

Lesson 1 – Introduction

I. Eph. 1:9 -10; Col. 1:19 -22 God's ultimate purpose: to reconcile all things to Himself through H with each stage having been built on a previous foundation.

A. The 'Universal Assembly' : the gathering of all the local 'assemblies' by the angels at Jesus Christ's return.

B. The local 'Assembly': the local gathering together of believers in complete unity and order, under Christ as the head, through the holy Breath. (Ephesians 1:1 – 5:21)

C. The Christian Home: the Christian home is the building block of the local assembly (Eph. 5:22 – 6:4).

1. Faulty homes & marriages are unstable building materials for the Christian assembly.

2. The primary responsibility for the home & marriage is the man.

a. 1 Cor. 11:3 "But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."

b. Gen. 3: 17-19 "Then to Adam He said, ' Because you have heeded the voice of your wife , and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, "You shall not eat of it": Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

3. If a Christian home and marriage is unstable, it is the man's fault. He is the leader. He wife is to follow his lead. He cannot abdicate his leadership. The wife cannot assume it.

II. Satan's ultimate attack against God's order concerns rebellion against the gender roles:

A. Destroy the 'assembly' by destroying marriages & families

1. Failure to raise children in the fear of God :

a. they do not have 'parenting' models

b. they are not emotionally mature

2. Destroy marriages & families through unfaithfulness & divorce

a. Men: promote promiscuity w/ advertising, fashion , entertainment

b. Women: disparage traditional gender roles to promote dissatisfaction

c. Children: disparage parents, promote insubordination, rebellion

3. Destroy the marriage institution itself:

a. promote rejection of gender roles (womens' liberation)

b. promoting sexual perversion & homosexuality

c. total rejection of God -given gender – transgender