not worry” (Matthew 6).
4. Application to our marriage.

#### **H. You Cannot Serve God and Money at the Same Time**

1. Luke 16:13; Matthew 6:24.
2. God will not share the throne of your heart, your marriage, your family. That's what is at issue, the rule of your life. That's why Colossians 3:5 calls covetousness idolatry.
3. The context of this statement in Matthew 6 is “worry.” The context in Luke 16 is not using money to help others.

### **WISDOM PRINCIPLES FOR OUR SOCIETY**

#### **A. Teach Our Children to Be Wise in Handling Their Money**

1. Teach them to be good stewards. Teach them to be generous and thrifty at the same time.
2. That's done by our example and working with them through allotment.

**B. Get on Some Kind of Budget That Matches Your Present Income**

1. When we waste our money, the Lord's work suffers! It often comes last in our thinking if we are tight on money.
2. Lack of budgeting tempts us to spend money on things that we haven't planned for.

**C. Get Help If You Need It**

1. Professionals. Elders. Money management people in the congregation who have a spiritual outlook on it.
2. Seminars, books. Financial Peace University. Burkett books. Other resources.
3. Have some sort of accountability built in.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON ELEVEN:**

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1. Name five (5) biblical principles for handling money and give the appropriate biblical text for each.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Tell how each of the five named in number one (1) affects a marriage.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name three practical, wisdom principles for our society and how you would apply each.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON TWELVE

### His Third Need – Her Third Need

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#### INTRODUCTION:

 hysical attractiveness is important to a husband. This isn't some quirk or whim. To have his wife look attractive is something a husband needs very badly. By taking care of one's body and looks, a wife can take care of her husband's needs. It shows a husband how much he is cared for.

Many women once they marry start to put on weight or dress less becomingly, figuring that now their husbands love them, so what they look like doesn't matter. Nothing can be farther from the truth.

It seems to us that surely men would have more important needs than fulfilling some kind of fantasy or sense of vanity. Doesn't this put tremendous pressure on the wife to stay young and beautiful like a movie star? What if she just doesn't have any natural beauty? Don't men have different tastes too?

We're not saying here that a woman has to look like a movie star, but by being attractive I mean the woman should take pains to look something like the woman her husband married. (Remember your wedding picture) That's the woman he fell in love with – not a movie star.

Does this mean a woman must stay eternally young? Of course not, but getting older provides no excuse for letting weight creep up and up, not fixing your hair, and dressing like a bag lady. If the wife does these things, a marriage limps along with the husband turned off, not interested in sex, and usually not too affectionate either. Worse, he may start looking elsewhere, get attracted to someone else and have an affair. Usually when a man has an affair, he has needs that his wife does not meet at home. His need for an attractive mate is one of his most basic needs and she cannot discard or down play it.

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**LESSON AIM:** To discover the importance of openness and honesty by both spouses in creating and maintaining a strong marriage relationship.

**LESSON OBJECTIVE:** You will . . .

1. Learn the importance of a wife maintaining an attractive appearance and the influence it has on her husband.
  2. Discover that openness and honesty is critical in any relationship and especially in the husband wife relationship.
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## A MAN'S THIRD NEED – AN ATTRACTIVE WIFE

### **A. Reasons for a Wife to Look Attractive**

1. To maintain the interest of her husband. If the wife doesn't look good – the husband won't look very much.
  - a. Visual stimulation arouses a man sexually. If his wife looks good, he'll look at her often and like what he sees.
  - b. If a wife looks bad, or even mediocre, he won't look very much and when he does, he may be turned off or repulsed.
  - c. This puts the husband in a bind. He starts thinking the physical attractiveness he felt for her is gone forever. He begins to look at other women, and feel guilty for it.
2. To maintain her own self-esteem, Make a reasonable effort to stay attractive for yourself and for him.
  - a. Does he touch you – have trouble keeping his hands to himself sometimes – other than in bed?
  - b. What does he say about you? Does he enthusiastically compliment you?

### **B. When She Looks and Feels Good, He Feels Good**

1. The influence of an attractive wife. A man also wants an attractive wife as a pure and simple matter of pride. This may sound worldly or carnal, but it is all too real in most men.
  - a. People often judge the ability and success of a man in terms of his wife's appearance.
  - b. When a man has an attractive wife, it says he has the appeal and talent that deserve someone of her caliber.
  - c. When a man's wife lets herself become unattractive, the message comes across loud and clear that he couldn't get someone better , and probably he deserves her.
  - d. He has little to offer the world decides – and he attracts little in return.

Ways to be attractive:

  - 1) Keep your weight down – near what it was when you married.
  - 2) Use makeup to your best advantage – free makeup lessons, computer images.
  - 3) Work with different hairstyles to find one he likes.
  - 4) Dress to be attractive to your man.
  - 5) Pay as much attention to what you wear to bed as what you wear to church – the most important person sees you in bed.
2. Attractiveness is what you do with what you have. Make the most of what you have – you'll feel better too.

### **C. An Attractive Woman Is Made, Not Born**

1. A wife's attractiveness is a vital ingredient to the success of her marriage.
  - a. Any wife who ignores this notion – for whatever reason, risks disaster.
  - b. Looking good makes a person feel good.

2. Maintaining an attractive appearance for one's husband will heighten a woman's morale.
3. When a wife sees the response of her husband to her new attractiveness, she feels satisfaction and accomplishment because she knows it meets one of his deep and basic needs. Her account in his "Love Bank" will get a substantial deposit every time he sees her.
4. How can a man help her meet his need?
  - a. Compliments – tell her when she looks good.
  - b. Budget for hair, clothes and encourage her, etc.
  - c. Go shopping with her and enjoy her beauty.

### A WOMAN'S THIRD NEED – HONESTY AND OPENNESS

#### A. Trust, Honesty and Openness Are Critical

1. She Needs to BE ABLE TO TRUST HIM.
2. If a husband does not keep up honest and open communication with his wife, he undermines her trust and eventually destroys her security.
3. To feel secure a wife must trust her husband to give her accurate information about his past, the present and the future.
  - a. What has he done?
  - b. What is he thinking right now?
  - c. What plans does he have?
4. If she can't trust the signals he sends, or he refuses to send any signals, she has no foundation on which to build a solid relationship.

#### B. Honesty and Trust Is One of the Most Important Qualities in a Successful Marriage

1. **Be honest and open.** The value of open and honest communication cannot be over-stated. Married couples must send each other accurate messages and receive accurate responses.
  - a. One or both spouses often make the major mistake of feeling one way and responding in another. Acting hypocritically.
  - b. When you fail to respond the way you actually feel, your mate's adjustment to you will not hit the target.
    - 1) Wife: "Are you feeling better?"
    - 2 Husband: "Yeah, yeah, I'm fine."
    - 3) Wife: "Then let's go to a movie."
2. **Be truthful.** Whenever and wherever your mate asks you how you feel, tell the truth. It is foolish to lie out of fear that you will hurt your spouse's feelings or your own pride.
  - a. Your mate has a right to your innermost thoughts.
  - b. Your mate should know you better than anyone else in the world – even your parents! This is an essential part of "Two becoming One."
3. **The influence of truthfulness on the wife.** When a wife hears the truth from her husband, about what he thinks, what he plans, where he has gone, and where he wants to go:

- a. She can respond to him in security and confidence.
  - b. She knows she can influence him, urge him to take her interests into account, and affect his decisions.
  - c. It allows her to contemplate the future more accurately and to plan accordingly – two very import factors for most women. When a wife hears lies from her husband, it knocks her response mechanism out of kilter.
4. **The destructiveness of lies.** How lies empty the wife’s “Love Bank” is easy to see. It can also empty the husband’s “Love Bank”:
- a. Wife overweight.
  - b. Husband says it doesn’t matter.
  - c. It does matter, but she gets fatter.
  - d. Empties the account.
5. **The power of truthfulness.** When a husband tells his wife the truth, he builds her emotional stability.
- a. By always being truthful, he tells her he knows she can handle it and can change when she must.
  - b. The truth gets rid of false impressions and life becomes more predictable and rational because now she can understand her husband’s behavior. The truth may be painful, but it does not drive a woman crazy.
  - c. It makes her feel in control, because she knows what she needs to change about the situation.
  - d. Sometimes a husband tells a lie to protect the wife, to make her feel secure and loved – but instead the opposite happens.

**NOTE:** When honesty and cooperation exist, in a marriage, you have a couple who is willing to share and to build together. They do not need to be secretive or private. Neither wishes to lie and shade the truth to “protect” the spouse. When you build your marriage on trust, you experience a joyful willingness to share all personal feelings with the one you have chosen for a life partner. But once trust is broken, it is hard to rebuild.

Whatever advantage a man may gain in being secretive, closed, or even dishonest; he wins it at the expense of his wife’s security and marital fulfillment. She must come to find him predictable, a blending of her mind with his should exist so that she can “read” his mind. When a woman reaches that level of trust, she is able to love more fully.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON TWELVE:**

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1. Name his third need. \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the two main reasons he needs this?  
1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Give four encouragements to a woman to help her meet this need.  
1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name three ways a man can help his wife meet his third need.  
1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_
5. List two (2) benefits for a woman to look attractive.  
1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is her third need? \_\_\_\_\_
6. List five (5) important qualities of honesty and openness.  
1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_  
5) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Complete the following sentence: When a husband tells his wife the truth, he builds \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_.

## LESSON THIRTEEN

# Decision-Making in Marriage

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### INTRODUCTION:

In describing the process of decision making in marriage, there are a number of avenues which couples can take. There are many decisions (big and little) to make in marriage. What is a good way to make major decisions or first-time decisions that affect the family significantly?

Decisions like job changes, moving to a new location, which church with which to work and worship. Other decision which can affect the family either for good or bad are: Which school will the children attend, should they be home-schooled or not, what ministries is the family to be involved in? There are many decisions which must be addressed and addressed properly or the family can be torn apart.

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**LESSON AIM:** To expose the student to two different areas of decision-making and encourage him/her in the decision-making process.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES:** You will . . .

1. Investigate six types of poor methods of decision-making in order to avoid making bad decisions.
  2. Learn nine good principles to help married couples in their decision-making and thus enhance their marriage relationship.
- 

### POOR METHODS OF DECISION-MAKING

#### A. “The Me-Make-It Decision-Making!”

I can, I will do it all by myself. I Don’t need any input or help from my spouse or any other family member. I’m in charge here!

#### B. “The Scardy-Cat-Cautious Decision-Making”

1. For fear of making a wrong decision, no decisions are made.
2. Fear of failure.
3. Fear of disappointing the spouse. Fear of being blamed if it goes wrong.
4. Making no decision IS a decision! Not usually a good one either.

#### C. “The Bargain-to Get-My-Way Decision-Making”

Using what one has that the other wants as negotiation, bartering material to make the decision one wants, e.g. woman withholding sex, man withholding affection or communication.

**D. “The Path of Least Resistance Decision-Making”**

1. What’s the easiest way? What causes the least work, conflict, effort, ripples?
2. Make sure nobody gets hurt, no one’s feelings hurt, no one run over.

**E. “The One Who Makes the Most Money Decision-Making”**

**F. “The Passive-Aggressive Decision-Making”**

**PRINCIPLES FOR MAKING GOOD DECISIONS**

**A. Determine Whose Area is Involved**

1. Partners are responsible for certain areas of work.
2. For instance, the wife is the keeper of the home. They are to “manage their homes” (1 Timothy 5:14).
  - a. The word is a combination of “house” and “despot.” She is the “despot of the house!”
  - b. Surely she is more in touch, more qualified to make decisions that relate to running the household and certain things about the children, too.
3. We should defer to the “primary person” in that area under consideration.

**B. Seek Input from Others – Spouse, Others, Elders**

1. Our minds and abilities are limited. So we must seek wisdom from others. Not to ask for help is selfish or arrogant or ignorant or presumptuous.
2. For example, the man is approached by members who want him to consider serving as an elder. Input from those who know him best is essential.
3. Mentoring in church – elder to younger.

**C. Set a Reasonable Time Limit**

1. Sometimes people don’t have a clear, definite true-or-false this-is-it answer, so they don’t make a decision. Often it’s not crystal clear, but a decision must be made so you can move on!
2. For example, when someone is considering whether to be (re)baptized.
3. A reasonable time is that which gives time for applying other principles but prevents indecision which might hurt the family.

**D. Seek the Lord’s Wisdom and Providence in Prayer**

1. James 1:3-5 – *“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”*
2. Many biblical instances of prayer for the Lord’s guidance, e.g. Acts 13:1-3; Isaiah with Sennacherib’s letter (Isaiah 36-37), Jesus often (Luke 6:12-16; Mark 1:29-35).
3. The providence of God is extremely important in making any decision.

**E. Refrain From Impulsiveness**

1. Impulsiveness, quick decisions annul the benefit of so many other principles we've listed!
  - a. Time to pray – prayer takes time and thought.
  - b. Meditation, contemplation.
  - c. Consultation – consult with those with wisdom and knowledge.
  - d. Study of Scriptures – Psalm 1:3, “...his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.”
2. To simply not want to agonize over a decision, to reject the need for scrutiny and prayer is selfish. Do not escape the investigative process.
3. Impulsivity + Feelings = Subjectivism and usually leads one down the wrong path.

#### **F. Beware of Supposed Voices From God**

1. Question this concept, especially as we sometimes apply to “God is telling me,” “The Spirit is prompting me to.”
  - a. We are just as prone to read the Lord into what our feelings are saying. We end up equating our feelings and God’s will.
  - b. We validate our wishes by making them God’s wishes!
2. Certainly God can use your feelings, your tendencies, your likes and dislikes, but just because we “feel” strongly about something doesn’t in and of itself make it God’s will. “Follow your heart” has proven wrong and led to marriages that ended in divorce!

#### **G. Weigh the Pros and Cons of the Decision**

1. We are not promised a “fleece” answer every time.
  - a. Seeking God’s will in a matter should not assume only one open door. Suppose there are several good options? What then?
  - b. Some would wait until God’s providence leaves only one option. There is no biblical statement to that effect.
2. God entrusts us with the job of making godly decisions. Our own Christ-like mindedness and the wisdom of scriptural principles and of godly people form the grid through which we sift the pros and cons.
3. Write down advantages and disadvantages. Make the list. Compare, contrast, meditate, submit to the biblical grid.

#### **H. Sift the Decision Through Your Established Biblical Philosophy of Marriage and Parenting.**

1. You are God’s team. If indeed the family is God’s team to do His will on earth, we should invite His insight and interruption in every decision that affects how effectively our family will serve Him. We are not our own to do as we please individually or as a family; we have been bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
2. Children are a stewardship because they are gifts from Him. He wants them back. He wants us to do what He would do with them. He is their real parent; we are but “baby-sitters.”

3. Any “small” decision has to contribute to the big goals and purposes of the family.

**I. Willingness to Submit to the Obvious Best Decision.**

1. This is the bottom line. Whether the best information comes from God or one’s spouse or from someone else, the decision-maker must be willing to submit to what he believes God’s will is.
2. He/she must resist the temptation to be proud, to avoid the path of least resistance, to avoid adjustments and changes that may have to be made.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON THIRTEEN**

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1. Name six (6) poor methods of decision-making

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name nine (9) principles of good decision-making.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON FOURTEEN

### His and Her Second Needs

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#### INTRODUCTION:

**H**e needs her to be his playmate – recreational companionship. The husband does not grow out of having fun, but many times the wife seems to grow out of it. This is a need that is many times met in courtship, but begins to be neglected in marriage.

Many times the woman will attend any athletic event, car show, boat show, fishing adventure with her boyfriend to impress him or just to be with him. But after marriage it is not so important to impress the man so she shows more what her real interests are.

Her second need is conversation – she needs him to talk to her” Do you know how it is when people are in love and are dating? It’s one long conversation; every date is full of talk, talk, talk. When they can’t get together for dates, they call each other on the phone and talk for an hour or more. Even after dates, they might call each other on the phone and talk long into the night.

After marriage, many times the conversation declines sharply. Both partners get involved in their own things and they have less and less time to talk. When they do get together, they have less and less to talk about. How are these second needs to be met, both for him and for her?

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**LESSON AIM:** To reveal the importance of shared activity and conversation in the marriage relationship.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES:** You will . . .

1. Learn the husband desires and has the need for his wife to share in some of his activities which promotes togetherness in the relationship.
  2. Understand that a non-talking/listening husband hinders the husband/wife relationship and ignores her need for daily communication.
- 

#### HIS SECOND NEED

##### A. There Are Shared Activities Which Enhances the Relationship

1. In courtship, “Oh, I love football,” but afterward, you go ahead without me.” Or, the picture of the fiancé handing the man tools while he Fixes his car, but after marriage not being caught dead doing that!.

2. She can go to his softball games, basketball games or other fun he has that she cannot be in on.

**B. Pursued Recreational Interests Separately Is a Big Mistake**

1. Instead of making steady deposits in each other's "Love Bank" by having fun together, the couple with separate recreational interests misses a golden opportunity.
2. They often spend their most enjoyable moments in the company of someone else, with the distinct possibility of building a "Love Bank" account with that person.
3. Since everyone has an account in your "Love Bank" it stands to reason that the person with whom you share your most enjoyable moments will build the largest account. If you want a fulfilling marriage, that person must be your spouse. Be careful who you spend fun times with!

**C. Make Sharing Recreational Activities Together an Intentional Thing**

1. **Make a list**, and mark with an "E" anything you enjoy in the list.
  - a. Shopping, Eating out, Museums, Sunday drives, Looking at open houses for sale, Crossword puzzles.
  - b. Look at the lists and find which activities overlap and pursue those.
2. Recreational activity should be **enjoyed both spouses** – if a recreational activity bothers the other spouse it should be abandoned.
3. Spending recreational time together will **bring husband and wife to the point of being best friends**.
4. Look at recreation as **essential for marriage**.
5. **Fifteen hours in recreation** and or communication time is critical.

**THE COUPLE THAT PLAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER!**

**HER SECOND NEED**

**A. "She Needs Him to Talk to Her – Conversation"**

1. The decline of conversation is the decline of communication. How do you tell a married couple from a dating couple at a restaurant?
  - a. When people are in love and are dating, it is one long conversation; every date is full of talk, talk, talk.
  - b. After marriage, many times the conversation declines sharply.
  - c. The wife really misses these talks. She might even say, "I really miss our talks. I wish we could talk more."
2. The husband might innocently say, "Ok, what should we talk about?"
  - a. This phrase registers no points in the "Love Bank"!
  - b. She thinks, "If you don't know the answer to that question, then I guess we don't have anything to talk about."
3. If a marriage continues like this for a few years and then a man enters the scene who talks and listens to the woman ... this marriage could be headed for trouble!

**B. Conversation Between Husband and Wife Is of Critical Importance to Wives**

1. When you hear complaints about marriage, you don't hear men complain about their wives not talking to them—but women complaining “Why isn’t my husband talking to me?”
2. Men do not seem to have as great a need for conversation with their wives as women do their husbands.
  - a. Women seem to enjoy conversation for its own sake.
  - b. Women may just call to chat and be brought up to date on things. Men rarely do this.
3. When men gather they talk about practical matters like fixing cars, fishing. But women talk about themselves and their feelings – a different level.
4. When they are dating, men talk to women because they want to make a good impression.
  - a. He wants to find out what she likes and what her feelings are.
  - b. He wants to learn how to be attractive to her.
5. The kind of conversation a woman enjoys focuses on the events of her day, people she may have encountered – how she will listen to her husband’s day too. Conversations, like affection, communicates to the woman that she is cared for. It helps her to feel united with the other person.
6. She needs this conversation on a daily basis to feel bonded to the person.
  - a. If husband and wife are separated because of travel, they must talk every day on the phone.
  - b. When a husband returns from a trip, he’s immediately ready to make love, it takes the wife a day or two of conversation before she really feels close enough.

**C. Real and Meaningful Conversation Takes A Great Deal of time**

1. The real kind of communication which satisfies a wife’s needs takes time, lots of time.
  - a. It takes 15 hours a week.
  - b. For a married couple that sounds impossible, but it’s a goal they need to work toward.
2. A couple wanting a happy marriage will continue to cultivate conversation after marriage.
  - a. They can have dates—or somehow set aside 15 hour a week for talking.
  - b. Talking without children or friends present – just the two of them.
  - c. When a married couple actually get into the habit of doing this, they find 15 hours is just about right, Without that much time together women especially lose the sense of intimacy they need and enjoy so much, and the “Love Bank” begins to be drained of funds.
  - d. Activities should be planned that foster communication—taking a walk, eating out, quiet boating on a lake, golfing, sunbathing, long drives, etc.
3. The consequences of non-communication.
  - a. It is common for husbands to quit talking to their wives.

- b. Vice-versa. This leads to disappointment and disillusionment.
  - c. This may mean there might have to be a cutback in work or study hours in order to have more talk time.
4. Without conversation, the warm atmosphere and the deep physical relationship each partner needs could never be maintained.
  5. Women enjoy conversation, like men enjoy sex. Women like to talk just for talk's sake.
    - a. Talk creates a warm atmosphere.
    - b. Helps a couple learn how to meet each other's needs.
    - c. Helps them communicate their needs to each other—this is important. If a partner is doing something good to meet needs, that needs to be communicated. And the reverse of that.

**D. Communication Tips for Husbands and Wives:**

1. Remember how it was when you were dating, Exhibit that same intense interest in each other and in what you have to say.
2. A woman has a profound need to engage in conversation about her concerns and interests with someone who—in her perception—cares deeply about her and for her.
3. Men, if your job keeps you away from home overnight or for days on end, think about changing jobs. If you cannot, find ways to restore the intimacy of your marriage each time you return from your absence, so that your wife can begin to feel comfortable with you again.
4. Start establishing patterns of intimate interaction with each other.
5. Remember that people fall in love as a result of the time they spend exchanging conversation and affection, They stay in love as a result of those same factors.
6. Always place marital considerations ahead of financial considerations.
7. Don't converse with each other to teach your mate how to be a better spouse; converse with each other to learn how you can become a better companion.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON FOURTEEN**

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1. Name his second need. \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Name four “Communication Tips” for married couples.
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Name her second need. \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Give five specific ways couples can do together to meet a man’s need in this area.
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5) \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON FIFTEEN

### Conflict Resolution

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#### INTRODUCTION:

 o much of our society is about me, self and who is the king of the hill. That set of mores sabotages any marriage. The Lord's way is much different, as reflected in the Beatitudes (reworded to fit or apply to the marriage relationship.)

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**LESSON AIM:** To present the principles in the Beatitudes as an avenue in dealing with resolving conflicts in the marriage relationship.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES:** You will . . .

Study and investigate the Beatitudes and learn how to apply the principles they contain in the marriage relationship.

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#### RELATIONSHIP OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION TO THE BEATITUDES

##### A. Matthew 5:3: “Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit, for Theirs Is the Kingdom of Heaven”

*“Blessed is the couple whose partners can admit, ‘I was wrong,’ for their marriage will be free of angry arguments.”*

1. “Poor in spirit” is the absence of pride, selfishness, competitiveness, self-righteousness. Humility is a synonym. Transmit that humility into a marriage relationship and you have one happy, united, good feeling, warm home.
2. When I say to my wife, “You were right, and I was wrong,” it tends to melt any pride she was feeling, too.
  - a. The way to solve a disagreement is not argument until it gets old and wears out without being solved.
  - b. It helps if the party who is right makes it easy for the wrong party to admit it, saying, “Oh, that’s all right. I’m wrong many times too!”
3. Even if the other partner does not make it easy, or if he does not admit his mistakes, you keep on saying, “I was wrong,” when you err.
  - a. This really makes it easier for the other partner to begin to do the same thing.
  - b. It puts right and truth in a high place in your personal life and in the relationship. It says you want the best for the family above all else.
4. A poverty of spirit speaks in the first place as if I **might** be wrong. Even if I’m right, it speaks gently and mercifully and patiently. To say it

another way, “Blessed is the couple whose partners do not have to have their way.”

**B. Matthew 5:4: “Blessed Are They That Mourn, for They Shall Be Comforted”**

*“Blessed is the couple whose partners can say, ‘I’m sorry. Please forgive me,’ for their relationship will be filled with peace.”*

1. “Mourning” – here is sorrow for sin. It includes penitence and recompense (if possible).
  - a. The difference between, “I was wrong,” and “I’m sorry,” is the person thought of. “I was wrong” is a reflection upon self: “I’m sorry” is talking about the other person’s feeling.
  - b. When we’ve hurt our spouse (most often it is with our mouths), we need to say, “I’m sorry” and “Please forgive me.” Both are important.
2. This means I have a sensitivity to my neglect of her needs. There is a real determination not to offend or hurt her. It’s the same kind of feeling and action toward her that takes place when I sin against God.
3. This is easier for women than men, because of our pride. That’s why saying, “I’m wrong,” is first— If you cannot say “I was wrong,” you won’t be able to say, “I’m sorry.”
4. Examples: “I’m sorry...
  - a. ...for putting you down in public.”
  - b. ...when I neglect your emotional needs.”
  - c. ...when I don’t share and talk with you.”
  - d. ...when I refuse to help with the children.”
  - e. ...when I say things about your family.”
  - f. ...when I make unreasonable and selfish demands of you...
  - g. ...I said that...”
  - h. ...I did that...”
  - I. ...I hurt you...’
 ...Please forgive me.”
5. “Blessed is the couple whose partners can say, “I hurt you. I’m sorry. Will you please forgive me?”

**C. Matthew 5:5: “Blessed Are the Meek for They Shall Inherit the Earth.”**

*“Blessed is the couple whose partners practice self-control, for their relationship and the world will be theirs in a most grand and unusual way.”*

1. “Meekness” is power under control. It indicates that one has power in his grasp, especially to affect other people.
  - a. One of the primary applications is one’s anger under control.
  - b. When bitterness and rage and malice come out of the mouth, a relationship is either destroyed or severely impaired.
2. When would meekness be applicable in a marriage relationship?
  - a. There are many things in a marriage relationship that can inflame anger: personality traits, words, what another does or doesn’t do.

- 1) When one becomes angry and is controlled by it, he has little control over it, or himself
- 2) Meekness is power over one's anger. In spite of the anger, he can continue to act right and do what's best for the marriage.
  - He doesn't let the sun go down on his anger.
  - He doesn't let it fester and build up.
  - He knows that human anger only destroys.
  - An angry tongue is a deadly poison, a consuming fire.
  - The couple that keeps anger in the Lord's control is blessed indeed.
- b. Meekness in marriage keeps self under control. It's not what suits me best or what I want, It's not selfishness that asserts itself so aggressively as to have its own way. It's the ability of a strong – personality or will-talented woman to be careful not to be usurping her husband. It's the sensitivity in a strong man not to overrun his wife. It is strength channeled into good directions.
3. It's faith in God, His providence and laws. It's not taking the law and its enforcement into my own hands. It's not feeling like I have to be God's enforcer, but letting Him do the chastening. It doesn't have to defend self at every turn. It does defend the relationship and the marriage at every turn.
4. Blessed is the couple whose partners keep their emotions, especially anger, under control and are able to do what's best for one another anyway.

**D. Matthew 5:6: “Blessed Are They Who Hunger and Thirst after Righteousness, for They Shall Be Filled.”**

*“Blessed is the couple whose partners are devoted to doing what's right, and their family will always be blessed by God.”*

1. The couple whose partner's priorities and desires are in place.  
One indication of the health of a person is his appetite. The blessedness (or health) of a marriage might be checked the same way.
2. The right priorities. The couple that...
  - a. Has as their number one goal personal righteousness.
  - b. Helping each other find Jesus.
  - c. Helping each other go to heaven.
  - d. Bringing children up in the Lord.
  - e. A sense of stewardship of things, money, talents, time, life's opportunities.
 Hungry and thirsty, yet filled! What a paradox! The search to satisfy godly appetites is fulfilling within itself
3. Seeking sexual fulfillment in the right place. Proverbs urges the man to find physical satisfaction for his sexual appetites in his wife (Proverbs 5:18-19). This beatitude urges finding spiritual satisfaction for one's spiritual appetite in God alone and in spiritual searches, e.g. Esau selling his birthright because of his hunger for bad things.

4. Recognizing the value of each other. Ephesians 5:24-25 he/she is a stewardship and return to God.

**E. Matthew 5:7: “Blessed Are the Merciful, for They Shall Obtain Mercy.”**

*“Blessed is the couple whose partners say ‘I forgive you, for they will in turn be granted mercy.’”*

1. Looking for ways to minister mercy. Because they have learned the principle of “I was wrong,” and “I’m sorry,” and “I forgive you,” all of which are mercy in their own relationship, they look outward for ways to minister mercifully to others.
  2. Mercy in a marriage relationship is a must. (Actually, applying it first to the couple’s personal relationship, this beatitude could read ‘Blessed is the couple whose partners can say, ‘I forgive you...’’)
  3. Ways to show mercy...
    - a. Bearing burdens.
    - b. Restoring others.
    - c. Prayer.
    - d. Caring for needs.
  4. Forgiveness is releasing the other person from the penalty due him/her (Romans 12:17-21). Tests of forgiveness:
    - a. Willingness to accept any blame due.
    - b. Able to recount the event without bad feelings recurring.
    - c. Able to reward the offender with blessings.
    - d. Relationship returns to one that is equal to, yea, better than before the offense.
- This restoration of relationship is best accomplished in a marriage.

**F. “Matthew 5:8: “Blessed Are the Pure in Heart, for They Shall Be Called Sons of God.”**

*“Blessed is the couple whose partners can say, ‘I love you only,’ and ‘I trust you completely’, and you shall protect your marriage from affairs.”*

1. Infidelity, or even the suspicion of it destroys unity. The protection against that is purity of heart.
  - a. Purity of heart implies singleness of purpose and motive and reason.
    - The goal and drive of the marriage partners is for that relationship and that home.
    - When there are other drives and pursuits in one’s life, the other partner may feel some betrayal.
  - b. Purity of heart also includes sexual purity.
    - It is vital that we keep our hearts and minds purified from fantasies of illicit sex.
    - The vision is sin, Jesus says. He calls it adultery.
    - And so often the mental vision that leads the person to the act is the beginning.
    - Jesus said that adultery comes from the heart (Matthew 15), so it must be pure to prevent unfaithfulness.

2. Blessed is the couple whose partners find their delight in all of life's activities in their mates.
3. "I trust you completely."
  - a. No jealousy. No suspicion. No over protectiveness.
  - b. Yet, the right mind and the right kind of protectiveness of one another. Complete trust of one another does not rule out helping and encouraging each other.
  - c. Faithfulness and trust and protectiveness in balance is the essence of this beatitude.

**G. Matthew 5:9: "Blessed Are the Peacemakers for Theirs Is the Kingdom of Heaven."**

*"Blessed is the couple whose partners know how to fight fair, for their marriage will remain intact."*

1. Or, "let me be the first to make up." Who in your relationship is the first to make up?
2. A home is meant to be a peaceful haven, a refuge from the world. When there's friction and fighting, in the home, it ruins, that security and assurance one has in the marriage relationship, maybe as his last resort.
3. Paul told the Christians in Rome, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace" (Romans 12:18). Partners who are determined to keep the world's frictions from invading, who are bent on keeping a spirit of unity in the home will be blessed indeed. Partners who are problem-solvers instead of problem-creators and problem-agitators are good marriage partners. Dealing gently with sore spots is important, too.
4. Blessed is the home where differing opinions are treated with respect and where unity and harmony are the goal of both partners.
5. Rules for fight fair:
  - a. Be sure your solution is best for both.
  - b. Take your share of the blame.
  - c. Attack the problem, not the person.
  - d. Compromise.
  - e. Don't drag in old problems.
  - f. Forgive and forget.
  - g. Don't make demands or give ultimatums.
  - h. Don't use unfair means of getting your way.
  - I. Don't use lighting words like "always" and "never".
  - j. Don't mention the big D word – divorce.
  - k. Use "I" statements instead of "You".
  - l. Choose a good time to fight – don't ambush your partner.
  - m. Don't save up all your negative feelings for one big explosion.
  - n. Don't 'scapegoat.' Be sure you are arguing about what's bothering you.
  - o. Don't attack their Achilles heel.

**H. Matthew 5:10: “Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted for Righteousness Sake, for Theirs Is the Kingdom of Heaven.”**

*“Blessed is the couple who has at least one partner in every situation who is willing to suffer.”*

1. When two people live together, there will be times of lost tempers, verbal abuse, maybe even physical abuse.
  - a. Determined not to extend the argument.
  - b. Do not return evil for evil, endure the persecution and return good for evil.
2. Even one partner who is willing to endure persecution from the other.
  - a. Someone has to begin the process. Someone has to decide that they will die to self for that relationship.
  - b. The husband taking the lead, according to Ephesians 5 and Jesus' model.
3. Making allowances for your spouse on their bad days.
4. Texts on suffering. (1 Thessalonians 3:3; 1 Peter 4:12; Acts 14:22).

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON FIFTEEN:**

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1. Re-word the eight Beatitudes of Matthew in terms of “Beatitudes for Married Couples.”

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name the fifteen “Rules for Fighting Fair.”

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON SIXTEEN

### His First Need – Her First Need

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#### INTRODUCTION:

**T**he first thing the man in a marriage can't do without is **sexual fulfillment**. It won't do any good for affection to increase in marriage if the woman doesn't understand her husband's equally deep need for sex. For a man, sex is not just one more option with which to end a lovely evening. But sex is like air or water. He doesn't have any "options." If a wife fails to understand the power of the male sex appetite, she will wind up with a husband who is tense or frustrated at best. At worst, he may start looking for somebody else and find that someone too easily.

The first thing she can't do without – **affection**. To a woman, affection symbolizes security, protection, comfort, and approval. When a husband shows his wife affection, he sends the strong and assuring messages that cements her commitment to him.

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**LESSON AIM:** To reveal to both parties the great importance of each spouse realizing and understanding the other spouse's prime need.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES:** You will . . .

1. Learn the importance and critical need for the wife to understand the place that sex has in his makeup and thus in his life.
  2. Be aware that openness in the sexual relationship is necessary in having a strong and enjoyable marriage.
  3. See that the husband must be able and willing to show affection to the wife with sincerity and often to fulfill her need for affection.
  4. Understand that affection is the essential cement of a wife's relationship with her husband.
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#### THE MALE SEXUAL DRIVE AND HOW THE WIFE RELATES TO IT

##### A. Critical Need For A Wife's Understanding of Her Partner's Need

1. The typical wife doesn't understand her husband's deep need for sex.
  - a. God created sex; sex is not the dirty idea of man.
  - b. A young bride is often concerned because after marriage her husband turns into what she sees as an inconsiderate sex maniac.
2. It does wonders for a wife to grasp just how special a man finds sex.

- a. He isn't pawing or grabbing at her because he has turned into a lustng monster.
- b. He is pawing and grabbing because he needs something very badly.
- c. Many men wish their sex drive weren't so strong. They don't like begging their wife for sex, or having sex when their wife is not "in the mood" but they still have this overwhelming need that must be filled.

**B. Commitment to a Single-Partner Sex**

- 1. When a man chooses a wife, he promises to remain faithful to her for life.
  - a. He believes his wife will be his only sexual partner until death.
  - b. He trusts her to be as sexually interested in him as he is in her.
  - c. He trusts her to be sexually available to him whenever he needs to make love and to meet all his sexual needs, just as she trusts him to meet all her marital needs.
- 2. Some men begin to feel they've made a big mistake. This woman whom they have trusted is unwilling to meet his need – so he has to decide if he can tough it out and make the best of it, or look elsewhere.

**C. Mutual Understanding of a Partners's Sexual Make-up Is Important**

- 1. Many partners enter marriage sexually unprepared. The man may know how to perform sex," but that doesn't mean he knows how to really make love.
- 2. A woman may enter marriage not really knowing how to have pleasure in sex.
- 3. Men assume women have as much fun as they do automatically.
  - a. It's hard for them to understand that a woman would have to learn to enjoy sex.
  - b. Unless a woman enjoys sex, she will not fully satisfy her husband.
  - c. Unless a woman enjoys sex, she won't, without much understanding and patience, reach sexual compatibility.
- 4. Achieving sexual compatibility involves two important steps:
  - a. A husband and wife must each understand their own sexuality and their own sexual responses.
  - b. They must communicate their sexual understanding to each other.
  - c. A husband and wife must learn how to share what they have learned about their own sexual responses, so that they can achieve sexual pleasure and fulfillment together.
- 5. Many sexual problems in marriage just require education to take care of their problem.
  - a. Read good sex books, or if you have a major sex problem, see a sex therapist.
  - b. Sometimes it just takes a few weeks of therapy to correct a problem that has taken years to admit.

## HER FIRST NEED – AFFECTION

### **A. Affection Is the Cement of the Relationship**

1. To a woman, affection symbolizes security, protection, comfort, and approval. When a husband shows his wife affection, he sends the following messages:
  - a. I'll take care of you and protect you. You are important to me, and I don't want anything to happen to you.
  - b. I'm concerned about the problems you face, and I am with you.
  - c. I think you've done a good job, and I'm so proud of you.
2. A hug can say all of this. Women love to be hugged. Other forms of affection:
  - a. Greeting card or note.
  - b. Flowers.
  - c. Invitation to dinner.
  - d. Opening doors.
  - e. Holding hands.
  - f. Walks after dinner.
  - g. Back-rubs.
  - h. Phone calls.
  - i. Conversations with thoughtful, and loving expressions.
  - j. Wink.

All of these add units to the “Love Bank.”
3. Affection is the essential cement of her relationship with a man. Without it she feels alienated. With it, she feels bonded to her husband,

### **B. Women Find Affection Important in its Own Right**

1. Affection has nothing to do with sex. A man takes any sign of affection as an invitation to have sex.
  - a. Some men demand that it's unfair, they are not the affectionate type.
  - b. A man who growls, “I'm not the affectionate type,” while reaching for his wife's body to satisfy his desires for sex, is like a salesman who tries to close a deal by saying, “I'm not the ‘Friendly type—sign here, you turkey; I've got another appointment waiting.”
2. A law of marriage: “When it comes to sex, and affection, you can't have one without the other.”
3. Almost all men need some instruction in how to become more affectionate.
  - a. The men who are good at it learned how to do it from good coaches – perhaps a former girl friend, perhaps from watching their dads.
  - b. Unless a wife wants to pay a counselor to do it later in her marriage, early on she will understand she is the proper teacher for her husband when it comes to teaching him how to be affectionate, and she will take appropriate action.
  - c. Women don't want to do this because they want their husbands to be spontaneous with their affection.

- d. Affection is taught and learned. So, 1) put aside your pride, and 2) be patient. Help your husband feel good about displaying affection.
- e. Whatever you do, 1) never nag, 2 ) never hang onto him to try to force some affection out of him. This kind of negative reinforcement will only make him more cold and distant.
- 4. Create situations that lead to positive reinforcement:
  - a. Turn down the TV– Interrupt the program for important message “Do you love me? Give me a hug. Thanks I needed that.”
  - b. Slide next to him in the car and ask him to drive with one hand.
  - c. Slip your hand into his as you walk to church.
  - d. Say it’s cool in the movie, will he put his arm around you for warmth?
  - e. Whatever works for you.
- 5. Suggestions:
  - a. Keep it casual.
  - b. Watch his reactions carefully.
  - c. If he becomes too uncomfortable, back off and try again later.
  - d. Use positive reinforcement to help your husband develop a habit of displaying the kind of affection that doesn’t lead automatically to sex.
  - e. Be patient.

#### **C. Most Affairs Start Because of a Lack of Affection for Her – of Sex for Him**

- 1. It is quite a vicious circle.
  - a. She doesn’t get enough affection, so she shuts him off sexually.
  - b. He doesn’t get enough sex, so the last thing he feels like is being affectionate.
- 2. **Affection is the environment of the marriage and sex is an event.**
- 3. You can’t have sex all the time, but you should have affection all the time.
  - a. It forms the canopy that lovingly covers a marriage and provides shelter for the lover’s bed.
  - b. Sex will come naturally and often if there is enough affection.
- 4. The husband needs to set as his goal making affection his ordinary way of relating continually to his wife.
- 5. This gives the atmosphere. “I like you; I’m fond of you; I really do love you; and I know you love me” is critical in a successful marriage.

#### **D. Women Need Affection Several Times a Day**

- 1. Hug when you get out of bed.
- 2. Kiss when leaving for work.
- 3. A call from work.
- 4. A card in the mail every now and then.
- 5. A big hug and kiss upon arriving home.
- 6. Seating her at the table.
- 7. Holding hands in front of TV.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON SIXTEEN**

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1. What is God's ideal plan for total fulfillment of one's sexual desires?

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2. Name two steps to achieving sexual compatibility.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What three (3) things express the essence of the trust that a man places in his wife when they get married?

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4. What does tender affection from the husband communicate to the wife?

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5. Name five ways to express affection.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

6. How does a woman view the relationship between affection and sex?

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## LESSON SEVENTEEN

# Society's Lies about Sex

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### INTRODUCTION



Sex is a theme or thread in many media presentations. Our society is bombarded with sexual presentations in every area of the media, magazines, billboards, and on television in every facet of advertising and shows.

1. Ads tell us that, "Sex sells."
2. Movies present to us that sex is the only thing that matters.
3. TV shows – characterize sex lives – like eating.
4. On sitcoms and other comedy shows – bathroom or bedroom humor is dominant. All this, as if, "life equals good sex."

In our society and really, all around the world, sex has become the dominating force and is almost worshiped by the majority of people.

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**LESSON AIM:** To expose society's lies and miss-conceptions about sex and reveal the biblical truths concerning human sexuality.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES:** You will . . .

1. Learn some of the lies that our society tries to foster upon us.
  2. See the importance of adjusting one's expectation in the sexual relationship knowing the relationship may be less than ideal.
  3. Realize that any relationship, and especially the sexual relationship, takes a great amount of work and even education.
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### Society's Lies and Mis-conceptions about Sex

1. The best sex is between two young, beautiful people who are not married and met just tonight!
2. Pre-marital sex is not only permitted but accepted and expected.
3. Good sex is measured by its degree of physical stimulation.
4. Sex is the thermostat of a relationship. If the sex isn't good, the relationship couldn't possibly be good. How good the sex is becomes the measuring stick of the whole relationship.
5. Sex in marriage is supposed to be best in the first or second year.
6. Good sex for men – physical only, women – emotional only.
7. Sex is bad/evil.
8. All sexual expression is good.
9. Everyone is doing it.
10. It doesn't hurt anyone.

11. That's how you show love.
12. If I want to be liked, sex is what I have to do.
13. I'm strong enough to be in vulnerable situations.
14. It's too hard to wait.

### **ADJUSTING YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR MARITAL SEX**

- A. Controlling the Input Controls the Unrealistic Expectations**
- B. Balancing a Man's Number One Need and Learning to Be Content with less than the Ideal**
1. Control of stimulation controls the place sex plays in the relationship. Sex needs to be relegated to its rightful place.
  2. "*Sex, the Twenty Year Warm Up*" (Charlie Shedd). Supposed to get better as years go along because it becomes more about love and less about lust, more about giving pleasure than receiving, more about emotion and oneness and union and less about physical release.
  3. You have nothing to prove – to the world, self, or mate.
  4. Sex is learned, together. Part of it is pretty natural; part is not natural. The emotional bonding, learning to love and be sensitive and being satisfied with the other parts of sex besides climax.
  5. Accept the less-than-ecstatic times. The being together, the bonding, the emotional oneness compensate for the less-than-exciting physical part.

**NOTE:** Sex is not the center of the marriage relationship. To make it so heightens desire. Stimulation beyond what is healthy and sets us up for disappointment when unrealistic expectations cannot, or won't be met. Sex is not the god of the marriage relationship. Climax of both partners seems to have become the goal. Sue Austin's comment, "You Americans think that breasts are only for sex!"

### **CONTROLLING WORLDLY INPUT PREVENTS DISINTEREST IN MATE**

- A. What Would You Consider Improper Input?**
1. Media.
  2. Advertisements.
  3. People who make you nervous.
  4. Internet porn sites.
  5. Past experiences.
- B. Actions to Prevent Wrongful Influences**
1. Protect one another from temptation.
  2. Don't put yourself in situations that arouse sexual desires.
  3. Avoid people who make you nervous.
  4. Proverbs 2; 4; 5; 7
  5. Get help with Internet pornography problems.

## WORKING ON YOUR SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR MATE

Work Through Sexual Slow-downs.

**A. Tough Times in a Relationship**

1. Early in the marriage when adjusting to each other.
2. After a baby is born.
3. On certain medications.
4. Illnesses.
5. Long-lasting disputes.
6. Too much time apart.
7. Staggered schedules.
8. Baggage from the past (pre-marital or past marriages).
9. Job overload.
10. Distractions of any kind.

**B. Willingness to Communicate, Avoid Getting Frustrated and Upset**

1. Do not talk about problems while having sex.
2. Read and talk together about sexual satisfaction.
3. Go to seminars.

**C. Seek Help from Outside Sources**

1. Do you have someone to talk to?
2. Where is the church in all this?
3. Professional counseling is a possibility.

**D. You Can't Fix the Relationship by Fixing the Sexual Relationship.** Sex is the thermometer, not the thermostat!

**E. We Are to Facilitate the Input from Our Mates (Proverbs 5:15-23).**

**F. “Work At” Finding Satisfaction and Giving Satisfaction in Them**

So, read good books, go to seminars, communicate. Ephesians 5:31—we are to love (agape) our mates including sexually.

**G. Romance Often Leads to Fulfilling Sex**

1. Romance is her number one need. Affection is what she needs. Without it, she will have trouble getting excited about sex.
2. Sex is all day long! The atmosphere is all day long.
3. Learn what she likes, not manipulative reasons—to get her in bed.
4. Learn what he likes and give yourself to fulfilling that.

**SEX IS AGAPE LOVE NOT JUST EROS LOVE!**

**SEX IS MADE FOR FRIENDS, NOT STRANGERS.**

- A. God Intended Good Friends to Have Sex Together, Married Good Friends and That Only**
- B. Friendship Takes Time, Especially for Females**
- C. Friendships Form by Talking, Sharing, Doing Together, Not Just Being Together**
- D. Control Time, Children, Activity, Events, Distractions, Engagements, Work Load, Energy Expended on Other Things, Hobbies, Projects**

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON SEVENTEEN:**

1. Name four lies our society “tells” about sex.
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) \_\_\_\_\_
2. How does one do a good job of controlling his/her input of sexual messages from sources other than their mate?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Name four circumstances that frequently happen in a marriage that can inhibit a good sexual relationship.
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_
4. List four ways to help work through “Sexual Slowdowns.”
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON EIGHTEEN

# The Soul of Marriage

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### INTRODUCTION

**A** review of the concept of “ His Needs, Her Needs,” in contrast to believing the lies our society tells us will lead us into the lesson. Ephesians 5: 21-33 is one of the better known passages on marriage. It puts marital love in a biblical context and takes it out of the worldly concept of the marriage relationship. This passage allows one to compare it to the definition of love between a man and woman given by love songs on the radio and MTV!

The beauty of a wedding day stands in stark contrast to the ugliness of a divorce court scene. If interviewed, the divorced might say, “Well, I just don’t love her/him anymore.” Whether this is true or not, they think of it as a reason or excuse or justification for the divorce. That stance is based on a misconception of “love” that is built on what worldly culture would have us believe.

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**LESSON AIM:** To encourage Christian mates to love each other as Christ loved the church and vice-versa. A biblical love in marriage allows God to accomplish His purpose.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES:** You will . . .

1. Learn and be able to reproduce the seven (7) types of love discussed in Ephesians 5.
  2. Understand that the biblical relationship in marriage is a multi-faceted love relationship.
- 

### **SELFLESS LOVE – “HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES...”**

#### **A. The Meaning of “Love” Strongly Implies Selflessness (Agape)**

1. Paul’s admonition applies to the marriage relationship.
  - a. Philippians 2:3-4 (do nothing) 20-21 ( I have no one).
  - b. (Ephesians 3:16-14).
2. Develop a mind set that attempts to supply their needs first.
  - a. Hurts can drive you to be selfish, “I’ll get what I want out of this.”
  - b. Commitment to doing what benefits them. “I won’t supply hers, till she supplies mine!”

#### **B. Focus on One Area – Stimulation to Keep on Growing as a Person and in the Marriage**

### C. Commit to Learning His/her Love Language

1. We grow so much in years 1 to 21, but as we settle into a job, marriage, we tend to slow down in growth. We need stimulation to grow. A note can serve that function.
2. Practical suggestions on how to grow closer together:
  - a. Read or study together.
  - b. Read books (on marriage, etc.).
  - c. Watch educational shows together.
  - d. Dates that take in stimulating things – opera, good movies, talks.
  - e. Educational trips – seminars, camps, retreats.

## **SACRIFICIAL LOVE – “AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR HER” (25)**

### A. Definition of the Words

1. “gave up” – παρεδωκεν – “deliver over to, surrender, commit”
  - a. John 19:30 – “When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”
  - b. Galatians 2:20 – “...gave himself up for us....”
  - c. Ephesians 5:2 – “...just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

The power is in the hand of the person to give self up, deliver over to another person.
2. “for” – ὑπὲρ – “in behalf of, on account of.” Has the idea of substitution  
He gave himself up for death instead of our having to die (cf. Galatians 1:4; Romans 5:6-8)

### B. Our Sacrifice Is Not in Response to How Worthy the Other Person Is

1. The sacrifice is made because it will take that death to self to effect the saving of the life of the other person.
2. My mate needs my sacrifice to live. That’s a different perspective than the idea that my sacrifice will make it better. It’s necessary to survive!

### C. Application – all areas (the “little” sacrifices make a difference)

1. Sacrifice time – time spent on others.
2. Sacrifice money – cut in salary, willing to live on less.
3. Sacrifice sports – many nights taken up here – TV ball games.
4. Sacrifice friends – the guys get together.
5. Sacrifice reputation – in job if it takes too much of me.

## **SEPARATING LOVE – “FOR THIS REASON, A MAN SHALL LEAVE...”**

- A. Leave = Cleave = Unity with wife (Ephesians 5:31). Two people starting to “look alike...” – that’s the goal.
  1. “Forsaking all others” is more than sex in connotation.
  2. Leave:

- a. Father and mother – proximity? submission? family unit? pleasing them first? making decisions? habits and traditions?
- b. Broadened application – leaving:
  - (1) Friends (4) Job
  - (2) Old flames (5) Hobbies
  - (3) Old “games” (6) Community Service
- 3. Cleave:
  - a. Joint goals, purposes, ideals, values.
  - b. Joint decision making.
  - c. In trials, and joy.

**B. “For this Reason” – What Adam Said in Genesis 2:23**

That statement is talking about oneness in all areas. She is me, and I am she! It takes “leaving” other things and other people to truly accomplish that.

**SEXUAL LOVE (INTIMATE LOVE) – “AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH”**

**A. It Is a Need in the Marriage!**

The marriage needs the intimacy. It completes the oneness. (Genesis 2:23-24)

**B. Concept of 1 Corinthians 7:3-5**

- 1. Fulfill Sexual Rights.
- 2. Body not your own.

**C. The Need for**

- 1. Union physically which symbolizes and accentuates the unity of two people in marriage.
- 2. Uniqueness in this – with no one else, in no other human relationship. Exclusive in the marriage relationship.

**D. This Is Done in Love, Not Just in Passion.** More to it than for procreation. Emotional intimacy as well as physical intimacy.

**SUBMISSIVE LOVE – “SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER OUT OF REVERENCE FOR...,” “so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.” (vs. 21-22)**

**A. The Submission of Wives to Husbands Is Still in Place**

Many problems are caused by our lack of adherence to this. However, submission is easier to a loving man and it's easier to love a submissive woman.

**B. There Is a Mutual Submission in Marriage**

- 1. Assuming God-given roles for the relationship and home. (and not abdicating those roles)
- 2. Receiving input, rebuke, encouragement, help, limitation by/from the spouses – esp. in their areas of expertise.

3. Compensating for the other's inability to get their part done, e.g sickness, job.
4. Respecting opinions, disagreeing without shouting and rejecting the other.
5. Sharing the domestic duties.
6. Bowing humbly to their ideas when they're perceptibly better. Pride is swallowed.

### C. Pride must Go – Marriage Is Not a Power Struggle

**SPIRITUAL LOVE – “JUST AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH...TO MAKE HER BEAUTIFUL ...TO PRESENT HER...”**

#### A. The Purpose, the Aim of Christ's Love for the Church Was to Save and to Sanctify

#### B. The Husband's Love Is Aimed at Sanctifying His Mate and Seeing That She Makes it to Heaven

#### C. Applications:

1. Church attendance
2. Leading the children
3. Devotionals, etc.
4. Environment
5. Conversation
6. Good works
7. Encouragement to try spiritual endeavors

#### D. Picture of Presenting My Wife Back to God

God gave her to me as a stewardship. She's not mine! She's the Lord's! He's expecting her back...holy, lovely, more like Christ than when I received her initially!

1. We're not just meeting needs to make the marriage work better or make it affair proof but to save that other person.
2. That's a higher goal with God than just a good marriage.

**SELF LOVE – “...AS THEIR OWN BODIES. HE WHO LOVES HIS WIFE LOVES HIMSELF...” (vs. 28-30)**

#### A. Not Opposed to “Selfless Love” Mentioned Earlier

#### B. Specifics of “Self Love”

1. Feeds – nourishes, tends (v. 29). Attention to one's needs.
2. Care for – health (v. 29).
3. Respect (v. 33).

#### C. Reason (v. 30) – “*For We Are Members of His Body*”

The view that we are joined together; we're a team; we're one; we're working-together body members.

**D. This Is Really at the Heart of His Needs, Her Needs**

1. If we are one; if we're members of one another; then her needs are my needs as well!
2. We're not two separate, independent entities. Taking care of her needs is the same as taking care of my body's needs.
3. Respectful love (v. 33) – the word is  $\psi\omega\betao\varsigma$  (root). From which we get phobia.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON EIGHTEEN**

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1. Name the seven “Loves” of Ephesians 5 and give the phrase from that text that goes with it.
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 6) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 7) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Explain the two “submissions” in marriage.
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
3. List six (6) statements which describe “mutual submission” in marriage.
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 6) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Explain the “picture” of “Spiritual Love” and the end in view.
   
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON NINETEEN

# Preparing for children

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### INTRODUCTION:

**W**e've talked about pre-marital things being single. We've spent the last number of lessons talking about being good marriage partners and how to do that God's way. And now, the Lord willing, children will come into that relationship and we will discuss how we can be the kind of parents we need to be. We're going to spend several lessons talking about parenting. And of course, this like marriage, is a broad area and there's much to be said in this area that I'm sure I won't cover. There are many resources out there that you and I can take advantage of and learn a whole lot more about parenting. This too, of course, is an area where there is some opinion. Also you have children that are different, and they will require different approaches. So, we'll talk about all that to some degree in lessons to come and hope we'll be blessed by our study together.

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**LESSON AIM:** To establish an overall environment for effective and godly parenting the way God would have it. This lesson will consist mainly of the lecture by Charles.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES: You will . . .

Learn six very important things in preparing oneself for the parenting experience.

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### PARENTING PREPARATION – WHEN TO HAVE CHILDREN

- A. Number #1 – When One is Matured, Spiritual, Self-Assured, God Assured**
  - 1. We need to be whole emotionally.
  - 2. We need to know who we are – content with our own identity.
  - 3. We need to know and be what God wants us to be.
  - 4. Having children to satisfy a need to be loved and to be accepted is trouble.
    - a. Some people have children thinking that is a solution to marital problems.
    - b. A child is the one who needs to be loved and in a loving family.
- B. Number #2 – When One has A Solid Marriage Relationship**
  - 1. Children have a way of getting in the way of a marriage relationship.
  - 2. It is sometimes good to wait awhile to have children.
  - 3. Sometimes a child can take one in the relationship away.
- C. Number #3 – When Two has Agreed upon A Philosophy of Child Rearing**

1. A biblical foundation for raising children.
2. A plan to prepare children to deal with the world (Proverbs 22:6).
3. Children Are a Stewardship from God – A Gift From God
4. Children are the fulfillment of the command to pro-create.
5. Children belong to God and He expects us to rear them in a godly manner.

**D. Number #4 – When We Are Capable and Willing to Devote Ourselves to the Task**

1. Parenting is not an easy task.
2. Rearing children are an assignment by God.

**E. Number #5 -- When There Is a Positive and Secure Sexual Relationship in the Marriage**

1. Children can take away the sexual relationship.
2. Time together is affected.
3. Intimacy between husband and wife is of the utmost importance.

**F. Number #6 – When a Couple as a Family Has a Sense of Mission on Earth**

1. There must be a recognition of purpose for the family.
2. The husband and wife must be committed to the purpose of the family in God's eternal purpose and plan.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON NINETEEN:**

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1. List the six (6) important things to consider when preparing for children.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON TWENTY

# Pillars of Purposeful Parenting

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### INTRODUCTION:

**B**uilding a family is like building a house. You must have a firm foundation and strong pillars. Our society is speaking out of both sides of its mouth in giving its formula for successful family life. It wants to retain certain biblical principles (and reject others) but leave the religious connection out of it. In other words, society says, you can have a great family without God; just adopt some principles from the Bible. Charles will present in this lesson 5 “pillars of Parenting.” The theme of this lesson is: The basics of parenting that undergird the “house” that parents are trying to build.

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**LESSON AIM:** To identify the foundational principles of parenting, and to persuade parents to adopt those principles and the strategies that go with them. Putting those foundational pillars in place allows a sturdy superstructure to be built on top.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES:** You will . . .

1. Learn that the foundation to parenting is choosing to build parenting on a relationship with Christ and His Word.
  2. See four areas of development children generally go through as illustrated in the life of Jesus.
  3. Discover what is involved in the four optimum periods of parenting.
- 

### FIVE CHARACTERISTICS – FOUNDATIONS – PILLARS – SKILLS

#### A. Marriage is God Ordained/Sanctioned (Genesis 1:27-28)

1. God’s idea of marriage and parenting.
2. God’s plan:
  - a. Marriage
  - b. Sex relation
  - c. Conception
  - d. Child birth
  - e. Child development

All are gifts from a loving God. All are wrapped up in Genesis 1:27-28. Therefore all become our obligation, duty, responsibility, and accountability.

3. Must be mutually accepted by husband and wife.

#### B. The Law of Parenting (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)

1. Essentials of the child's development: 1) parents (teacher) 2) child (student), 3) curriculum, and 4) methodology.
  - a. Curriculum:
    - 1) The authority and unity of God – God's statutes, commands.
    - 2) Covenant with God.
    - 3) Obedience.
  - b. Methodology:
    - 1) Audio, tell – visual show – Instruction conveyed by showing and hearing.
    - 2) Repetitive – everything we know is learned by doing it again and again.  
“As you go...” as day by day things are carried on and repeated and practiced (c.f. Deuteronomy 6:4-9). Systematic learning, a daily experience.
    - 3) Life related – “as you're working” Must relate to every day experience.
    - 4) Exemplified and modeled – A lack of model (practice what is preached) is a big turn off to children.

### C. The Seasons of Parenting (Proverb 22:6)

“Give unto every child everything he needs at every level of development and every stage of life and the passing of years will not efface or erase the imprints made on him”

#### Optimum Periods of Parenting

1. **Ages 0 – 5years:** “Attitudes need to be emphasized”  
Attitude – position, response, point of view. Children develop a response or way of looking at certain things
  - a. First they develop a view of self. 75% of counseling deals with self view. When a negative parental evaluation is given: “You're a dummy, klutz, etc.” They play this recording over and over in their minds and memories.
  - b. Second they develop an attitude toward others. Other children, the poor, the elders, neighbors. Should we serve or be served? Should we trust anyone?
  - c. Third they develop their concept of ownership or stewardship, selfishness, greed care of, sharing of, temporary nature of, transition nature of...
  - d. Fourth they develop their view of God. Is he angry with us? etc. Church, Elders, etc.
2. **Ages 5 – 10:** “Values need to be emphasized.” Do not let others especially the TV set the values for children.
  - a. This is the cognitive period of his/her life. They can now see action and the end result.
  - b. Children can be taught values – accountability, responsibility, work ethic, honesty. Can internalize and personalize values by seeing how they work.

- c. Very careful not to let TV set the values!
- 3. **Ages 10 – 15:** “Modeling should be emphasized.”
  - a. Children will be determining who are their heroes.
  - b. Who they want to model their actions after.
  - c. This is the time in their lives when they choose their models.
  - d. Children may transfer the values of their models to themselves.
  - e. Parents need to help children pick their friends – choose the people they will associate with.
- 4. **Ages 15 – 20:** “Testing.”
  - a. Teen years. These years won't be as traumatic if groundwork is laid.
  - b. They must be allowed to test in this stage, or they will test after they leave your presence.
    - 1) Parents can't over protect them and not allow them to test.
    - 2) Supervise the testing, in the laboratory of your home. Allow mistakes. Trust them. Protect them from dangers. Keep the balance of all of this.
  - c. Know the needs of a child at each level of development.

**D. The Goals of Parenting (Malachi 4:6; Luke 2:40, 51-52)**

- 1. Malachi 4:6 – God said He will curse the land because of the collapse of the family. Is not God smiting America because of the same thing? Are we not cursed with the consequences of bad parenting?
- 2. Fathers must know how to turn their hearts to the children. Then, and only then, will their children turn their hearts to the fathers, and good families will result. Thus, churches need an emphasis, in balance, on family relations. This will free it to be evangelistic and to serve, else it will be consumed with healing family wounds.
- 3. Luke 2: 50-52: – Note four areas of Jesus' development.
  - a. **Mental Development:** “Wisdom”
    - 1) Wisdom is knowledge applied. Grow in knowledge. Taught/trained to apply.
    - 2) Books – balanced library to give full knowledge.
    - 3) What happens when children ask questions? “Go ask Mom?” No!
    - 4) See if parents are growing. Books read. Continuing education. Seminars, videos, etc. Provide a model of growth. Have them hunger to learn, love to learn.
  - b. **Physical Development:** “Body”
    - 1) Reached full potential of physical ability. Remember Jesus' vigorous ministry and physical abuse in his death. He seemingly was robust and full of vitality.
    - 2) Health conscious? Lots of fads? Nutrition, exercise. Rest. Exposure to physical skills, work instead of sitting in front of TV a lot. Teach children how to protect and exercise body.
    - 3) They need to be healthy in order to serve Jesus. Unhealthiness is a distraction.
  - c. **Spiritual Development:** “Favor with God”

- 1) Relationship with God is tantamount, though the whole man is important.
- 2) Be in God's word daily. Prayer together as a family.
- d. **Social Development:** "Favor...with man"
  - 1) There is no virtue in unnecessarily offending others.
  - 2) Kindness, patience, sensitive, etc. – this was Jesus with all kinds of people. From innocent children to hurting sinners to obnoxious Pharisees.
  - 3) Must be a people person.
  - 4) Getting along with others – being attractive to others. Work with and alongside others. Being good neighbors. Having time for people.
  - 5) Not giving occasion for someone to disparage the truths because of our lack of people skills.

#### **E. The Strategy of Parenting ( Ephesians 6:1-4)**

- 1. **Teach the child to be a good listener.**
  - a. Teach them to be obedient. "Children obey your parents . . ."
  - b. Attitude – "under" – He's in subjection. He's not to criticize, but respect.
  - c. Duty – God expects continual listening.
  - d. How the parent teaches this.
    - 1) Parents must model listening and obedience to God.
    - 2) Get down on the children's level.
- 2. **Teach the child to perceive value** – "honor" (search to find the value in people and parents and in what they say).
- 3. **Remove obstacles that block growth.**
  - a. Fathers may be more vulnerable to less sensitivity or be overbearing in pressing a child without understanding.
  - b. Be open, consistent, fair, sensitive, a good listener. Make it easy for them to listen to you.
- 4. **Actively teach the total child.**
  - a. Nurture – hands on
  - b. Admonition – word, verbal "show and tell"
  - c. Teaching and living with them. That's responsible Christian adulthood

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON TWENTY**

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1. Name the four essentials of child development.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_

2. List the four parts of the Methodology.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name the Age brackets of child development and the primary emphasis of good parenting during each one.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_

4. As exemplified in Jesus' child development (Luke 2:40-52), what also are the four goals for us as parents?

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_

5. List the four strategies of parenting from Ephesians 6:1-4.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON TWENTY-ONE

# Parental Commitment to Purposeful Parenting

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### INTRODUCTION:

**W**hen parents are asked, What's the hardest thing you've tried to do in your life, many of them state that parenting itself was their choice for the hardest thing to do well. Many people have the idea that children rear themselves and in some families that is the case. But children don't raise themselves properly; that's why they have adults (not children) for parents. When we have children, we are making a commitment to 18 to 20 years of hard work, daily concentration on helping our children become good citizens, responsible in society, and good parents themselves some day. This takes commitment to at least eight things.

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**LESSON AIM:** To convince parents to commit to certain principles of parenting, applying these principles and strategies that allows God to shape the child the way He wants.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES:** You will . . .

Learn seven important areas where commitment to purposeful parenting is critical.

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### COMMITMENT TO THE FOLLOWING

#### A. Accept Children as a “Gift Package” from God

1. Children are gifts from God, just as mates are.
  - a. Concept of gift – that which one doesn't deserve.
  - b. Psalm 127:3-5; 139:13-14.
  - c. Old Testament people's comments:
    - 1) Eve (Genesis 4:25) – “*God has granted me another child in place of Abel...*”
    - 2) Leah (Genesis 29:32-33; 30:18) – Children's names indicated her belief that they were given by God.
    - 3) Rachel (Genesis 30:6, 22-24) – “*Then Rachel said, “God has vindicated me; he has listened to my plea and given me a son.”*
    - 4) Ruth 4:13 – “*...and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.*”
    - 5) Elizabeth (Luke 1:25) – “*The Lord has done this for me,*”
  - d. Imagine their thought process in this regard: No particular scientific technology. All they know is the sex of the child but not always, so the Lord must control.
  2. “Package” indicates you accept what you've been dealt, and accept it as

God's gift (c.f. Luke 11:13).

- a. Dedication to them.
- b. History – what happened while we prayed and how we interpreted it.
- c. The results and our commitment.

### **B. Understand Diversity in Children**

1. Fallacy of treating all children the same, e.g. Discipline should vary.
  - a. New Zealand approach – all children should look alike.
  - b. Proverbs 22:6 – “*Train up a child in the way they should go...*”
2. Reasons for Diversity.
  - a. Genetics.
  - b. Birth process.
  - c. Early environment, e.g. daycare, grandparents.
  - d. Parental treatment.
  - e. Sex of child.  
Biblical Example: Jacob and Esau, 12 sons of Jacob, apostles – personality.
3. A commitment to knowing each one individually and to relating to each one appropriately (2 Corinthians 5:16).
4. Kinds of Diversity.
  - a. Intellectually.
  - b. Emotionally – Children are different and develop at different speeds.
  - c. Manual skills.
  - d. Strength, energy, health.
  - e. Personality.
  - f. Sex.

### **C. Acknowledge the Role of Channeling**

1. Give them back to the Lord (1 Samuel 2; Luke 2).  
Proverbs 22:6 – “*train...in the way he should go*”.
2. My job is not to “make” them into what I want them to be or do.
  - a. Vocation or profession as a housewife, plumber, CEO, or even a preacher.
  - b. Allowing God to mold and shape in preparation for a direction and a place and a ministry He has planned for them.
3. Parents are not bystanders in the process. They are God’s tools in helping them to find their place.
  - a. Look for a place and analyze personality type.
  - b. Talents can often be seen at school functions, youth group, family.
  - c. Physical and mental skills – some have great strength for outside manual labor.
  - d. Analyze their likes and dislikes and build on them.  
The good is not simply to make sure my children end up what I think they need to be. It is to channel those tendencies into viable Christian ministry.
4. Method of training and discovering thier place:

- a. They need exposure and liberty to trying things.
- b. Right kind of education is important.
- c. Build relationship for good heart-to-heart talks.

#### **D. Foresee Adult Potential (Luke 1:69-80)**

- 1. Seeing the child growing into an adult – envision their potential.
- 2. Adult goals of the Lord.
  - a. Paul in Galatians 1:15-16 believed that God had a purpose for his life.
  - b. Jeremiah 1:4ff – God has a plan for the life of our child.
- 3. Our job as a parents is to be God's instrument in helping them reach those goals. Not just a career and family and a nice income (cf. Luke 2:51).
- 4. Dream, pray, ...and cooperate with God's leading and shaping.

#### **E. Build on the Strengths of the Child**

- 1. Positive reinforcement allows those strengths to surface and develop. We need to be careful about taking the strengths for granted and relating to the children the sole basis of negative – correction of wrong-doing.
- 2. The way we talk to our children causes them to value what we say they should be and do. (What one is, in contrast to what one, does is still valid).
- 3. This is part of channeling. Find activities (school, home, church) where those strengths can be developed.
- 4. Find education opportunities that match those strengths. College is not simply for a good job and money – economics or for a mate choice.

#### **F. View Parenthood as a Ministry**

- 1. "*Diakonia*" (ministry) connotes:
  - a. Service
  - b. Love – do what's best
- 2. If children are gifts, they are a stewardship. We know from scripture what that means! God expects them back, mature and Christ-like!
- 3. Parents must accept it as their highest priority ministry!
  - a. Above local congregational needs! Children don't raise themselves.
  - b. Better begin early too. First 5 years are crucial.
- 4. Serve, don't expect to be served (Mark 10:45). Sometimes our children become our servants yet they are still the dependent ones.

#### **G. Learn the Skills of Parenthood**

- 1. It is not necessarily natural. We've seen models and examples. Learn by:
  - a. Books (Bible)
  - b. Tapes
  - c. Seminars – go to these!
  - d. Courses
  - e. Film series (Smalley, Dobson)
- 2. Look to older successful couples and ask them! Find parenting mentors and watch other people.
- 3. Offer parenting as a gift to God.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON TWENTY-ONE**

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1. List the seven commitments of a good parent.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_  
5) \_\_\_\_\_  
6) \_\_\_\_\_  
7) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Explain each one in a complete sentence.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_  
5) \_\_\_\_\_  
6) \_\_\_\_\_  
7) \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON TWENTY-TWO

### Traits of a Healthy Home (I)

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#### INTRODUCTION:

uch has been written about marriage, parenting and the family or home. Most Christian authors attempt to identify and encourage the adoption of certain traits or ingredients. Everyone has his/her own list of ingredients. In this lesson we are going to take the list from a survey published by Delores Curran in her book "*Traits of a Healthy Family*." We are going to discuss and examine her list and see how they compare with the principles given us by God in the Bible.

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**LESSON AIM:** To inform parents concerning the key elements of a purpose-driven family, and to persuade families to strengthen or adopt these ingredients or traits.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES:** You will . . .

1. Study and learn five (5) important characteristics in a happy and healthy home.
  2. Learn that the presence of these traits create an environment in which God's purpose for the home can take place.
  3. Listen to the lecture and as you listen take notes of the important topics being discussed.
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#### OPEN COMMUNICATION LINES ARE CRITICAL TO A HEALTHY HOME

##### A. The Keys Are Quality and Quantity

##### B. The Means of Obtaining Quantity Communication

1. By controlling the distractions and activities we feel compelled to participate in.
  - a. Activities like TV, sports, over at friends' houses, entertainment, church.
  - b. Civic work, job related tasks brought home, phone and computer time.
2. Communication takes place in an environment, often spontaneously.
3. Protecting one's nights at home, meals together, trips together, family activities together, games together.

##### C. The Priority Example of Quality Communication Between Parents

1. **Parents modeling** before the children a healthy style of communication.

- a. Open and honest communication between parents.
  - b. Parents making decisions together.
  - c. Frequent compliments and little criticism of each other – parents treating children the same way.
2. **Parents listening** and responding with respect and complete attention.
  3. **Parents modeling transparencies** – The family listens and responds to each other and to others.
    - a. Not reacting instead of responding.
    - a. The gift of listening.
    - b. We filter what we hear through our feelings.
    - c. “I know you believe...”
    - d. Levels.
    - e. Learning to determine what is intended by what is said.
  4. **Non-verbal messages.** The family recognizes non verbal messages.
    - a. Be able to read each other, e.g. a look, a glance, an expression, tone of voice.
  5. **Independent thinking.** The family encourages individual feelings and thinking.
    - a. Able to accept differing opinions.
    - b. These children become confident, expressing their opinions.
    - c. Allows children to practice articulating their thoughts.
    - d. May look chaotic and disrespectful from outside
  6. **Turn-off words and put-down phrases.**
    - a. “If we only had enough money.”
    - b. “Flunk any tests today?”
    - c. “Don’t pass her the bread, she doesn’t need it.”

Everyone has a sensitive spot and in a healthy family it is avoided.
  7. **The family interrupts, but equally.**  
 Members of healthy families interrupted one another more than members of less healthy families, but no one person got interrupted more than anyone else.
  8. **The family develops a pattern of reconciliation.**
    - a. When someone stomps off, they return.
    - b. “Anyone want a soft drink?”

**NOTE:** God has always attempted to communicate with His children, Surely we could learn best from Him as the perfect parent.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF AFFIRMING AND SUPPORTING

- A. **Affirming and Supporting Is a Part of Communication**
- B. **Every Child / Teen Needs to Know His / Her Importance and Value**
- C. **A Healthy Family Recognizes and Supports All Members of the Family, Not Just the “Gifted and Talented” Ones**

1. Sometimes we send messages that not everyone is important such as:
  - a. "What makes you think you're good enough?"
  - b. "What makes you think we care?"
  - c. "Why don't you do what I think is important?"
  - d. "No one in our family has ever been interested in that."
  - e. "Fat girls can't be cheerleaders."
  - f. "I don't think you have an ear for music."
  - g. "What kind of job could you get mom?"
  - h. "You're not tough enough for that sport."
  - i. "Do you really think you can fix it yourself, dad?"
2. The basic mood is positive and optimistic.

**D. Everyone In A Healthy Family Will Affirm and Support**

1. There will be genuine interest in what went on in each one's life today.
2. Remembering what was going to happen today, then discussing it afterwards.
3. All in the family goes to events, e.g. piano and flute recitals and ball games, awards assemblies, banquets etc..

**E. Family Generally Supports Institutions, like Church and School, but Not Automatically**

1. Teachers, etc. can be wrong or unfair. Not that church and school ought to be bad-mouthed, but don't prevent the child from struggling with problems.
2. There is a balance to be maintains in these discussions.

**F. God Affirms and Supports His Children over and over in Scripture.**

1. He uses many metaphors to describe us.
2. They contain identity, dignity, usefulness, purposefulness, reward, and relationship to Him.

**THE HEALTHY FAMILY RESPECTS OTHER PEOPLE**

**A. Respect Within the Family Itself**

1. Respect the individual differences in likes and dislikes, e.g. music, friends, pursuits.
2. Respect decisions made, as long as they stay within the family purpose and guidelines and philosophy.
3. Diversity is God-given and should not be down played but recognized and respected.

**B. Respect Within the Family Is Easier than Without Sometimes**

In our family we've decided to view people as the God of the Bible does.

1. Races, nationalities.
2. Political parties and views.
3. Dress, music.
4. Age – elderly people and young people.

**NOTE:** Even when people choose to do or be things that are wrong as far as we're concerned, we still acknowledge them as the creation of God and loved by Him. Our society may want us to accept their lifestyle as a viable alternative, and we can't do that, but hate crime or attitudes are not right either.

#### C. Institutions and Authorities Are Also Respected

- 1. Government      5. Coaches
- 2. Schools          6. Teachers
- 3. Church
- 4. Police

#### D. Property and Rights of Others Are Respected

- 1. Public property.
- 2. Neighbors' needs and desires.
- 3. Borrowing from other.
- 4. School properties.

#### E. God's Laws in Both the New and Old Testament Have this Respect in Them

### TRUSTWORTHINESS OF ALL MEMBERS IN A HEALTHY FAMILY

#### A. Relationships Cannot Withstand Deceit and Dishonesty

Trust is built in truth and honesty. These are old time virtues for sure but still necessities in modern families.

#### B. The Husband – Wife Relationships must Model Trust

Willard Harley says this is huge for the wife and puts trust high on her list of needs to be met.

- 1. Say what you mean and mean what you say.
- 2. Mates can rely on one another to speak the truth in love.
- 3. Fidelity goes without saying.

#### C. Children's Trust of Adults Is Huge

- 1. Trust parents to tell them the truth. Withholding information in order to manipulate is not the same as giving information they can handle in order to make a wise decision.
- 2. Trust parents to be consistent (discipline and rules).
- 3. Trust parents to keep their promises.

### SHARING A LOT OF QUALITY TIME

#### A. The Fast Pace of Our Lives Prevents the Building of Strong Relationships

Symptoms of our stressful, hurried life.

- 1. A continual sense of trust. The husband and wife trust each other deeply. No infidelity. No lies. Honesty in little things. Treating each other like you trust.

2. The children are gradually given more opportunity to earn trust. To do, be alone, tell the truth.
3. The family doesn't break trust for the amusement of others.
4. The family realizes that broken trust can be mended
5. Parents as well as children are trustworthy – they keep their promises!

**B. Guidelines for Protecting Sharing Time**

1. The family pays heed to its need to play. Find what your family likes to do together.
2. The family recognizes its stress level. Know how much you can take.
3. The family doesn't equate play with spending money.
4. The family uses humor positively. Family jokes – parents tell funny jokes, but not at the expense of anyone.

**C. Fostering Responsibility**

1. Parents may experience burnout by doing too much for kids?
  - a. That they are not able to be good parents.
  - b. Their children are demanding more than they can give.
  - c. That they dislike their children, that they are burdensome.
2. Parents understand the relationship between responsibility and self esteem.
3. The family understands that responsibility means more than doing chores.
4. The family realizes that responsibility doesn't necessarily mean orderliness and perfection.
5. The family gears responsibility to capability.
6. Responsibility is balanced with perfection.
7. The family expects members to live with consequences of irresponsibility.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON TWENTY-TWO**

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1. Name and explain in two sentences one concept under each of the five major points.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **LESSON TWENTY-THREE**

### **Traits of a Healthy Home (II)**

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#### **INTRODUCTION:**

**W**e are said to be morally adrift in this country, yet we are told that one set of values or morals should not be imposed upon one another. We can't seem to make up our mind if there are absolutes, if there is an authority or not, if things are right or wrong. Of course our laws (and the courts that enforce them) claim, imply some sense of morals. Are the only liberties we have those that don't infringe on the rights of others? Is that the only determining factor? Or are there some absolute morals by which you want your family to operate? If so, you'll have to model and verbalize and enforce them to children, because many other "voices" are spewing out alternative sets of morals.

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**LESSON AIM:** To impart to the student the key elements of a purpose-driven family, so they may persuade families to strengthen or adopt these ingredients or traits.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES:** You will . . .

1. Learn the importance of establishing good morals and then teaching and modeling them to the children.
  2. Understand that traditions play an important part of a healthy family.
  3. Learn three more important areas which greatly affect the possibility of having a healthy family – Religion, Independence, and Serving.
  4. Realize that the presence of the traits discussed in this lesson can create an environment in which God's purpose for the home can take place.
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#### **TEACHING AND MODELING GOOD MORALS**

##### **A. Parents must Share a Consensus of What Is Valuable and Moral**

An agreed-upon standard is essential, otherwise children have no foundation upon which to make moral choices.

##### **B. Parent's Chosen Set of Ethics must Be Taught and Modeled Before Children**

1. Clear and specific explanation and reasons must be given for what is right and wrong.
2. Cheating at school, sexual relations before marriage, stealing from others, lying and deceiving to protect or benefit self.

##### **C. Children Must Be Held Accountable for Their Own Moral Behavior**

1. There must be consequences for wrong behavior.
2. The lack of consequences leaves the child with the idea that it's not all that bad or important!

**D. Intent Is Crucial in Judging Behavior, Both Before and After the Action**

1. Accident or “falling into temptation” is not the same as planned immorality.
2. Remorse afterwards is commendable, while brazen lack of regret is troublesome.
3. The idea is to educate a conscience to help a child when the parent is not there anymore to help.
4. When the child faces a world of relativism and pluralism, what will he/she do?
5. When the peer pressure is greatest, will they be able to stand for something good?
6. It’s never too early to begin. (cf. Deuteronomy 6:1-9). Is this not what God did with His children in the Old Testament?
  - a. He gave them morals (and sometimes the reasons).
  - b. He gave them freedom to make choices.
  - c. He talked to them through prophets.
  - d. He corrected their malevolent behavior and He gave them multiple chances.
  - e. That’s our model, but remember; it’s based on who we are, as who God was to Israel.

**ENJOYING MEANINGFUL TRADITIONS**

**A. Tradition Blockers**

1. The concept that all tradition is bad – e.g. churches rejecting all traditions, as if all traditions are bad.
2. Mobility of families weakens family traditions.
  - a. Sets younger families apart from grandparents and home-sites.
  - b. Loss of roots is a loss of part of one’s identity.

**B. Tradition’s Place in a Healthy Family**

1. The healthy family treasures its legends and characters.
2. The healthy family has a person or place that serves as a locus – a grandparent, a house/homestead etc.
3. The healthy family makes an effort to gather its people together on special occasions.
4. The healthy family views itself as a link between the past and the present.
5. The healthy family honors its elders and welcomes its babies.
6. The healthy family cherishes its traditions and rituals because they still have meaning.

**C. Examples of Some Family Tradition, Beside the Big Ones, like Christmas**

1. Youngest child always blows out candles.
2. Dad gives “Dutch rubs” on the crown of their heads when they say goodnight.
3. When a child is 12, they become responsible for washing the car.
4. Wednesday is left-over food night.
5. Waffles every Sunday morning.
6. Mom hides the family valuables.
7. Once a year we go family ice-skating, no friends allowed.
8. We celebrate our cat’s birthday.
9. Together we clean out the basement the first day of summer vacation (We always end up with cooking hot dogs outside).
10. We leave notes on the refrigerator.
11. We pretend to avoid Mom’s goodnight kiss.
12. Dad and the boys go fishing on Memorial Day weekend. Mom and the girls go shopping and out to lunch. Each girl gets to pick a place.
13. Make own cards.
14. Visit nursing home relatives after church or holidays.
15. Each child gets to talk to Grandma on the phone.

## SHARING RELIGION

### A. Parents Sharing Their Religion Is a Key Element

1. Suppose parents leave religion, totally up to the child when they’re old enough to decide for themselves.
2. That is a choice to give them nothing and that is probably what they will stick with.
3. A lot of couples who earlier in their lives embraced the religion of their parents but have not practiced it in years, who when they have children, want them to be exposed to Christianity.
4. It provides an opportunity not only for children to discover God, but for parents to make their faith real instead of a handed-down faith.

### B. A Core Faith, A Set of Beliefs, Affects All of Daily Life

1. It affects how one treats others, job pursuits, decision-making, values, morals, purpose, direction, future plans, career choices, mate choices, responsibility, attitudes as well as actions.
2. A core faith sets the absolutes by which the family lives, regardless of what society is doing.

## RESPECTING PRIVACY, INSURING INDEPENDENCE

### A. The Process of Independence Begins from Birth. – Things to be avoided:

1. The extremes – shoving them out the door before they are ready.
2. Keeping the apron strings in tact – holding on too long.
3. It takes skill, good judgement and unselfishness to accomplish this.

**B. Welcome Adolescent Enthusiasm and Fun Around the House**

1. This is time to facilitate a safe experimentation stage.
2. A time for less about rules and more about reasons – establishing a philosophy of life.
3. Having and understanding respect for friends, fads, confidences, room privacy, time to be alone.
4. A wise parent helps teens make big decisions – but lets them make them.

**C. The Goal Is a Grown-up in the Making**

1. There will be the tension of a parent wanting to rescue and a teen wanting to “do it myself.”
2. Then the teen will turn around and want the parent to take charge and rescue.
3. A parent must be careful what role he/she plays in each scenario.

**VALUING SERVICE**

**A. Family Members Should Be the Central Focus of the Family**

Other people and projects deserve attention as well.

**B. Service Within the Family Unit**

1. Each member has his role, and it serves the needs of the family. It may be chores of a particular kind, such as setting table, mowing the lawn, taking out trash, loading the car.
2. No member should be allowed to be served all the time, even disadvantaged children.
3. All need to contribute to the well-being and efficient functioning of the family. This can and should be taught at an early age.

**C. The Family Unit Should Be Seen as Altruistic and Empathetic Towards Society**

It takes time to serve others, e.g. work at Food Bank, pick up trash on highway, neighborhood watch, volunteer work of any kind.

**D. The Family Unit must Be Hospitable**

1. Hebrews 13:2, “*Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.*”
2. People staying with you, foster children, new neighbors.

**E. The Family must Be Open to Outside Help**

1. There is still a stigma (although less now than a few decades ago) attached to a family who needs help.
2. Healthy families recognize that problems will arise, some of which require outside assistance. Pride must be swallowed and help sought when needed.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON TWENTY-THREE**

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1. What are four (4) important truths concerning teaching morals to children?  
1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_
2. List four (4) of the six (6) areas of tradition's place in a healthy family.  
1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Fill in the blanks: Religion provides an opportunity not only for children to \_\_\_\_\_, but for parents to make their \_\_\_\_\_ of a handed-down faith.
4. In the process of young people establishing their independence, what are two things to be avoided by parents?  
1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON TWENTY-FOUR

# The Gift Of A Disciplined Lifestyle

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### INTRODUCTION:

**P**ou've seen people in he workplace who get the job done on time with quality versus others who fiddle away their time and procrastinate, often cramming at the last minute to get it done.

One person consistently and regularly saves, while another is a spend thrift, impulsively supplying his/her every want. When they retire, the saver (though he may have made less money) lives comfortably while the "Live-for-moment" person squeezes by on social security.

One person seems to be able to plan out his/her life and follow the plan to reach the goal, deferring gratification and accepting detours along the way, while another goes from one pursuit to another, always looking for instant success and the winning lottery number of life.

One person struggles with an addiction (drugs work, sex, alcohol, etc), all because he/she doesn't know who they are, while another's daily routines, though seemingly dull and boring, keep him out of trouble on the path to success. A disciplined lifestyle in the teen years and into adulthood have everything to do with parenting.

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**LESSON AIM:** To show the connection between a disciplined lifestyle and discipline of the child. To learn of different ways to discipline children.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES:** You will . . .

1. Learn that disciplining children properly significantly contributes to their development of a disciplined lifestyle.
  2. Determine that parents who consistently and biblically discipline their children, achieve a disciplined lifestyle for them.
  3. Understand the natural consequences, both positive and negative, of disciplining children – basically from Proverbs.
- 

### SOLOMON'S ADVICE (PROVERBS)

#### A. Train a Child Properly

Proverbs 22:6 – "*Train (show) up a child in the way he should go, and when (even – ASV) when he is old, he will not depart from it.*"

1. Give to the child instruction "conformably to his way" (one translation from the Hebrew).
  - a. May refer to God's way.

- b. Probably refers to age and stage of development, maturity of the child, according to the nature of the child (meaning stage, personality).
- 2. The training should become ingrained, second nature to the child.
- 3. “Even” in the ASV indicates he won’t depart when young either.

**NOTE:** Adam Clarke – “When he comes to the opening of the way of life, being able to walk alone, and to choose; stop at this entrance, and begin a series of instructions, how he is to conduct himself in every step he takes. Show him the duties, the dangers, and the blessings of the path; give him directions how to perform the duties, how to escape the dangers and how to secure the blessings, which all lie before him. Fix these on his mind by daily inculcation, till their impression becomes a strongly radiated habit. Beg incessantly the blessings of God on all this teaching and discipline; and then you have obeyed the injunction of the wisest of men. Nor is there any likelihood that such impressions shall ever be effaced, or that such habits shall ever be destroyed.”

#### B. Children are a Stewardship from God

- 1. Proverbs 1:1-7 – Solomon through the words of this book, hopes to instruct his son in how to live a wise and disciplined life.
- 2. He doesn’t believe that a child should grow up to be an unproductive member of society.
  - A lazy, selfish, undisciplined person is not the purpose for which God created us.
- 3. He gives His children into our care to be our children too.
- 4. As parents we are to treat them as a stewardship from God.

#### C. Specific Ways to Bring about Discipline in Their Lives

- 1. **Words** – instruction in all areas of life (whole book of Proverbs).
  - a. Proverbs 29:15 – “*The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a mother is disgraced by a neglected child*” (NIV). The paraphrase says “scolding and spanking.”
    - 1) Refers to discipline with words also, not just rod.
    - 2) “Left to himself” or “undisciplined” is used in reference to animals let out to go anywhere and do anything, unattended. (NEB – “allowed to run wild”).
    - 3) Mothers sometimes become too indulgent with their sons.
  - b. Proverbs 29:19 – “*By mere words a servant is not disciplined, for though he understands, he will not give heed.*”

Although this passage refers to a servant, it may be applied to children. Words alone are not sufficient.
- 2. **Example and modeling:** Proverbs 20:7 – “*The righteous walk in integrity – happy are the children who follow them!*” (cf. 14:1; 22:1)
- 3. **Discipline.**
  - a. Proverbs 13:24 – “*He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.*”

- “Diligent” means “early.” Discipline the son in the early morning of life. Why? Gives him timely chastisement.
- b. Proverbs 10:13 – *“The man of understanding has wisdom on his lips, a rod is in store for the back of the fool.”*
  - c. Proverbs 22:15 – *“Folly is bound up in the heart of the child , but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.”*
    - 1) “Folly” is that pleasure in stupid tricks and mischievous undertakings.
    - 2) The heart must make room to harbor wisdom and intelligence. Thus folly must be removed (cf. Psalms 51:5; 58:3).
  - d. Proverbs 19:18 – *“Discipline your son while there is hope; do not set your heart on his destruction.”*
    - 1) Do not be a willing party to their death.
    - 2) Keil thinks the second part means “don’t go so far as to hurt the child with discipline.”
    - 3) I think it follows the first part of the verse and refers to one causing spiritual death of the child if he does not discipline.
  - e. Proverbs 23:13-14 – *“Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you beat him with a rod , he will not die. If you beat him with a rod, you will save his life from Sheol.”*
    - 1) “Beat”– “punish” (NIV)
    - 2) “Take the stick to him” (NEB)
    - 3) If you beat (a sound whipping) him, he will not die. Don’t be afraid to apply the rod.
    - 4) The point of discipline is the soul’s salvation.

#### **D. The Model Way to Help Children Is to Do it like the Father Does us**

*“My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights”* (Proverbs 3:11-12). Ephesians 6:4 – Don’t provoke. Nurture = Discipline. Admonition = words.

### **SIX KEYS TO GOOD PARENTAL DISCIPLINE**

#### **A. Have A Mutual Agreement Between Parents About Discipline Lifestyle**

1. Based on background difference, resolve methods ahead of time.
2. Consistent approach between parents. Fairness, affection, consistent.

#### **B. Evaluate the Motive of the Child First along with the Action/Result**

1. Bouquet of poison ivy, when he saw dad bring flowers to mom.
2. Most of the time they have good motives. Listen to their reasons.

#### **C. Determine the Need the Child Has, Not Just the Action**

Aberrant behavior indicates a need not met. Have I failed to meet the need?

#### **D. Determine When To Spank and When Not To Spank**

1. When there is direct affront to parental authority. Rebellion.
2. Disobedience cannot be negotiated.
3. When talking does no good, it's time to take further action. May need discussion but still this.
4. If they are in danger of getting hurt.

**E. Try to Anticipate Developing Problems**

1. We get too busy to notice developing habits. Take time daily to observe what's going on.
2. Don't put children in different or difficult situations.
3. Planning trips – games, crafts, stops, certain motels.

**F. Avoid Sarcastic, Ironical, Demeaning Language, Humor that Digs**

1. Don't use language such as "clumsy," or "an ox"
2. Treat them with the same respect as an adult you want a relationship with.
3. Children are defenseless and unable to cope in this situation. You are bigger and in control. Don't take advantage of them.

**THE PRINCIPLE OF NATURAL AND LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES**

**A. The Age to Which These Principles of Natural and Logical Consequences Apply**

1. This approach is applicable at almost any age which a child can make a connection between action and bad result.
2. It fits more the older child, to which spanking is ineffective or counterproductive.

**B. The Advantages to this Principle**

1. Give parents a lot of control.
  - a. Results of bad attitudes or behaviors are built-in.
  - b. Parent's don't have to think up some punishment and shouldn't get the blame for being unfair or being the bad-guy.
2. Gives more effective methods after a child moves beyond the spanking years.
3. Eliminates power struggles because the results/corrections are already known and established.
4. Teaches the child about cause and effect – that there are consequences to violating established principles of life.
5. It is biblical. God treats His children this way.

**C. The General Knowledge of Natural Consequences**

1. Our world has built-in responses to attitudes and behaviors, as well as other things.
  - a. Jump off a building and gravity pulls you down to the pavement below.
  - b. Putting certain drugs in our bodies causes certain destructive reactions.

- c. Work, play outside on a hot summer day without sun screen and you will get burned.
- d. Actions have consequences which are automatic. The bible would say, "*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows*" (Galatians 6:7).
- 2. Examples of natural consequences for children.
  - a. My son doesn't want to take his inhaler or eat properly before a baseball game. He crashes!
  - b. A child leaves his/her toys outside, and it rains.
  - c. Child doesn't want to wear a coat to wait for the bus. That may result in chill or ultimately sickness.
  - d. A child doesn't want to eat what's put before him/her, so they get very hungry.
  - e. A child who walks on the backs of their shoes and they wear out before the next time shoes are scheduled to be bought.
- 3. Natural Consequences from a biblical perspective.
  - a. Sexual immorality (I Corinthians 6:18) – "*Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.*"
  - b. Homosexuality (Romans 1:26-27) – because it's not natural
  - c. Often wrong behavior creates tremendous guilt, worry, and fear. Such mind-plagues can result in physical maladies too.
  - d. Manna to worms if kept too long (Exodus 16:19-20)

**NOTE:** Every bad attitude and action has a natural consequence. It may not be forthcoming immediately, so a more immediate consequence may have to be devised. This keeps the unpleasant consequences close enough to the aberrant behavior for the child to connect them.

#### D. “Logical Consequences” to Wrong Actions

- 1. The punishment fits the crime, in severity and in connection to what should be lost. Examples:
  - a. Child writes on wall – he/she cleans it up.
  - b. Expensive toys left out may need to be brought in to prevent loss – not allowed to play with them for a while.
  - c. Always late due to doodling – for every 5 minutes late, lose 30 minutes of time staying up at night.
  - d. Doesn't eat all on the plate – no dessert.
  - e. Uses bad manners – eat alone.
  - f. Doesn't pick up in room – loses TV time or a special privilege to that child.
  - g. Arguing among sibling – solve it among yourselves or parent will make the ruling.

- h. Behaving while shopping – give money at first, lose bits and pieces as they misbehave. Can spend what's left at end of shopping.
2. Biblical Examples:
  - a. Covenant of Blessing and Cursing – blessed for obedience and punished for disobedience.
  - b. Because Israel didn't want Canaan, they will wander for 38 years in a desert.
  - c. Because Israel doesn't want to worship only God, He'll send them to Assyria and Babylon where they can't.

#### **E. Guidelines for the Parents to Remember**

1. Control your anger.
2. Communicate to the child the consequences in advance.
3. Consequences must be negative as far as they are concerned.
4. Consequences should be logical, connected to the “crime/mis-behavior.”
5. Children should be given the freedom to make the choices they are capable of making.
6. Consequences must be consistent from one time to the next.
7. Consequences must be immediate enough for the child to connect the unacceptable action to the result.
8. Consequences must be reasonable.
9. Consequences should not deprive the child of that which is critical to them.
10. Let the consequences do the correcting.

**SELF EXAM FOR LESSON TWENTY-FOUR**

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1. What are three (3) specific ways to bring about discipline in the lives of children?

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_

2. List six (6) keys to good parental discipline.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_  
5) \_\_\_\_\_  
6) \_\_\_\_\_

3. List five (5) advantages parents derive from the principle of “natural and logical consequences.”

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_  
5) \_\_\_\_\_

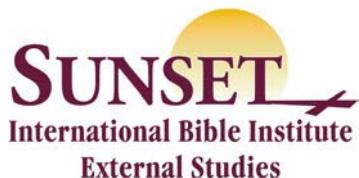
# Study Guide



## Charles Speer

Charles Speer received a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Southern Methodist University in 1970. From there he went directly to Sunset School of Preaching in Lubbock, Texas. After graduation in 1972, Charles went to work with the Northside congregation in Dallas for five years. In 1977 Charles and Cara were married and moved to Weatherford, Oklahoma, where he preached for eight years. Their two children, Bryn and Jamin, were born in Weatherford. In 1985 the Speer family attended six months of mission training at Sunset School of Preaching before leaving for New Zealand where they worked for three and a half years training preachers for New Zealand, New Guinea, and other points in the South Pacific at South Pacific Bible College.

Since 1989, Charles has been working full time with Sunset International Bible Institute. Charles has a passion for the word of God and believes deeply that we need to have more respect and love for the word of God. In *The Christian Home* he emphasizes the need for a strong family life built on the teachings of Scripture in the areas of dating, marriage, and parenting.



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