INDEX

THE FAILURE OF THE HOME
THE ROOT CAUSE OF A NATION'S FALL

CHAPTER	PAGE
1. The First Recorded Home on Earth	1
2. The Husband's Responsibility to His Wife	5
3. The Husband's Responsibility to Provide Spiritual Leadership	9
4. The Husband's Responsibility to Raise His Children	11
5. The Husband's Responsibility to Teach His Children	20
6. The Husband's Responsibility to Provide for the Home	25
7. The Wife's Place in the Home	27
8. Marriage and How to Make it Last a Lifetime	38
9. Things to do to Save the Nation	50

THE FAILURE OF THE HOME
IS THE
ROOT CAUSE OF A NATION'S FALL

CHAPTER ONE
THE FIRST RECORDED MARRIAGE ON EARTH

You have heard the phase "As the home goes, so goes the nation." That is exactly what God planned the home to be when he created the "home." The "home" can be traced back to the time of creation! The "home" was the first institution which God established. The home was established immediately after God finished the creation of the earth. If the "home" had of, would have, operated as God planed then ever nation on earth would be blessed of God and enjoying God's blessings. Sad to say, the home has not operated as God planned and you can see the results. Every nation on the globe has failed and has been abandoned by God, except America. However, over the last 50-60 years that "home" has changed to "God's way to man's way" and the result is, that today America is rapidly on it's way to be abandoned by God. If you do not agree with that, look around!

"*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."*

God created man and gave him **dominion over** the entire creation which God had created in Genesis chapter one. After God created "the man" He gave "the man" one commandment. That commandment is found in Genesis 2:8-17.

"And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone. And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates. And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ***But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*** *"*

Then God created "the woman." Genesis 2:18 and 21-25 gives us the account of the creation of the woman and that she was created to be a **helpmate** to the man.

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him…. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore

shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."

The New Testament testifies to the reason for which God created the woman. She was created "for the man." **I Corinthians 11:8-9** *"For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man."*

From Scripture, it is clear, that the woman had not been created when God gave "the man" the commandment *"not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."* However, it is also clear from the scriptures, that "the man had told the woman" of God's commandment *"not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."*

Genesis 3:1-7 records absolute proof that "the woman" knew the commandment. That is testified to in these verses in the conversation between Eve and the serpent.

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it," **(It is clear that "the man" had told "the woman" of God's commandment.)** *neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."*

The woman "knew" the commandment, she talked to the serpent about it, yet she disobeyed. After her disobedience, we find in Genesis 3:16 that God placed the responsibility for the home on the "husband as the head of the home."

"Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee."

The Hebrew word for "rule" is "mashal." Strong's Hebrew Dictionary gives the meaning of that word as, "to have dominion over, to govern, to reign, to have power." At that exact time, the husband became "the head of the home." EVERYTHING in the home was placed "under the rule of the husband." Therefore, at that point "the husband" became responsible for EVERYTHING that happens in the home, be it right or be it wrong. That is still true today!

The New Testament verifies the husband's authority in the home in I Corinthians 11:3. That verse states, *"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."* This is what is called, "God's Chain of Command."

This does not mean, nor imply, that a woman is inferior to a man. As a matter-of-fact, a woman is very superior to a man at being what God created her to be. The husband is very superior to his wife at being what God created him to be. The example is given in this verse which says, *"… the head of Christ is God."* Christ is not inferior to God IN ANY MANNER! However, Christ is "in submission to God the Father" in ALL things.

The "woman" is under equal submission to her husband as the "man" is to be under the submission of Christ. Also, the woman is under the same submission to her husband as Christ is to God. In John 5:30, Jesus Christ Himself said, *"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."* Again, in John 6:38, Jesus stated, *"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."* Again, in John 8:29, Jesus stated, *"And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."*

With that truth established, that the "husband" is the authority in the home and is to rule over the woman, then "the head of the home" is responsible for <u>everything</u> that takes place in the home/marriage since Genesis 3:16.

Therefore, the cause of America's fall must be traced back to when the first marriage took place, and the "man" was put in authority as the "head of the home." In the home, the failure can be traced to Adam, the husband whom God set as "the head" of the home. That can be traced to Genesis 2:26. The first failure in the home is recorded in Genesis chapter four. Adam and Eve had two sons. The Bible does not record anything specific about where Adam failed, but we do know there was a failure, and we know the results. One of the sons, Cain, committed the first murder, which was the murder of his brother Abel. That is the first murder ever recorded. As I said, we do not have anything recorded about Adam's failure to teach his children, but we do know that Cain murdered his brother, lied about it, and never repented. (See Genesis 4:1-15.) Therefore, the responsibility for the failure must be traced to the "head" of the home, which was Adam, and the failure in the home can clearly be traced "to the husband" as the "head of the home" until today. In 1953 President Harry Truman had a sign made and placed that sign on his desk in his office at the White House. That sign said:



CHAPTER TWO
THE HUSBAND'S PLACE IN THE HOME

The Husband's Responsibility to His Wife.
Ephesians 5:25

Before beginning, let's look at the seriousness of a husband not obeying and following God's Word. In I Corinthians 11:1-3 God inspired the Apostle Paul to write out what I call "The Chain of Command." Paul wrote, *"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."*

Paul begins by encouraging his readers to "follow him, as he follows Christ." Please do not misunderstand. Paul is not wanting us to "follow him." Paul is pointing us to the teaching of Christ which he is about to tell them. This is called "God's Chain of Command." Paul says, (1) *"The head of every man is Christ." He did not start with "the head of Christ is God" even though we all know God is "our Commander-in-Chief."* Paul is writing "to the church at Corinth." Paul knew that the success of the church, humanly speaking, begins with the "the man being in submission to Christ." Therefore, Paul begins with the man who is to be "the head of the home." Therefore, he said, *"…the head of every man is Christ."* Therefore, if the husband is not in submission to Christ, he is not in submission to God, as God is the one that gave these commandment! If the husband refuses to follow God's plan for the home or marriage, then he is in rebellion toward God! Nothing can be more serious than to be in rebellion toward God and His commandments. Now, let's move forward with our study.

First, in Ephesians 5:25 we are told **how** husbands are to love their wives. *"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"*

I am the first to admit that this is very close to impossible! However, many husbands do not understand and do not obey God's commandment. I once heard a group of men talking and one said, "You need to be careful how much you love your wife. If you "love her too much" she will start taking advantage of you. The man who thinks that he can "love his wife too much" is putting himself on a very high pedestal! He is exalting himself above the love that Jesus Christ showed the church!

Second, in Ephesians 5:28-29 it is said of husbands, *"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:"* In response, I have said several times, "I doubt seriously if most wives could stand that much love!" Men love themselves greatly! Every man should love his wife, as he loves himself, and should daily try to love her even more.

Third, a man's wife is to have "first" place in his life, ahead of everything except Jesus Christ. The wife comes before all other members of the family. Continuing in Ephesians 5, let's look at Verse 31. *"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his*

wife, and they two shall be one flesh." Naturally, the husband has an obligation to love his children, but children still come behind the wife. If the relationship between the husband and the wife is not right, the children will not be right.

One last comment. I am adding this because I have seen "men in the ministry" put the ministry before their wife and family. That will always end up causing problems. God gave man his wife, before he gave the "man" his ministry. I agree that there must be a good balance, but I have seen more than a few "full-time ministers" neglect their wife, ruin the home, and destroy their ministry. This not only greatly affects the husband, the wife, the home, and the ministry, but it greatly, greatly affects their children and sometimes destroys them, and makes them bitter against the ministry and the church.

The Husband is Responsible to Understand his Wife.
(I Peter 3:1-6)

If the husband is to "rule" over the woman and guide the home, it is absolutely necessary that he "understand" his wife, <u>as God made her</u>. God made the "man" in one manner and made the "woman" in a totally different manner. This is one of the biggest problems in a marriage today. I have heard many husbands say, "I just don't understand women!" The wife agrees and says, "My husband just doesn't understand me!" Women think and operate in a totally different manner than a man. If a man does not "understand" that his wife is different, he will treat her as a man. That creates a continual problem. Husbands should "understand" that there is a difference, and every husband should "take time" to study the chemistry of womanhood and learn to "*live with her according to that knowledge*." I Peter 3:7 states:

"Likewise, ye husbands, <u>dwell with them according to knowledge</u>, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

Notice the phrase, *"dwell with them according to knowledge."* Stop and think about how important that phrase is. God goes on to say, *"…that your prayers be not hindered."* <u>Husbands, God said if you do not make it your business to understand your wife, He will not hear you when you pray</u>! That means husbands should make it a priority to study and learn ALL he can about the way God made women. Then, the husband should apply what he has learned and should allow that knowledge to control the way he treats his wife.

When a man understands that difference, he will "*give honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel…"* The word honour is from the Greek word, "time." The word means "to hold in high esteem, to be treated as precious and priceless." The husband is to "put his wife on a pedestal" and treat her as "the queen of the home." Let me point out several categories.

The husband should dwell with his wife "<u>thankfully</u>." (I Peter 3:7) A husband should express his appreciation to his wife for all she does for him. He should express his thankfulness to her frequently.

Think about this. How would you like to hire, and have to pay someone, to do all the things that your wife does for you? She cleans your house, picks up your shoes and clothes, plans for meals, cooks your meals,

cleans dishes, decorates your house, babysits, changes diapers, gives the children baths, dresses the children, sews, serves as a chauffeur for the kids, washes your clothes, irons your clothes, does the shopping, fixes lunches, makes up beds, takes out the garbage, nurses sick children, brings you a snack and something to drink at night, and is on call 24 hours a day, just to mention the basics! She does this and more for you! She needs to hear you say, "Thank you. I greatly appreciate all that you do for me, for our children, and for our home." The husband should hold his wife up in high esteem before their children. Let your children see you hug her. Let them hear you express your love and your thankfulness for all she does and, she does it as a "labour of love."

The husband should dwell with his wife "tenderly." (I Peter 3:7). The husband should never "order" his wife around like a servant or expect her to "snap to attention" when he speaks. She is not a private in the Marine Corp! She is your wife! She is a part of your life! She is "bone of your bone!" Never treat her or talk to her like she is a servant.

Be considerate of her fabric. Your wife is "the weaker vessel." She is not as physically strong as a you are as a man. She is made of the man's "rib." The "rib" is far more tender than the "dirt" which the man is made of. If you order her around like a sergeant, you will hurt her. She may never admit that you hurt her, but SHE WAS HURT! Even when you sit with her and share the Word of God, "washing her," as Ephesians 5:26 states, set the cycle on **"delicate.**" Do it with grace!

Be considerate of her feelings. The woman is not as strong emotionally as a man. Harsh words can damage her more than physical abuse. Husbands, realize that your wife loves you and she trusts you, and because she is made different, her FEELINGS are easily hurt. She hurts even when you mildly scold her.

Be considerate of her fears. The woman is not as strong spiritually as the man. If possible, protect your wife from anything which will cause her stress. I agree that a husband should include his wife in most things, but there are times when he should "carry the load himself" until it is resolved. The husband should do everything possible to keep his wife from being fearful and afraid.

Be considerate of her failures. Every woman will fail from time to time. Many times, that is because the woman is "easily deceived." (I Timothy 2:13-14). Eve was deceived! If Eve can be deceived, your wife can be deceived. She will "think" she is doing right but has been deceived, just as Eve was. (Genesis 3:4-6). When she is deceived and has a failure, encourage her with kind words of grace.

Also, the husband should NEVER make his wife the blunt of a joke or say anything that would embarrass her. He is not to do that in public in front of people, and he should not do that when they are together at home alone. For example, maybe you have had a disagreement concerning a certain matter. In that matter, the wife was deceived and truly believed she was right. After a time of talking and possibly showing your wife scripture which makes it clear that she was mistaken, she will see that she had been deceived and that she was wrong. The husband should never say anything like, "**See! I told you so!**" To his wife that is "a slap in the face." It is belittling to her. It HURTS her. She has no "come-back" because she was wrong. However, just as Eve was wrong in Genesis chapter three, it was not that she knew she was wrong and trying to win an argument, but she was deceived, and she truly believed that she was correct when she ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. There is nothing recorded in Scripture nor implies that Adam scolded Eve. If the husband scolds her or belittles his wife, she will be hurt! Also, she may never forget what her husband said to her when he "proved her wrong!"

The husband should dwell with his wife "trustingly" (Proverbs 31:11).

Trust your wife with your "confidence." Share your plans with her, your visions, your joys, your fears, and your heartaches. I have heard more than a few cases where the husband had a hard day at work. When he returned home, his wife knew by the look on his face that something was wrong. As his wife, she was concerned and she said, "Sweetheart, you look worried. What's the matter?" He replies, "Nothing's wrong. Why do you think something is wrong?" She responds, "I just see the look on your face and know there is something bothering you." He replies, "It's nothing. I just had a bad day at the office." She says, "Please sweetheart, please tell me what's wrong and let me help you." He raises his voice and replies, "There is nothing you can do to help! I said I did not want to talk about it. Now don't ask me again!" Do you know what his wife heard her husband say to her? She heard him say, "**I'm not going to share it with you because I don't trust you!"**

Trust your wife with your "check book." Don't control the finances of the family so tightly that your wife cannot carry a few dollars in her purse to spend as she pleases. Regardless of how little or how much you have, trust her with part of it. Make her "feel" your trust.

Many husbands are "selfish with the money they earn working." I have known a good number of husbands who work and provide for the family. However, after the bills are paid what is left over, **he considers "his" money.** He is selfish! The wife has "to ask for any money every time she would like to purchase some little something she would like to have." Even when she asks for money, many time she is denied or her husband will ask many questions about what she is going to do with it, what she will buy, how much will it cost, etc., yet he carries money in his pocket every day wherever he goes and buys anything he wants to buy! Dwell with your wife trustingly.

Trust your wife with your "communion." (I Peter 3:7). Always include her in your time of devotion, and especially when you pray together you should claim Matthew 18:19, where it says, *"Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."* By doing that, you are saying to your wife, I have confidence in your spiritual walk with God. I trust you!

God made it clear that the woman is the weaker vessel. Both the physical and emotional needs of a women are different. She does not "think" like a man! The phrase "weaker vessel" means that she is more delicate and tender. She is hurt much easier than a man is hurt. I will try to give an example of how a woman thinks, feels and operates. She operates on her emotions in every matter of life.

Men were created to be leaders – women were created to be responders.
Men think and make decisions on facts – women make decisions on emotional feelings.
Men set goals ahead of people – women set consideration of others ahead of goals.
Men major on success – woman major on security.
Men carry a book in their hand – women carry a book in their arm like a baby.
Men are more hard-hearted – women are more tender hearted.
Men are physically stronger – women are physically weaker.
Men are men and women are women. The man needs to understand those differences.

For example: Men and women shop differently. I will give you an example. My wife and I had been to a viewing for one of our old schoolmates who passed away. We were driving back through Memphis on our way to Millington, TN where we live. We were passing "Sam's Club" on Covington

Pike. She asked, “Do we have time to stop at Sam’s for just a couple of minutes? I need to run in and pick up just one thing, a package of “hamburgers.” I said, “Sure, we are in no rush.” I dropped her at the door and drove to the exit door, parked, and waited for her. She said, “A couple of minutes.” Twenty-five minutes later she came out the exit door. She was going in for “one” thing, but when she came out, she had a “shopping cart” she had apparently “picked up” when she entered the store – to get that “one thing.” She came to the car and motioned to me to help her. I got out, went around to her side, and helped her “unload her cart” in which she had about 8 or 9 items. However, I had expected that! She proceeded to tell me her story about going down this isle, then that isle and these things just “jumped in her cart.” Contrary to that, a man stops at Sam’s, or any other store, because he needs to pick up one item. He parks, goes directly to where that item is in the store, picks it up, checks out, and is out of the store and gone in five minutes! I am not complaining. Men and women are just different – by creation! I am just illustrating the difference.

When God created Adam and Eve, He created them “male and female” (Genesis 1:27). They are different! Adam was created from the “dust of the ground.” The woman was created from the "rib of the man." It is sad that most men treat their wives like they are men, and they are not. Also, most husbands know more about their job, playing golf, fishing and hunting than they know about their wife! It will do husbands well to do a study of “the chemistry of womanhood.”

Another example of the woman being made and thinking differently from a man. When your wife dresses to go out somewhere with you, and comes to you and asks you this question, “How do you think I look?” She does not want to hear you say, “You look fine to me. Let’s go eat!” She wants to hear you say, “WOW! You look beautiful, absolutely beautiful!” Husbands – you need to understand your wife!

CHAPTER THREE
THE HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP
(Ephesians 5:25-27)

"*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."*

It is the husband's responsibility to "know the Scriptures" in order to teach his wife the Scriptures. II Timothy 2:15 states, "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*

The verse above compares the husband's responsibility to his wife as the manner in which Christ "loved the church and gave himself for it." Husbands are to "give themselves for their wives that their wives might be sanctified, cleansed by the Word, that the husband might present his wife to himself and unto God, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that she should be holy and without blemish."

In I Corinthians chapter 14, Paul was answering a question which the church at Corinth had written and asked him concerning "the order of the local church." Verses 35 and 36 state:

"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."

That does not mean that women cannot learn many things by attending the preaching services in their church or learning things in the Sunday School class they attend. But the verses put the major responsibility on the husbands to teach their wives. Everyone knows that "the church cannot take the place of the home." The Church is to "assist" the husband and the family in the development of the home, but it is the "head of the home's responsibility" to teach in the home. In *Albert Barnes* commentary on the Bible, he gives the following commentary of these two verses:

"Let your women keep silence, etc. This rule is positive: explicit and universal. There is no ambiguity in the expressions; and there can be no difference of opinion, one would suppose, in regard to their meaning. The sense evidently is that in all those things which he had specified, the women were to keep silence; they were to take no part. He had discoursed of speaking foreign languages, and of prophecy; and the evident sense is that in regard to all these they were to keep silence or were not to engage in them. These pertained solely to the male portion of the congregation. These things constituted the business of the public teaching; and in this the female part of the congregation were to be silent. "They were not to teach the people, nor were they to interrupt those who were speaking." The force of the argument in 1 Corinthians 11:1-34 is, that - what he there states would be a sufficient

reason against the practice, even if there were no other reasons. He argues against the practice ON EVERY GROUND; forbids it altogether; and shows that on every consideration it was to be regarded as improper for them even so much as to ask a question in time of public service. There is, therefore, no inconsistency between the argument in 1 Corinthians 11:1-34 and the statement here; and the force of the whole is, that on every consideration it was improper, and to be expressly prohibited, for women to conduct the devotions of the church. It does not refer to those only who claimed to be inspired, but to all; it does not refer merely to acts of public preaching, but to all acts of speaking, or even asking questions, when the church is assembled for public worship. No rule in the New Testament is more positive than this; and however plausible may be the reasons which may be urged for disregarding it, and for suffering women to take part in conducting public worship, yet the authority of the apostle Paul is positive, and his meaning cannot be mistaken. Comp. 1 Timothy 2:11,12." **(Albert Barnes Commentary)**

Those verses put an amazing responsibility on the husband, both to be prepared and to be able to teach his wife the truth of the scriptures. The husband is accountable for his wife's understanding of the Scriptures and for teaching her to be holy. (Titus 2:3 & I Timothy 2:10). The husband will one day "give an account" for his place and responsibility as "the head of the wife."

CHAPTER FOUR
THE HUSBAND IS RESPONSIBLE TO RAISE HIS CHILDREN
Ephesians 6:4

Not only is it the husband's responsibility to "provide spiritual leadership" for his wife, but as "the father" in the home it is his responsibility to do the same for his children. Ephesians 6:4 states, *"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."*

This command is clearly given to the father. It is not the mother's "responsibility" to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. I thank God for two things, (1) A woman who will be a helpmate to her husband and while her husband is "out working" to provide for the home, she will "back her husband" and teach their children. Also, (2) I thank God for the woman that when her husband fails, she will "step up and give their best to raise their children." However, in that case the husband is "the head of the home" and therefore he remains responsible for the raising of their children.

In this one verse, Paul has given fathers instructions that completely cover their responsibility of "raising children."

First, in raising children the father is "*not to provoke them to wrath*." In raising children, the father is to give commands to his children that "match their age and understanding." Those commands should be given in a manner that is easily understood, reasonable, and can be easily obeyed. Those commands are to be explained in a manner that the children can clearly understand and will "know that you love them and that you are giving them instruction in order to help them grow and be a better person." Never give a child a command that is "unreasonable" or cannot be easily obeyed, nor one that is not "for their good." Children need to "understand" that you are training them for their life ahead. Fathers, you are not to give your child orders that will make them angry. If you do, they will become angry at you, be discouraged by the way you are treating them, and it will lead them to be discouraged **(Colossians 3:21).**

Second, the verse says, *"fathers, bring them up in the nurture … of the Lord."* The Greek word for nurture is "paideia" and it means, educate and train, but it includes the words, "discipline, correction, and chastisement."

I have heard parents, especially mothers, say "I just can't bear to spank my child. I love him/her too much!" Mothers say things of that nature because they are women and were created to be emotional. I am sure mothers "think" they are doing the best thing for their child, but they are not. Mothers who say that and practice that go contrary to God's word. The problem in such a case is not that the mother loves the child too much to discipline them. The problem is that the mother is emotional and loves herself too much to discipline them. It hurts a mother and a father to spank or discipline their child. However, the Bible is clear beyond a doubt that God intends for children to be

disciplined when they do not obey their parents and when they refuse to do what they are told to do. As a matter of fact, withholding discipline from a child is not only failing in preparing him for his future life, but it contributes to the child turning out to be a "problem child" that will continue to disobey instructions from their employers, disobey the laws of the land, and possibly end up in serious trouble. Let's look at some scriptures in God's Word that instruct us to "discipline" our children.

Let's start with a verse that refers to what we just covered, "I just can't spank my children because I love them too much." If we truly love our children, we will discipline them.

> *"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that <u>loveth him chasteneth him betimes</u>."* (Proverbs 13:24).

The next two verses teach us that discipline is "good for a child."

> *Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt <u>beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell</u>.* (Proverbs 23:13-14).

> *Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of <u>correction shall drive it far from him</u>.* (Proverbs 22:15).

The fourth verse teaches us that if we withhold discipline from our child, we will regret it!

> *The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.* **(Proverbs 29:15**).

The next six verses teach us that (1) God believes in chastisement of children, and that chastisement is (2) for a child's good, and (3) the results of chastisement of a child will bring rejoicing to the child and to the parents.

For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." (**Hebrews 12:6-11**).

Third, *"fathers, bring them up in the…<u>admonition</u> of the Lord."* The word <u>admonition</u> comes from the Greek word, "nouthesia" and means "to educate, call attention to, and to mildly rebuke and warn." The definition means exactly that. Educate them, not intellectually, but educate them in the teachings and principles of God's Word. It means to call their attention to, and to teach them the Word of the Lord. It means to mildly rebuke and warn them of the results of them choosing to make their own decision and NOT making their decision based on the Word of the Lord!

While children are living at home and being raised, the father is to make decisions about the children attending Sunday School and church, where the children go, who they go with, what they watch on television, how they use their phones, how they dress, when and how they are disciplined, among other things. He should not only "teach" his children these things, but as long as the children live at home, he should require them to obey and practice those things. The husband can delegate authority to the children's mother to participate, but he cannot delegate responsibility and cannot delegate accountability.

The father should thoroughly teach his children the following principles. Every family should have an organized plan of study for teaching their children. Also, as you teach, apply the teaching to your children's life, which is according to Scripture in II Corinthians 3:18: *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."*

This is also vitally important. Proverbs 22:6 tells us how important it is that we teach our children, *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* To look at the "other side" of that promise, it promises that "if we do not train up a child in the way he should go, they will most often go in the exact opposite direction. I am going to list seven areas in which children need to be taught. This certainly is not a complete list, but there are seven basics that EVERY child needs to learn.

First: Teach them why they need to be saved, and how they can be saved and know it.

I am assuming that everyone who is reading this book knows God's plan of salvation. Regardless, I will include that plan in a brief, and hopefully clear way from A to Z. However, one of the first questions a child will ask is, "**What do you mean saved?**" That question is where parents need to begin. You need to make sure that your children understand why Jesus died. The following is brief, but I think it makes it clear in such a way that it will help a child understand "why they need to be saved, and how they can be saved."

The answer to that question is "saved from the penalty of sin." The penalty for sin was explained in Genesis 2:16-17. *"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: For in the day that thou eatest thereof* ***thou shalt surely die****."*

When the Bible speaks on death, in the context of these verses, it is not referring to "physical death." We will all one day "die physically." Death in these verses refers to ***"the second death."*** Revelation 20:6 explains that truth. *"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power..."*

The "Second Death" is explained in Revelation 20:14-15. *"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."* The "second death" is separation from God for all eternity.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command and ate of the tree. Every person who has been born since that day has been born with a "sin nature." Romans 5:12 tells us that the "penalty of death" was passed on to you and to me. *"Wherefore, as by one man* (Adam) *sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."* We are sinners by birth, and sinners by choice. Romans 3:23 states, *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."*

Are you saved? Saved from what? Are you saved from the **penalty of sin, which is eternal death**? You say, "No, I am not." Please let me explain from the Bible how you can be saved. John 3:16 is a very common verse. This verse tells us not only **how** God provided salvation for us, but **why** He did it. He did it because He loves YOU! *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

God sent his Son to earth for the purpose of making a way for every person "to be saved from the penalty of sin, death!" His name is Jesus. Jesus was crucified, nailed to a cross, and died. Why? Jesus never committed a sin!

Romans 5:8 states it this way: *"God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

II Corinthians 5:21 answers that question: *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

Jesus Christ died on the cross of calvary in your place! Romans 6:23 says, *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* (PLEASE NOTE: The verse states that "eternal life through Jesus Christ," is a **gift** of God! A "gift" is free! You can't buy it, you cannot earn it, you can only "accept it!" It is YOURS if you want it.

Jesus Christ was **made to be sin in our place.** When he died on the cross, he died in our place – He paid the penalty of sin for all men. I John 2:2 states that truth, *"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins **of the whole world.**"*

Therefore, the choice is ours. Will you choose to "accept God's gift of eternal life?" Will you choose to accept the death that Jesus died on the cross in your place?" If so, your debt will be "paid in full." Romans 10:9 states: *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."*

If you would like to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, have your sins forgiven, and have your "penalty of sin" paid in full, you can do that, wherever you are. You can do it now, even as you read this!

Start by admitting you are a sinner. Then ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart as your Savior. You can pray a prayer after this pattern but pray it from your heart.

"Dear God, I come to you admitting I am a sinner and lost. I realize that your Son, Jesus Christ, died on the cross in MY place. I am confessing and repenting of my sins. I ask you to please

forgive me of my sins and I receive your Son, Jesus Christ, into my heart as my Savior and my Lord."

When you pray this prayer and mean it from your heart, I remind you of the verse in Romans 10:13. *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord* ***shall be saved.****"* AMEN!

Second: Teach them how important it is that they make Jesus the "Lord of their Life."

In Matthew 22:36 and 37 Jesus was asked this question: *"Master, which is the great commandment in the law?"* Without hesitation, Jesus responded and said, *"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."* Matthew 22:38, *"This is the first and great commandment."*

The importance of your children making the Lord Jesus the Lord of their life is found in Matthew 6:24, which states a very important truth!

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

In everyday language, that says that if you do not teach your children to make Jesus Christ the Lord of their life, they will end up hating the Lord and loving another master, which would be the world which is controlled by Satan. Fathers and Mothers, you do not want to run that risk. The Bible is clear THEY WILL FOLLOW ONE OR THE OTHER. There are no "in-betweens and no other alternatives!" Therefore, Teach Your Children!

The Bible says that even the success of a nation is decided by the people of the nation and whether they make Christ the Lord of the nation. Psalms 33:12 states: *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."* That can be paraphrased as, "Blessed is the child whose God is the Lord…"

Third: He is to teach his children the Word of God (Proverbs 4:1-2).

"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law."

The commandment of God to "teach your children the Word of God" can be traced to the Old Testament. Look at Deuteronomy 6:6-9:

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And ***thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children,*** *and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."*

That commandment is followed up in the New Testament in I Timothy 4:5-11: *"For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things,*

thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation. For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. ***These things command and teach.*"** **Teaching begins "at home," not in schools or in churches.**

Every family should have an organized plan of study for teaching their children. Also, as you teach your children apply the teaching to your children's life, which is according to Scripture in II Corinthians 3:18: *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."*

Fourth: He is to teach his children to stay away from bad company (Proverbs 1:10-16).

"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:"

I have heard people say concerning bad company, even some in the ministry, "Oh, that is not a problem. I mix with them and get to know them so I can win them to Christ. Me fall? Not a chance! I'm in the ministry and spiritual enough that I won't fall just by mixing with them. It's just another chance to witness." Peter was far along and much more "in the ministry and spiritual" than anyone reading in this book. Peter was a preacher and an apostle. BUT Peter fell by mixing with bad company. I call your attention to Luke 22, beginning in Verse 54. Judas had betrayed Jesus and Jesus had been arrested. Those that arrested Jesus took him before the high priest. Read the following carefully:

"Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. ***And Peter followed afar off****. And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together,* ***Peter sat down among them.*** *But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him. And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not. And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not. And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaean. And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly."*

As you see in the scripture above, Peter sat down "among them," among bad company. The results were that Peter failed in his testimony. First, "he followed afar off (Verse 54). Then Peter "sat down among them" (Verse 55). Then Peter denied him three times (Verses 57, 58, 60), and according to the account in Matthew, the third time Peter denied Christ he used a curse word. (Matthew 26:72). Peter fell! Why? Because he *"sat down among"* bad company. Dads and Moms, teach your children to STAY AWAY FROM BAD COMPANY!

<u>Fifth</u>: He is to teach his children to stay away from wine (Proverbs 20:1).

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

I recall something happening concerning a company which made wine that tells the following story. There was a company that made and sold beer. They had a slogan that said, "The Finished Product of the Brewers Art." They posted that on large billboards across the country showing a large picture of a couple, smiling, happy, laughing, dancing, and having a good time. A pastor, who was a friend of mine but has since gone to be with the Lord, put up a large billboard in midtown Memphis that had the same slogan, "The Finished Product of the Brewers Art." However, the picture was different. He put a picture of a drunk lying in the gutter face down, with an empty can of beer rolling from his hand. The brewing company who used that slogan, called and threatened to take the pastor to court and sue him if he did not take the billboard down. The pastor responded, "I hope you do! I would love to go to court against you." They were a little shocked and said, "Why would you want to do that?" He responded to them, "Because you cannot prove that the picture on your billboard "is the finished product of the brewer's art," and I can prove that a drunk lying in the gutter with his face down IS the finished product of the brewer's art." They excused themselves, hung up, and the pastor never heard from them again.

"Wine is a mocker…" Dads and Moms, teach your children to stay away from wine!

<u>Sixth</u>: He is to teach his children good work ethics (Proverbs 6:9-11).

Proverbs 6:9-11: *"How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man."*

In America, there has been a great failure in this area of fathers not teaching their children to work. **For example:** "The Social Security Act was signed into law by President Roosevelt on August 14, 1935. In addition to several provisions for general welfare, the new Act created a social insurance program designed to pay retired workers aged 65 or older a continuing income after retirement."

Also, in 1935, the Congress established the "unemployment insurance program which was incorporated in the legislative package enacted as the Social Security Act of 1935."

"In the same year, President Franklin D. Roosevelt backed the idea of federal aid for poor children and other dependent persons. Later in that same year, 1935, <u>a national welfare system</u> had been established for the first time in American history."

"In 1939, the original Food Stamp Program began and later the pilot programs of the early 1960s. The 1939 program was initiated to align growing food surpluses with, they said, a concern for the needs of the poor as the country emerged from the Great Depression." My father went through those years, worked for a small salary, and never took the offer of food stamps.

Nowhere in the Bible does it say or indicate that the government of any country is responsible for providing things for people who won't work and won't plan ahead. America is now reaping the results of Social Security, food stamps, welfare, unemployment, free school lunches, the

news media raising millions of dollars to purchase food and then give it away free at a "drive through" to people who drive up to the "food giveaways" in $25,000 automobiles. I have seen people in places like Walmart, buy a large basket full of groceries, pay for them with "food stamps," then I have followed them to the parking lot and watched them unload those groceries into the trunk of a $35,000 to $50,000 automobile!

Today, in the 21st century, people in Memphis stand on corners at intersections with a piece of cardboard asking for money, saying "Please help me feed my family." Being a former Memphis Police officer, I often have conversations with police officers I meet in various places. One officer told me that they did an "investigation" into people standing on corners, begging. The officer I was talking with said the investigation showed that almost 100% of those people were taking in $200 a day or more. When they were "offered a job" by plain-clothes officers, they responded, "Why should I work when I can make at least $200 a day, and some days more, standing here on the corner with a piece of cardboard!"

All the above are the results of the failure of "the head of the home" in not raising his children correctly and according to the Word of God, and not working and providing for his family. The "head of the home" has FAILED in not taking HIS God-given responsibility to "work to provide for his family." He did not train his children to "to take that responsibility and to work."

Proverbs 6:6-8 gives us a "pattern" which we should follow concerning work. *"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.*

Dads and Moms, teach your children to work! I repeat the Words found in II Thessalonians 3:10, *"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you that if any would not work, neither should he eat."*

Seventh: He is to teach his children to seek the will of God for their lives (Proverbs 3:5-6).

The father cannot tell any of his children what God's will is for their lives. Such things like, will they be in the ministry, will they be a pastor, song director, missionary or many other things. He can teach them "how to find God's will" for their daily living, and how God and His word can lead them to "what God's will is for their life" as they grow and daily walk with Him. I will give four principles which every human on earth should follow. Before starting, let me give you something to remember. You find God's will by keeping these basic principles in the order in which they are given.

Conclusion: Teach your children some "practical and basic truths that they need to know." **For example,** I have never forgotten the day at Thrifthaven Baptist Church, which was my home and sending church when I went to the mission field in 1970. It was during a Christmas service on Christmas morning. Our pastor made a statement something like this, "Tell your kids there is no such person as "Santa Claus!" I must admit, I was somewhat shocked. We had talked to our kids about "Santa Claus" but we looked at it as just a "fun time" they got out of that part of celebrating Christmas. However, the more I thought about it, the more I realized how serious it is to even acknowledge some

creature of man's imagination like "Santa Claus" as opposed to teaching my children how to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who came to die for our sins.

This, so called, "Santa Claus" is a mythical character created about the early 1600s by men. There has NEVER been a real "Santa Claus" of any type for them to pattern after. Since his creation, he has used about five "alias names" such as Father of Christmas, Saint Nicholas, Saint Nick, Kris Kringle, or just simply "Santa." Along with the alias names, the story led children to believe that Santa Claus wore a red coat with a white collar, red trousers, delivering a bag full of gifts to children by flying in from the north pole in a sled pulled by reindeers and coming down their chimney! How stupid can man get? What has that got to do with celebrating the birth of the Savior? I feel sure whoever came up with "Santa Claus" thought it was a "good thing." They made it "look good" and it was something that would excite people, especially children. Parents got fooled into promoting Santa Claus because of the excitement of their children. However, whoever came up with this was no doubt deceived, just as Eve was deceived in Genesis chapter three. In my opinion, there is no doubt that Satan, the arch enemy of Christ, was/is behind the creation of this mythical character to take the attention and emphasis off the birth of Jesus Christ and His coming to "die for the sins of the world." Now, without going into endless details, let's fast forward to 2022. Today, Santa Claus has taken all reference to Jesus Christ out of the world. The world uses Santa Claus to promote "buying and selling" and TOTALLY leaves Christ out of Christmas. Major retailers refuse to allow their employees to say "Merry Christmas" to customers. There are no signs posted in those stores saying, "Merry Christmas." On the television, nor any other places apart from the church, is there ANY MENTION of Christ. I imagine you remember when retailers began removing "Christ" out of Christmas. They began by using "Xmas!"

Parents, please teach your children that Christmas is about Christ, plus teach them that any thing which opposes and takes away from Christ, is WRONG! Jesus - is the Reason - for the Season!

Last: The father's responsibility to discipline his children (Proverbs 22:15).

"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."

In the past few years, especially in some groups of people, there has been very little to no discipline in the home. I have heard a good number of fathers and mothers say, "Oh! I just love him/her too much to hurt him/her, speaking of their children. That is TOTALLY untrue! A parent who says that is being deceitful and is covering up the real reason they do not discipline their children. Their real reason for not disciplining their children is not that they love their child too much, but that they love themselves too much and "just do not want to feel bad" about spanking the child! When they do that, they are ruining the future of their child who they "say they love."

That statement is testified to in **Proverbs 13:24**. *"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."* Now, turn to **Proverbs 29:15-17**. *"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall. Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."*

Before leaving the subject of "disciplining children" let me share one other passage that testifies that discipline is GOOD for you child. Turn to **Hebrews 12:6-11** which teaches us that God believes in, and teaches, and practices discipline. *"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: **nevertheless** afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Fathers, DISCIPLINE YOUR CHILDREN!*

CHAPTER FIVE
THE HUSBAND IS RESPONSIBLE TO TEACH HIS CHILDREN HOW TO FIND THE WILL OF GOD

Christ's Written Word
Psalms 119:89

"*Forever O LORD, thy Word is settled in heaven.*"

You begin by searching the scriptures in any matter in your life. Now, the Word of God does not teach you such things as should you "move from one city to another," but it gives some principles. If you find something in the written Word that deals with what your children are seeking, it is settled, and settled forever. God NEVER goes contrary to His Word. In the Word, God said, (1) I change not (Malachi 3:6); (2) It has no variableness (James 1:17); and (3) Every jot and tittle is settled (Matthew 5:18).

Conviction of the Holy Spirit
John 16:13

"*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."*

The Holy Spirit never guides contrary to the Bible. If you find it in the written Word, you do not "pray about it" and you do not need to "seek the Holy Spirit to guide you." The Holy Spirit NEVER goes contrary from the written Word of God. As I shared earlier, many things are not found in written Word. Then, you have the Holy Spirit living and dwelling in you, and as the verse above says, "he will guide you into all truth." How does the Holy Spirit guide you? He guides you by giving you perfect peace in your heart that the matter you are seeking His help in IS the will of God, or he guides you that it IS NOT the will of God by withdrawing peace from your heart.

I will give you an example: A number of years ago, I was affiliated with Maranatha Baptist Mission. I had been a missionary to Mexico for several years and had returned to the States and was Vice-President of Maranatha in Natchez, Mississippi. I traveled and preached Mission Conferences across the United States. I had preached at Reimer Road Baptist Church in Wadsworth, Ohio where John Powell was pastor. That church was listed as one of the "ten fastest growing churches in America." I preached there maybe 10 years in a row. His conferences ran from Sunday to Sunday. We had some great conferences. They had a Christian Day School and a Bible Institute. The church

had about 2800 people who attended every Sunday Morning. I got to know Bro. Powell and his people well and they got to know me. One day while Bro. Powell and I were at lunch, he asked me if I would meet with him and his deacons after lunch. I said, "Sure. What's the meeting about?"

He said, "We want you to come to Reimer Road as our pastor." I was shocked. He continued, saying that he was going to resign and wanted to work out of the church, but he planned to go to West Virginia where he was from, and plant churches in some of the cities in the mountains where there were no churches. I met with him and his deacons, and we discussed the entire situation. From a mission standpoint, I was excited. I was thinking, "How many young couples might surrender to the mission field if they were challenged over and over?" Or "How might the 'faith promise giving' for missions grow if they heard missions at least once a month or more?" Those were exciting thoughts, and I could not find or think of one thing wrong with the church or the possibility of me being their pastor. It was all good! Nothing contrary to the Bible!

I promised Bro. Powell, his deacons, and the church that I would return to Natchez, Mississippi where I lived, and I would continually pray about it until God gave me an answer. I returned home and prayed for about three weeks. I had been called to mission work in 1969 and loved being in world missions. Now it was 1985. While praying, I was always thinking about "what God could do with a church that size for the cause of Christ and missions around the world." However, every time I prayed about going to be their pastor, I got a strange, cloudy, negative feeling and felt uneasy about going. I had no peace in my heart about making that move. When I prayed about staying, where I was with Maranatha Baptist Mission and being devoted to missionary work, the strange, cloudy, negative feelings went away, and the peace of God returned to my heart. I called Brother Powell and shared with him that it was not God's will for me to come to Wadsworth, Ohio and be the pastor of the church. Naturally he asked "Why?" I explained why as it is explained above. Brother Powell, having been in the ministry for many years, understood. He thanked me for praying and being honest. God will do the same concerning "anything you take before him that regards a decision between "your being in His will or getting out of His will." God DOES NOT want us out of His will, and He will always guide you.

Consider the Circumstances Which are Involved
I Corinthians 10:31

The first question you ask is, "Can it be done for the Glory of God?" Let me share a situation which literally happened about 40 years ago. Foreign missionary work is exciting to many young, dedicated young men or families. However, excitement does not mean "God is calling you to the missionary field."

There was a man from the church where I was ordained and sent to the mission field in 1969. He attended Memphis Baptist College, along with me and many other men and women. Years later, when I was on staff at Maranatha Baptist Mission, that young man came to the Mission office and wanted to talk with me. He sat down and said, "God has called me to be a missionary and I want to affiliate with your Mission agency." I knew the man well and knew his history. He was a fine young man, so I am not criticizing him. However, going back several years this same man went to our pastor and told him that God wanted him to be a "bus captain" and drive one of the church's bus routes. Back in those days, the "bus ministry" was a big ministry. The pastor gave him a route. He

worked at that ministry for about 9 months and then suddenly, quit! A year or so later, he went back to the pastor and told him that he felt God wanted him to be a "Sunday School teacher." When a class became available, the pastor with concerns, nevertheless gave him a class to teach. He was all excited and worked hard at it. However, the "new wore off" and about a year later – he quit again. This was repeated two other times in different situations. This is the same young man I mentioned above who years later came to our Mission office all excited and said, "Brother Gambrell, you will be excited! God has called me to the mission field. I'm going to be a missionary." Now, what do circumstances say? Should the Mission accept a man to raise support from churches and go to the foreign mission field - with a track record of quitting? No! Certainly not. The circumstances tell us that when he had been involved in "little ministries" and was not faithful, he should not be accepted and trusted with a bigger ministry, such as that of a missionary. He should not be accepted as a missionary at least until he has grown in the Lord and has proved himself faithful at "small things." If that happened, then yes, he might be accepted as a missionary, but "under those circumstances" we knew it was not God's will for him to be a missionary – at that time.

Counsel of Mature, Godly Christians
Proverbs 15:22

(Check the first three and then follow this plan - the fourth step in seeking the "will of God.") The Scriptures tell us "to seek counsel." If you, at this point in making your decision, do not seek counsel, you are asking for trouble!

"Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established." (Proverbs 15:22)

For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety. (Proverbs 24:6)

Now, you have decided to seek counsel. To whom do you go for counsel. <u>You DO NOT go to someone your age with no more experience than you have!</u> If you do, you will run an even greater risk. A person your age has no more wisdom or experience than you have. <u>Go to someone 20-30 years older than you are - and with years of experience in the area in which you are seeking counsel</u>. <u>Someone you trust and have seen "no grey areas" in that person's life</u>. Let's look at I Kings 12:6-11:

"And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people? And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever. But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him: And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter? And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.

And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

If you study the results of King Rehoboam's decision, you will find that he lost the Kingdom due to taking bad counsel! You will do the same if you seek and take bad counsel!

Fathers are not only to "teach and train" their children, but they are to "set an example of godliness." If you, as a father, do not pray then you are teaching your children that they do not need to pray. If the father does not sit daily and read the Bible to them, he is teaching them it is not important to read their Bible. If he does not go to Sunday School and church faithfully, he is teaching his children that it is not important to go to Sunday School and church. Fathers, keep this in mind. "Your children are watching you!"

All the above must be done by the father, and it must be done in love. The verse says, "*And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath:"* Nothing is to be done in anger, but it is to be done and made known to them in love. It is to be done with such love that the children SEE and KNOW that their father loves them, and he wants the VERY best for their lives. Children KNOW the difference in love and anger, and if provoked to wrath, when they get older, they will rebel against their father and will do EVERYTHING their father told them NOT TO DO!

Anger will produce anger in the child. The child will obey, but only because the parent is bigger and he knows if he does not obey, it will become worse for him. This is a very important principle that fathers must understand to "bring their children up in the nurture and admonishment of the Lord." A father should only discipline a child because it is for the child's good. Many fathers inflict punishment in anger! The child feels that the parent is punishing them because the parent is angry, not because it was right! This leaves the child thinking that their father disciplined them wrongly and without consideration for their good. Fathers, DON'T ever think a child does not know the difference!

You have heard the saying, "the chickens will come home to roost!" *"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."* (Galatians 6:7)

The Results of the Husband's Failure to Raise his Children According to the Bible

This is an example of what has already happened in America due to fathers not teaching their children according to the seven examples we just studied, especially to work and provide for themselves and their family. This is a local example from Memphis, Tennessee. I served in the Memphis Police Department from 1956-1962. During those years, and others, Memphis was rated the safest city in America. During those five years which I served in the police department, Memphis had a total of only seven murders. People had great respect for the laws of Memphis and those who enforced them. Fast forward to 2021. Memphis in 2021 had 346 murders which set a record. Memphis today has the 2nd highest murder rate of all the cities in America. In 2021, Memphis had nine murders on one weekend. Also, those 346 murders, which set a new record, were done by young people from 15 to 24 years old!

To give you an even clearer picture of what the failure of the home has resulted in, let me fast-forward to today, March 31, 2023. It is recorded and reported by the Memphis Police Department, that Memphis is averaging having "one car stolen every 34 minutes, around the clock," since January 1, 2023. In the same report, which is according to written reports, since January 1, 2023, Memphis is averaging 100 cars a day having the windows broken to steal things left in the car by the owners. This has led to a shortage of "replacement glass" at glass dealerships. It now averages about 30 days for a dealer to order and receive a window or windshield to replace those which have been broken. The Memphis Police department reports show that about 95% of these crimes were committed by young people from 11 and 12 years old to about 24 years old. The above is the result of what "lack of teaching and lack of discipline produces.

Today, Memphis has about 600,000 people and is still the number two city in America in murders per capita. Memphis is the second most dangerous city in America in which to live. Memphis is not even on the list anymore of "one of the cleanest cities" in America. It is also listed as the number 10 most sinful cities in America!

All of this, and much more, can be traced to a "failure in the home" which means there was a failure of the husband/father, as "the head of the home." This is not confined just to Memphis. It is based on the percentage of marriages which end up in separation and divorce in America. The following information is taken from: https://www.wf-lawyers.com/divorce-statistics-and-facts/:

Almost 50 percent of all marriages in the United States will end in divorce or separation.

Researchers estimate that 41 percent of all first marriages end in divorce, 60 percent of second marriages end in divorce, and 73 percent of all third marriages end in divorce.

According to the same research site, the United States has the 4th largest divorce rate in the world, behind Russia, Belarus and Gibraltar, which are totally ungodly countries and have had very little exposure to the Gospel or to the teaching of the Word of God. **The statement below was copied from the FBI report on violent crime in America:**

> According to the FBI's data, "Crime is going up. There's 25 years of research that tells us exactly what the problem is, why our crime is rising, and it is because we are raising violent men and women. We are raising them."

Before moving to the next section of the study of the home, let me conclude the "raising of children" with verses from Psalms 127, which were written by King David (Psalms 127:3-5):

"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

David was saying in Psalms 127 that we as parents, especially fathers, **are the bow,** and our **children are pictured as our arrows.** Wherever you point a bow, the arrow will go in that direction when shot. **If you show love to your family and raise your children in the "nurture and the admonition of the Lord," when your children grow up and leave your home, they will "go in the right direction. They will honor God, and they will be used of God and blessed of God in a good**

way. They will enjoy the very best life possible." Also, you have heard another old phrase. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

CHAPTER SIX
THE HUSBAND IS RESPONSIBLE TO PROVIDE FOR THE HOME
I Timothy 5:8

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." God declared that a man who will not work and provide for his family of being, *"…worse than an infidel."* THAT IS SERIOUS!

"The Bible still says, *"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat"* (II Thessalonians 3:10).

Sad to say, there has been a terrible failure by the "heads of homes" in the last 2-3 generations in America. The failure has greatly contributed to "America's fall" in this present generation. It began before this generation, but the failure grows, and things continue to get worse.

Let me add one other statement. I see no problem with "people helping people" when the people they help have an honest need. Or feeding people who honestly need help to buy food and physically may be unable to work and do so. Please feed them. This is all done out of compassion. It IS NOT the government's responsibility to provide the above things free!

Husbands should also consider the fact that when the husband leaves for work and does not return home for 8-9 hours, his wife has been working at home the same 8-9 hours he has been gone. She has been cleaning the house, dusting, washing clothes, ironing clothes, changing beds, running the vacuum cleaner, cooking meals and many other things. Also, when the husband's day of work is over and he returns home, his wife's work does not stop! You have heard the old phrase, "A woman's work is never done." That is VERY TRUE! She continues preparing the evening meal, cleans the table, washing the dishes, and any number of other things that come from that time until bedtime. This all comes under "being a keeper at home" (Titus 2:5). Husband should be helpful to their wives after they arrive home. They should not consider "their day's work as done." For example, after the evening meal, which the wife spent an hour or two preparing, husbands should "help them clear the table, and straighten the kitchen, and any other thing his wife needs help with. He should continue that attitude until bedtime! Her work is never done! Husbands! Help your wife.

Also, husbands should "share the extra money" with his wife. He should always make sure she has "spending money" in her purse. If a man will love his wife, like Christ loves the church and if you will love her like you love yourself (Ephesians 5:28), and if he will live that love, she will be "very careful" with the spending money you give her. Don't make her "beg you for something to spend."

THE HUSBAND IS TO PROVIDE IN MANY WAYS BESIDES FINANCES!

The husband/father in the home (1) should provide security for his wife and family. They should never have to live in fear. (2) He should provide peace of mind for his wife and family. (3) He should provide happiness for his wife and family. (4) He should provide contentment for his wife and family. (5) He should provide physical wellbeing for his wife and family. (6) He should provide protection for the family. (7) He should provide an example of purity for his wife and children.

I am not complaining. My father loved me, provided for me, and helped me in many ways, but my father raised me by saying, "Don't do as I do, but do as I say do!" I am sure he meant well, but as I grew older, I did everything I saw my father do and more! I learned from that. When God gave my wife and me three children, I remembered what my dad had said. To the contrary, and please do not think that I did a perfect job because I did not, and no one knows that better than I know. However, from that experience, I always told my children, "Anything you see your dad do, you can do. If it's wrong, I promise you I will never punish you for doing it, if you saw me do it." THAT MADE ME VERY CAREFUL how I lived, what I said, what I did, where I went, and many other things! When you pray with your children before they go to bed at night, and you choose to pray "The Lord's Prayer" which says, "*Our Father, which art in heaven…*" be very careful to "act like your Father in heaven," because your children are thinking, "the Father in Heaven must be like my Father who is praying that with me." Remember, your children are children!"

If the husband will fulfill the place and the responsibilities given to him by God and fulfill them in love, his wife will love her husband, she will love her life, and she will gladly be in submission to him. His children will love their father, will gladly obey him, and they will try to be like him and walk in his footsteps! Husbands, Fathers, don't forget…



CHAPTER SEVEN
THE WIFE'S PLACE IN HOME

Before we begin the study of the "Wife's place in the home, let me share some truths with you and ask you to PLEASE keep these truths in mind throughout this entire study. The wife's place in the home is IN NO WAY inferior or less important than the man's place in the home. In some ways, the wife's position in the home is MORE important than that of the man. God gave the man the responsibility to "be the head of the home," but at the same time, God, through the scriptures, planned and directed the man to "delegate a good deal of the responsibility of the home to the woman, his wife." The responsibility of the wife in the home is "summed up" in **I Timothy 5:14.**

"I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."

WHAT AN IMPORTANT PART! The woman is to (1) "…bear children." That, in itself is an unbelievable part of her ministry and leads to an unbelievable responsibility! (2) "guide the home!" Have you thought of the tremendous ministry God gave the wife? To "…guide the home" leads to a ministry which will last for many, many years of the wife guiding their children while her husband is "working to provide for their family." If you think about this, the man's responsibility is FAR easier than the woman's responsibility of "bearing children and guiding them for the next 20-30 years of their life!" In many ways that makes the "woman's place in the home" more important than the "man's place in the home."

Women, as we proceed with the study, please keep in mind that the "place God gave you in the home" does not imply in any way that you are inferior, or that you are of less importance. Please remember these two old sayings, (1) "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. (2) As the home goes, so goes the nation." Wives, you are very superior to a man at being and doing what God created you to do. Your husband depends on you! The home depends on you. Your children depend on you. The church depends on you. The nation depends on you!

YOU ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF YOUR HUSBAND, THE SUCCESS OF YOUR CHILDREN, THE SUCCESS OF YOUR CHURCH, AND THE SUCCESS OF THE WORLD! THE MINISTRY GOD HAS GIVEN YOU CANNOT BE DONE BY YOUR HUSBAND AND IT CANNOT BE DONE BY ANY OTHER PERSON IN THE WORLD! Amen!

THE WOMAN'S PRIMARY PLACE IN THE HOME IS TO BE "A GOOD KEEPER AT HOME"

BY THE WILL OF GOD.
Titus 3:5

The book of Titus tells us the primary place of a woman is "in the home." **Titus 2:3-5** states,"*The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."*

It is obvious from many scriptures that a woman's place is in the home. The above scripture makes that clear. First, the wife is referred to as "an aged woman." There is no mention of, nor implied, that the wife should have any responsibility to work and add to the income for the home. Her God give duties are listed in these verses. She is to be a "teacher of good things." That is followed by God instruction as to "what they should teach." They should "teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children. Those things are all done IN THE HOME!

Also, if God approved of a "woman" working outside of the home for the purpose of making money to provide to, or add to their household income, then God would be contradicting Himself. In the very beginning when the first marriage was established, God made the man the "head of the home. "This was after both Adam and his wife, Eve, sinned." After making Adam the "head of the wife," God gave him instruction for providing for the home. **Genesis 3:17-19** explains that responsibility. *"And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."*

At no time since Genesis Chapter three do we find a woman working, "by the sweat of their face or tilling the ground." Everyone reading this book knows that God has said, "I change not!" **Hebrews 13:8** declares, *"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."* That statement begins at the VERY beginning of creation and continues through the entire Bible. Also, **II Thessalonians 3:10** declares that God has not changed, *"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."*

Also, **Deuteronomy 22:5** teaches that a woman is not to leave her place in the home and go into the workplace. That verse states, *"The woman shall not wear that which **pertaineth** unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God."*

The entire phrase, *"… shall not wear that which pertaineth…"* is translated into English from one Hebrew word which is the word: "k@liy" The Strong's Hebrew Concordance, which is the authority on translating Hebrew to English, translates the word "k@liy, kel-ee'," to mean the following:

"Something prepared, i.e. any apparatus (as an implement, utensil, dress, vessel or weapon) armour ((-bearer)), artillery, bag, carriage, + furnish, furniture, instrument, jewel, that is made of, X one from another, that which pertaineth, pot, + psaltery, sack, stuff, thing, tool, vessel, ware, weapon, + whatsoever.

We could write a complete chapter on that definition, but will briefly point out what the definition tells us. It tells us that God strictly forbids a woman to be in the workplace of the world or even "wearing anything like man's clothing or using any tool, instrument, vessel, ware, weapon or whatsoever" that pertaineth to a man. God concluded that verse by saying, *"for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God."*

In our world today, that would mean a woman is not to be involved in construction, law enforcement, work on the fire department, use ANY tool, instrument, vessel or ware, or WHATSOEVER, if it in any way pertaineth to a man." The woman's place is "in the home!"

Before moving on to the fourth and closing point in a "woman's place in the home," let me share a very important warning. There are exceptions, and I will share those before closing this paragraph. However, under normal circumstances no father and mother should "hire someone to come into their home and spend eight plus hours a day "raising their children" while the mother works to increase the family income. Along that same line, no father or mother should leave their children in any type of "daycare facility" and allow people whom they do not even know, to raise their children. If this happens, the children will not be raised "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" and there most likely will be "long term regrets." As I said in the beginning, there are possible exceptions. Those would be like, "if the father dies" and the mother has no income, she may be forced to "work to provide for the children." Any exception would be the "result of the mother working to provide food and housing," and not from the desire to "have more income to buy more things."

Dear wives, please "stay home, keep house, guide the home, raise our children and turn our nation back to God."

THE WIFE IS RESPONSIBLE IN THE HOME IS TO BE IN SUBMISSION TO HER HUSBAND "AS UNTO THE LORD!"

Before we begin our study on the wife's place in the home, let me lay some additional groundwork. If you are following along in your Bible, please go to Ephesians 5:22-23. When a wife is in submission to her husband, she is in submission unto the Lord and is pleasing and honoring God.

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."

The wife in a home is to be into submission to her husband in the exact same manner as the church is to be in submission to Christ." Let's continue to look at how important it is for the wife to

be in submission to her husband. In I Corinthians 11:1-3, God, by divine inspiration, let Paul to write the following.

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."

Paul begins by encouraging his readers to "follow him, as he follows Christ." Please do not misunderstand. Paul is not wanting us to "follow him." Paul is pointing us to the teaching of Christ which he is about to tell them. This is called "God's Chain of Command." Paul says, (1) *"The head of every man is Christ." He did not start with "the head of Christ is God" even though we all know God is "our Commander-in-Chief."* Paul is writing "to the church at Corinth." Paul knew that the success of the church, humanly speaking, begins with the "the man being in submission to Christ." Therefore, Paul begins with the man who is going to be "the head of the home." Therefore, he said, *"…the head of every man is Christ."* Then, Paul moves to the woman and says, *"the head of the woman is the man."* Then he ends by saying *"the head of Christ is God*." Therefore, if the wife is not in submission to her husband, she is not in submission to God, as God is the one that gave these commandment! If the wife refuses to follow the leadership of her husband, she is not in rebellion toward her husband. She is in rebellion to God!

I said that to say that if the woman is gladly in submission to her husband, most of the time if there is a problem, the problem can be traced to the husband for not being the type of "head" that God told him to be. This is true IN MOST CASES. However, there are exceptions. There have been exceptions where the husband is a very godly leader, and the wife was not in submission. That tells us that the wife, even though she may have <u>claimed</u> to be saved and said that she loved the Lord when she and her husband were married, she was rebellious, and possibly "narcissistic". She had no intention of being in submission to the Lord or to her husband but had already planned to be "the head of the home," and she was "not saved" and she did not "love the Lord". Time has proved that to be true in several cases where I have counseled couples who were having problems. In one particular case the wife said, "The problem is I want to be the boss and he won't let me!" (That is a word for word quote.) But in most Christian marriages, when the husband is in submission to Christ, the wife will gladly be in submission to him as her husband. Before we study the wife's place in the home, I want to point out that "she responds to her husband" and if he is like God would have him to be, she will love and gladly be in submission. The Greek word for "submit" means to "willing be in submission."

With that said, we see God's plan for the home twice in Ephesians 5:22-24 *"<u>Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord</u>. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore <u>as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands</u> in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"*

The wife is to be in submission to her husband, "as unto the Lord." In other words, she should be in submission to her husband <u>in the exact same manner that she is in submission to the Lord</u>. Also, everyone knows that *"the church is subject unto Christ …"* The wife should consider it

a great blessing and privilege when her submission to her husband is compared to the church's submission to Christ. She will love being in submission to her husband as the church is to Christ. If she is not in submission to her husband, she is not in submission to the Lord and she has caused her and her husband to lose God's blessing on their prayer life. (I Peter 3:7)

Being in submission does not mean, in any way, that she is inferior to her husband. The husband is not the "head of the wife" because he is superior. He is the head of the wife because "God placed him in that position." She is far superior to her husband at being where God placed her to be in the home. The matter of submission is repeated in several passages.

I Peter 3:1: *"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;"*

Titus 2:5: *"To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."*

All of this is "the plan of God" and He planned it this way because He has a plan to "use the home" to be (1) the key to the success of the church, and (2) to use the church to be the key to the success of the nation. If we will "do it God's way" the church will flourish and if the church flourishes, then the scripture will be true, *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."* (Psalms 33:12). Wives, PLEASE stop and realize how IMPORTANT your part is in the success of the home, of the church and of the nation! I am sure you remember this saying, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

THE WIFE'S RESPONSIBILITY IN THE HOME IS TO BE A GOOD STEWARD IN THE HOME "AS UNTO THE LORD" (I Timothy 5:14)

"I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."

The word "guide the house" is from the Greek word, "oikodespoteo" and it means exactly what the Bible says; it means "to guide the home." I am using the word "steward" as it fits the context. The husband leaves the house each morning "to go to work and provide for the family." When he leaves, which is generally for at least 8 hours and counting travel time, etc., it is more likely to be 9-10 hours. When he leaves, he is leaving his wife as a "steward" in charge of the household and of their children. This is an awesome and important responsibility. The word "steward" means "a highly trusted position." In this case, in the home. Titus 2:5 gives us some of that responsibility and shows the importance of the wife as a steward. *"That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."*

This verse had eight responsibilities which the wife has in being a "good steward" in the home. I have chosen **four** of those to comment on.

First, the wife is to do all that she does because of her love for the Lord, love for her husband and love for her children. **I Corinthians 13:1-3** makes it clear that if things, whatever we do, are not done in love it profiteth nothing.

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

Second, she is to take the responsibility which God gave her husband for raising their children and be a good steward of them while their father is at work. If wives today would stop and realize how important their place is in the home and realize the tremendous blessing God has given them, things in this country would be different! In raising children, it is vital that the home be a "place of love and security." If wives realize this, they will NEVER leave their children with a babysitter or in a nursery/day-care center to take a job for the purpose of "having more money." They have never made a babysitter, nursery worker, or day-care center that can love and raise children like their mother! Mothers who do this are TAKING A VERY HIGH RISK with their children!

Third, she should realize, with great appreciation, the tremendous amount of trust that God and her husband have placed in her to "guide the home" in her husband's absence. What an honor! You have heard the saying, "There is no place like home." That depends on "the wife loving her husband, loving her children and being a good keeper at home."

Fourth, realizing the great trust and confidence that her husband has placed in her, she should be very careful in making any decision she is faced with and in everything she does in teaching their children and keeping the home. All those things should be in accordance with the standards and rules which her husband, by the Word of God, has set for the home and the children.

Also, she should realize the tremendous payday that is in her future. She will have a big part in sharing the Gospel with her children, seeing them saved, seeing them grow in the Lord, seeing them marry, leave home and start a new home. She will watch them raise their children to honor God and be successful. There is NO BIGGER PAYDAY!

THE WIFE'S RESPONSIBILITY IN THE HOME IS TO BE A GOOD SCHOOLMASTER IN THE HOME "AS UNTO THE LORD" (Titus 2:3)

"The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;"

The father has the responsibility of teaching their children principles we just reviewed. But, as in the subject above, the wife should diligently stand behind her husband and continue not only teaching their children these principles but in some cases, she can involve them, which helps them to learn. That is especially true in "teaching their children to work." (Proverbs 6:9-11)

When the wife/mother is with her children at home 8 hours a day and 5 days a week, she has a great opportunity to teach them to work. For example, she can teach their children to clean their rooms when they start the morning, including making their beds! She can teach them to clean the table off after breakfast. She can teach them to wash dishes after breakfast as well as lunch and dinner. She can include them in "cleaning house" and at the same time she can make it fun for them. There are many other "small" things "moms can include their children in that can be made fun for them, but at the same time will teach them to work. For example, if "mom" enjoys cleaning/working in the yard, include your children.

THE WIFE'S RESPONSIBILITY IN THE HOME
IS TO BE A SYMBOL OF HOLINESS IN THE HOME
"AS UNTO THE LORD"
(I Timothy 2:8-9 & Titus 2:3)

*"The aged women likewise, that they be in **behaviour as becometh holiness**, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;"* (Titus 2:3)

*"I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in **modest apparel**, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But **(which becometh women professing godliness**) with good works."*

It is clear, that in these two verses, God has tied, "the manner in which a woman dresses" together with them dressing in a manner which "becometh holiness and professing godliness." God is giving instruction concerning "the manner in which women should dress." The word "modest," which is before the word "apparel," is from the Greek word, "kosmios," and it means, "orderly, modest, displaying good behavior."

Again, the way a woman dresses is the responsibility of the "head of the home." The "woman" needs a great deal of help and teaching from her husband in order to understand what "men" consider modest apparel. Also, women do not understand how "immodest apparel" affects a man. God made men and women different, and **men and women think differently**.

PLEASE do not think I am being crude as we go through this section about a woman "dressing in modest apparel." I am trying very hard not to be crude, and I am using "Biblical phrases" and avoiding "worldly language," but I am sure that everyone will understand the application. I need to be clear and explain this in a manner that both men and women will understand and not be confused.

Women do not realize that the "lust of a man's flesh" (Galations 5:16-17) is affected by **what he sees.** The "lust of a woman's flesh," **is not affected by "what she sees."** I have learned that a woman's "lust of the flesh" is affected, not by what she sees, but by "sweet words and soft touches."

The above is true concerning all men, as all men have a "body of flesh" and were born with a sin nature which includes the "lust of the flesh." HOWEVER, most Christian men whom I know

have won victory over their flesh. It should be true with **all Christian men,** but I feel sure there are failures there also. Most real Christian men have "made a covenant with their eyes" according to Job 31:1, which says, *"I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid."*

I have talked about this with good, Godly Christian men with years in the ministry, and every man has *"made that covenant with their eyes,"* but every man I ever talked with about this subject, also said that "they still had to be very careful to remember their covenant and always be on guard as Satan is subtle and they bring their body under subjection and REFUSE to look at a woman who is dressed immodest!

Over the years, by talking and listening to my wife, I have learned women are different. My wife did understand why "men are aroused by what they see." She assured me that women ARE NOT aroused by "what the see." My wife also admitted that she did not understand that a man is aroused by "what he sees." She has told me, "I do not understand why men's lust of the flesh is affected by looking at a woman." However, over time she accepted what I taught her. She and I taught several "marriage conferences" together and she taught the women while I taught the men. We have both honored and shared what we have learned from each other. All men need to understand "womanhood" and all men need to help their wife understand "manhood." Let's start by looking at a couple of principles which God has put in the Bible for our benefit concerning this matter.

God's Word teaches that when men and women dress in a certain manner, He considers it as "Nakedness" (Exodus 28:42-43).

"And thou shalt make them linen breeches ***to cover their nakedness****; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach: And they shall be upon Aaron, and upon his sons, when they come in unto the tabernacle of the congregation, or when they come near unto the altar to minister in the holy place; that they bear not iniquity, and die: it shall be a statute for ever unto him and his seed after him."*

In Exodus 28:42-43, God has given instructions concerning the garments which the high priest and his sons were to wear when they entered the Tabernacle to minister. The first item when entering the "outer court" of the Tabernacle was the "altar" where sacrifices were made. There was a ladder beside the altar and the priest would go up to the top of the altar to offer the sacrifice. In those days the priests wore robes. Therefore, because they were going several steps up the ladder, God gave instruction for them to make "linen breeches" for the priests to wear under their robe. The purpose of the "linen breeches" was to "cover their nakedness." Those "linen breeches" were to cover from the "***loins even to the thighs shall they reach.***" The "loins" in that scripture speaks of the "waist" and "*to the thighs shall they reach*" implies that the breeches were to come down to the knees and to **completely cover the thighs.** Anytime a person, man or woman exposes their thighs above their knees, God considers that to be "**nakedness.**"

That truth is confirmed in Isaiah 47:1-3. *"Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg,* ***uncover the thigh,*** *pass over the rivers. Thy* ***nakedness shall be uncovered,*** *yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man."*

God's Word teaches that if Men and Women "Cross Dress" it is an Abomination to the Lord! (Genesis 5:2 & Deuteronomy 22:5)

*"**Male and female** created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created." (Genesis 5:2)* This verse, with no doubt whatsoever, teaches us that when God created man and and woman, he created them different. He created them "male and female." We have already studied that men and women are different, and they are different in EVERY way. Even from creation, we learn that "the man was made from the dust of the earth" and the "woman was made from man." They are different! God created them different, and He intended for them to BE DIFFERENT AND STAY DIFFERENT. He clearly taught that there should be a difference in the way they dress. That teaching is found in Deuteronomy 22:5 which states:

*"The **woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man**, neither shall a man put on a **woman's garment:** for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God."*

Many people use this verse to teach that women should not wear pants. That could possibly apply, but that is not the main teaching of the verse. The main teaching of Deuteronomy 22:5 is that "men and women" are to **dress different**. That truth is of such importance to God, that He went into great detail, not only saying that a woman shall not wear any type of clothing that a man wears, but "…*a woman shall not wear that which **pertaineth** unto a man."*

The word "pertaineth" comes from the Hebrew word "K@kiy" which according to Strong's Hebrew Dictionary, the word means:

"Something prepared, any apparatus, such as an implement, utensil, dress, vessel, weapon, armour, armour bearing, artillery, bag, carriage, furnish, furniture, instrument, jewel, that is made of, one from another, that which pertaineth, pot, psaltery, sack, stuff, thing, tool, vessel, ware, weapon, + whatsoever." THAT COVERS ABOUT EVERYTHING! The same applies when it says, "*neither shall a man put on a woman's garment."*

It is clear from this one verse in **Deuteronomy 22:5** that God never intended for a woman to be in the military, law enforcement, firefighter, nor to do man's work of any nature, nor any other such thing, and the definition given by Strong's Dictionary concluded by saying "+ whatsoever" that **pertaineth** to a man. Men are to dress like men and women are to dress like women. When you see a person walking down the street, in Walmart, or at any other place, you should be able to say, there goes a man, or there goes a woman! There should be NO CONFUSION or crossing the lines in any manner of how men and women dress! However, today we see about as many women wearing "blue jeans" as we do men. Also, in the beginning of this article, we saw that the Bible tells us in I Timothy 2:14 that "the woman was deceived. Think about this. How many women do you see in public today wearing pants? On the other side, how many men do you see wearing dresses or skirts – or any type of a woman's apparel? How serious is it if a man or woman violates God's Word? God said, "*for all that do so **are abomination unto the LORD** thy God."* In other words, God said for a woman to dress like a man or a man to dress like a woman, i**s an abomination to the Lord."**

I mentioned “blue jeans” above. Blue jeans or pants are not directly named in Deuteronomy 22:5 nor implied, as at that time in the world there was no such thing as pants for men or women. However, today pants are common and for years have been understood as the dress of a man, especially "blue jeans." One of the most common pants known in the “workplace” today are what we call “Levi’s.” They have long been known as “the world’s best work pants. “Levi’s” were manufactured for the purpose of men having “work pants” that would not wear out or come apart quickly. Following is a brief history of those Levi’s blue jeans, concerning when and why they were made:

“Levi Strauss & Co. and Jacob Davis received a U.S. patent for an "Improvement in Fastening Pocket-Openings" by adding metal rivets to work pants, which would be known as blue jeans, and they created stronger pants for **working men.**” https://www.levistrauss.com/levis-history/

There is one other matter in this verse concerning how women should and should not dress. However, I said that to say that it is hidden because the English language does not have a “word” or “two words,” which give a clear understanding of two words in Deuteronomy 22:5. That verse has two words in it, “***woman’s garment***” which gives us a highly important truth. The two words, in both the English and the Hebrew are, “woman's ishshah garment simlah.” Strong’s Hebrew Dictionary gives the meanings of these two words as:

“The feminine definition of 5566: Gives the idea of **a cover assuming the shape of the object beneath;** a dress, a mantle; apparel, clothing, garment, raiment.”

In this phrase, God says that “a man nor a woman should wear any type of clothing **that reveals the shape of their body which is beneath the clothing.** Men, again and again and again, TEACH YOUR WIVES THE REASON that type of clothing should never be worn. Teach your wife “what a man thinks” when he sees the “shape of a woman’s body” beneath her clothing!

Simply stated, the phrase tells us that “neither a woman nor a man should wear any apparel, any clothing, any type of garment or raiment which reveals the shape of the object beneath it.”

Today we see God’s Word violated daily, all day, anywhere we go! That is particularly among women. Today women are wearing what they call “**skinny jeans”** which reveals the shape of their body beneath their clothing. Also today, more and more women are wearing “leggings” or something similar which reveal every crease, joint, shape and contour of a woman’s lower body. **This is strictly forbidden by God.** Men, please teach your wives **why** they should not wear such clothing. This is the responsibility of the husband, the “head of the home.”

I am sure you realize that this is a very difficult subject to teach or preach in a church congregation, particularly in a mixed congregation. Men, teach your wives at home. Mothers, teach your daughters at home! Teach them how to dress modestly! Teach them how to dress in a manner which “*becometh holiness.*” Teach them how to dress in a manner which “*professes godliness*!” Teach them how to be a “symbol of Holiness” to their family and to the world!

There is a GREAT failure in this area today. I know of very few independent Baptist churches that have strong “dress standards.” Yes, that is a failure of the church, BUT that failure can

be traced to the failure of "the home" and the failure in the home can be traced to the "head of the home." God has given the "head of the home" the authority to govern the home which includes the responsibility just covered in Deuteronomy 22:5. One day, the "head of the home" will give an account to God!

I will add two verses of scripture concerning a woman being an "Example of Holiness" from **Proverbs 31:10 & 22**. *"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies."* The remaining portion of Chapter 31 describes "a virtuous woman." Verse 22 makes a brief, but clear statement concerning the manner in which she dresses.

"She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple." The word "silk" means, "soft, smooth, and elegant." The word "purple" in the Scriptures always refers to "royalty." In the veils of the Tabernacle, which are a picture of Christ, there are four colors in each veil. Blue, which speaks of Christ coming down from Heaven, **Purple,** which speaks of the "Royalty" of Christ.
Red, which speaks of the "Suffering of Christ" and White, which speaks of the "Purity of Christ." **Romans 8:29** states, *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."* **We, both men and women, should have a life-time goal of "being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ."**

Also, one last closing remark. If a woman **knowingly** goes out in public wearing apparel that is not modest and in a manner which she knows causes a man to "look at her and lust," she will one day be held accountable for causing him to sin! *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."* (James 4:17)

God's Word teaches the MOST important reason for Christians to dress properly is because we are "the body of Christ" and we should dress like the "body of Christ" in modest apparel in a manner which "glorifies God!" (I Corinthians 6:19 & 20):

*"What? know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost** which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore **glorify God in your body,** and in your spirit, which are God's."*

We have two clear and very important reasons in these two verses to be very careful in the matter of dressing properly and according to God's Word:

First: The day we received Christ as our Savior, the Holy Ghost came to dwell in our bodies and **our bodies** became "The Temple of the Holy Ghost!" What higher honor in the entire world can a person have? None! Think about this. How do you think that God would have His Temple to appear to people in the world?

It is interesting that this verse begins with a question. It says, *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost?"* Apparently, in the days in which Paul wrote these verses many people had **forgotten** that their Body was the Temple of the Holy Ghost. It appears that is true today. We seem to live in a day when many Christians have forgotten that their body is the Temple of the

Holy Ghost, which is the same as "The Temple of God." It also reminds us that "we are NOT OUR OWN!"

That being true, we should not defile "The Temple of the Holy Ghost" by dressing in a manner that is not modest or in a manner that does not display holiness and godliness. If so, we are showing total disrespect to our Father's house, who in Heaven dwells in the most beautiful place in the universe. Every Christian ought to be extremely careful not to dishonor "the dwelling place of God" and go out dressed like the world.

Second: We are NOT OUR OWN. God has every right to tell us how to dress, which He does. He tells us to dress in a manner that will "glorify God in our bodies!" Scriptures teach us that "all believers" are part of the body of Christ.

Jesus Christ, who was God in the flesh, came and took on the form of a man. All of you reading this booklet know this truth, but I will include the verses, hoping some might see the importance of how we should dress. Philippians 2:5-8 states:

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And ***being found in fashion as a man,*** *he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."*

While Jesus (God in the flesh) was here on earth, can anyone in their wildest imagination, picture Jesus dressed in any manner that would not be considered modest? Can anyone imagine Jesus dressing in the manner which the world dresses today? Today, many Christians dress like the world despite God telling us "NOT to love the world nor the things of the world." I cannot imagine Jesus dressing like many Christians dress today, both men and women.

Jesus, after dwelling among men for about 33 years +/- a few months, ascended back to Heaven. After He ascended back, you and I became the "body of Christ." I Corinthians 12:12 & 27:

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ…. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."

When a Christian gets out of bed each morning and dresses to go out into the world, how do you think God would have us "dress," being that **we are** "the body of Christ?" I am sure of this. He would not have us dress in the way many members of His body are dressing today! God has told us we are to be different: Please remember this verse when you dress for the day:

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" (I Peter 2:9)

When we dress in the morning as we start our day, we should ask ourselves this question, If Jesus was here with me and was going to go with me throughout the day, would He be pleased with the way I am dress? God told us this in I Corinthians 10:31, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or

whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." Then use this rule each morning when you dress to go out in public. *"…therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God's."* If we cannot say, "the manner in which I am dressed today glorifies God," **don't wear it!**

As we have shared, God is TOTALLY against "a woman wearing any type of a man clothing and is TOTALLY against a man wearing any type of a woman's clothing. God calls "a woman dressing like a man or a man dressing like a woman, an **"abomination!"**

With that said, the home has failed, and the nation is failing. Any where to go today you see "most women dressing like men. Trouser or pants date back to the Roman Empire where they were first worn by military. Over the years pants became the standard of dress for men. Men have worn pants in America since this country was found. However, beginning about the 19501960 little by little women began to wear clothing which were similar to pants. They were call, "culottes" which were "pants" but "looked like skirts. Slowly, women departed for what "Looked lie a skirt" and went to wearing "pants like unto men." Today, it is rapidly getting worse and worse. You very, very rarely see a woman in a dress or skirt any where you go in the country. From "wearing men's pants, many woman are now wearing "legging" which fit the contour of their bodies beneath and they wear them in public places and think nothing about it.

I will close with an example. My wife and I went to the Wolfchase Mall, the largest mall in Memphis, Tennessee. She wanted to try and find a brown skirt. We shopped at several, big name, major department stores. Most of those stores had racks and racks and racks of clothes in the women's department, but most of them do not even stock women's dresses or skirts in their store. When we asked the ask "why" the answer was, "we stopped stocking ladies dresses and skirts because there is "no market for them anymore."

Today, America is in a state of Abomination to God, and if the home does not go back to "God's plan" for the home and the standards which He set, American will totally lose the blessings of God and our country will be gone.

The following chapter is God's plan for the Home. If the "home" will go back to God's plan, God will bless our homes and our nation. God made us a promise of revival in II Chronicles 7:14 says, *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*



CHAPTER EIGHT
MARRIAGE
AND

HOW TO MAKE IT LAST A LIFETIME
Genesis 2:21-25

This is written, not according to the way the world thinks, but it goes back to the fact that God established marriage; therefore, every marriage should be based on God's plan and pattern, and they should agree to make His Word the "sole authority" for every decision made in their marriage from the day they say I do, until the day they depart in death.

As you know, marriage was the first institution which God established. Marriage was established about 4004 BC shortly after the creation of the earth and the creation of Adam, the first man ever created. Shortly after God created the "first man" God created the first woman, Eve, as a "helpmate" to Adam. Adam and Eve were the "first marriage" on the planet earth. We are going to begin by looking at Genesis 2:21-25.

*"And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man **leave** his father and his mother, and shall **cleave** unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."*

There are three principles in these verses that set the pattern for marriage. Those are found in the words underlined above. Those three principles are:

Leave his father and his mother. *"Therefore shall a man **leave** his father and his mother,"*
Cleave unto his wife. *"Shall **cleave** unto his wife."*
Be (Become). *"they **shall be one flesh."***

The New Testament confirms those three principles as being God's plan and pattern. *"And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man **leave** father and mother, and shall **cleave** to his wife: and they twain shall **be one flesh**?"* (Matthew 19:4-5).

Ephesians 5:31 reconfirms this principles and plan. *"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."*

Problems in a marriage generally begin before a couple is married. When a young man, after "dating" a young lady for a period of time, asks her to marry him, and she agrees, the problems have already begun. You are asking, "Why have the problems begun at that point?" Problems begin because of the difference in the thinking of the young man and the young lady. The young lady is thinking, "After I marry him, I will change him. The young man is thinking, "I will marry her, and she will never change!" Up until that time, it has been all hugs and kisses. The young man is used to being "the center of attention and used to being pampered. Then, bingo, the young lady gets pregnant, and a baby comes along. All of a sudden, all of the hugs and kisses are gone, he is no longer the center of attention, and the hugs and kisses are going to the baby! You know the rest of the story! Those problems can be resolved, but you must "work" on resolving them.

SECTION ONE
LIFETIME COMMITMENT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL AND HAPPY MARRIAGE

Many young couples do not truly understand the "marriage vows." Before you stand in front of the "man of God" to be bound together in marriage, both the husband to be and the wife to be, should clearly understand the commitment they are about to make. When couple stand before the person who is going marry them, they should realize this. When you say, "I do!" to the marriage vows, the young man is saying, "I am leaving the single way of life and I am uniting in marriage with this woman, till death do we part." The young lady should say the same. They should both say, "I am accepting the entire responsibilities, the problems, the heartaches, the joys, the sorrows, the headaches, and disagreements which may come with our being married. I am committed to doing whatever God would have me do and do all in my power to make this marriage be successful, happy, and last a lifetime."

Why do people get divorced? They get divorced because they have problems between them. That is to be expected. Married people have always had problems. Think about this. There is NO problem too big that people cannot resolve it. If that is true, why do people get divorced? They get divorced, not because the problems are too big to be resolved, but because "people are too little" to resolve the problem. When a problem cannot be resolved, it is because "one of the two people, husband or wife," are not willing to work it out, and are saying, "I am going to have my way, or I am going to leave!" EVERY problem can be resolved – IF the couple wants it resolved.

What makes a marriage last a lifetime? Most people, especially young couples, answer, "Love makes a marriage work." Sorry, but that is not the right answer. Over the last 50 plus years in the ministry, I have counselled with a number of young couples who were having a marriage problem. I have heard this more than once, generally from the wife. She says, in his presence, "I love him. I love him with all my heart, but I just cannot not live with him." Different ladies have given different reasons, but all of them boil down to what I pointed out above. One of them "wants everything done their way" – and they are not willing to sit down, study God's Word, reason together, and come to an agreement under God's leadership.

What makes a marriage last a lifetime? It is not love. It is because you, before the pastor who married you, and before God, "MADE A COMMITMENT!" I have known a number of pastors who have stayed at a church which was going through problems, serious problems. However, they did not leave. They could have "loved the church" and still left. However, they stayed, not because they "loved the church," but because they had, under God's guidance, <u>made a commitment</u>! I understand that God may lead a pastor to resign and leave a church. However, according to the Word of God (and God never changes), He would never lead a young man or young lady to break the vow they made, divorce, and leave their marriage.

I write this to husbands: If your wife decided to leave you, you should say, "That's fine. Just give me a few minutes to pack my things and I am going with you." The same is true of a wife. I have had husbands tell me. "Well, you just don't know my wife. She is difficult to live with and she has a lot of problems." The only answer I have for a young man who says that is, "Son, you picked her out, so that makes you to blame." Ephesians 5:25-27 says, "*Husbands, love your wives, <u>even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it</u>; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing*

of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." These verses have no exceptions.

There will always be times when a husband has a problem with his wife. There will always be times when a wife has a problem with her husband. There is a very simple answer to solving those problems. The solution is when you learn and realize what a perfect husband is and what a perfect wife is. A perfect husband is a man who does not expect his wife to be perfect. A perfect wife is a woman who does not expect her husband to be perfect. There will ALWAYS be problems.

Let me share a very good example of all the things above. I do that by asking you a question. "Has God ever had a problem with you?" I do not really need an answer, but the Bible has already given us the answer. We are sinners and we fail. However, when we fail, God does not "leave us nor divorce us!" God is patient and long suffering, and he deals with us until the problem is resolved. The verse above from Ephesians 5:27 states that God, "*That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."* That may take a day, a week, a month, a year, and sometimes longer! Regardless, God is patient and longsuffering and a God "Who cannot lie" made us a promise in Hebrews 13:5. *"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*" Every person who marries makes the same promise when they say, "I DO!" Keep your promise even as God has kept His promise to you!

Marriage, according to God's Word, is a "Lifetime Commitment." Question: Have you made that commitment to your wife? Have you made that commitment to your husband? Have you made that commitment to God? If you did not understand the commitment when you said, "I do," then you understand it now. Make the commitment and I make you a promise. If the husband and the wife will agree and "make that commitment," you will have a "Happy and Successful Marriage and it will Last a Lifetime!"

SECTION TWO
LOVING COMMUNICATION MAKES A SUCCESSFUL AND HAPPY MARRIAGE

Loving Communication is the manner in which problems in a marriage can be worked out between a husband and wife. I have met with a number of married couples who were having a problem and asked for help. I counselled them to sit down and discuss the problem they were having. Most of them have responded by saying "We've tried that, and it does work." Generally, they do not really do that. They sit down and "fight" each other to decide who is right. A couple can determine "who is right" and still not resolve their problem. And most young couples do not really understand how to have "loving communication." There are five levels of communication. Most young couples never get past the first two. There is …

Small talk level! That is when a couple talks about the weather, how have things been going. Did you hear about this, that, or something else. That is small talk and there is nothing wrong with that, but it does not resolve any type of problem. Then there is what I call…

Factual level! The factual level is when the husband arrives home from work. When the husband walks in the house, the wife begins the conversation and ask him, "How was your day? What went on at the office? What did you do for lunch? etc." He answers and then asks his wife the same questions. "What has been going on with you and the children? Did you get everything done that you planned to get done around the house? Did you get to talk with your mom today? How is she doing? What do you have panned for dinner tonight? I'm already getting hungry." That is about the end of "small talk and factual talk." This is about where most couples end their "communication." However, they have failed to have "loving communication" in the third, fourth, and fifth levels, which are by far the most important. Those are…

Ideas, opinions, and dreams level! This is when the husband and wife sit down and talk about "their dreams, their visions, their desires and maybe their goals for their life. Every couple, young and old, should have "dreams" about what they are going to do with their lives and how they are going to live for God. They should share those dreams, but they should both be interested and supportive of each other's dreams. For example, if a young husband, one who has been married for a few months, shares a BIG dream and goal he has for their life together, the young wife should never "throw cold water" on his dream. His goal may be big, and he may never reach it, but his wife needs to be a true "helpmate" and jump in the conversations with him with excitement. She should be his #1 cheerleader. (Please keep in mind, I am saying this when the young husband has a goal in life that is good and right and one that God would be pleased with! On the opposite side of this story, if the young wife does not "cheer him on" but rather makes negative remarks like, "You're crazy! You can never reach that high of a goal in your life," and she laughs at him. Be sure of this, he will never share anything of this type with his wife again. Why? The risk of being rejected is always on his mind. Plus, he will wonder if she really loves him. In some cases I am aware of, the husband expressed doubts, and I have heard of one or two men who have gone through such a situation say, "I sure made a mistake when I married her." Learn to communicate lovingly. Learn to "dream together. *"And they twain shall be one flesh."*

Emotional Level! The "emotional level" is when a husband or wife share "how they feel" which includes their sorrows and their disappointments. Share things that sometimes make it difficult for one of them to have to go through. I'll share an example with you. The husband left their home about 7:30 AM and went to work. Things did not go well on the job. The husband spent the day having problem after problem, which possibly included him have confrontation with the people he worked with, and possibly with his boss. He got off at 5 PM and headed home frustrated.

He arrives home, goes in the house and immediately his wife sees by his face that he is troubled. She asks him, "What's wrong? You looked upset and worried." He replies, "There's nothing wrong. I'm fine." She says back, "Honey, I can tell by your face that you have had a bad day. You look worried. Please tell me what's wrong. I want to help." He answers her back and says, "I told you there is **nothing wrong.** It is not a big deal, so don't ask me again. I don't want to talk about it. Don't ask me again!"

When the husband responds in such a manner, do you know what his wife hears him saying? His wife hears him say, "I don't want to talk about it with you." She knows there was something bad that happened to her husband and, because she loves him, she wants to help. But when he refuses to

share with her, she hears him saying, "I don't trust you enough to share my problems with you." Husbands, God made your wife to be your "helpmate." When God created the "woman" He created her in a special way and the desire of her heart is "to help her husband" no matter what he is going through. She is MADE to want to comfort and encourage her husband. Husbands, when your wife wants to help – trust her with whatever you are going through. She can and will help you.

Openness Level! Genesis 2:25 says, *"And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."* The husband nor the wife should ever hold back talking and communicating, about all things in their lives. It does not matter if the conversation is about "great blessings or great discouragement." Talk to your wife. Wives like to talk, just like husbands like to talk. To help husbands understand, let me share a hypothetical situation. When God created man and woman, He gave them both an allotment of 50,000 words each for them to spend every day. The husband has breakfast with his wife, and they talk over breakfast. They both spend about 2,000 words and he leaves for work. Throughout the day, he talks to fellow workers and possibly clients, etc. During the course of the day the husband has spent his 50,000 words. However, when he arrives home, his wife has been there cleaning house, washing clothes, etc. She may have been on the phone with a friend for a short time, but she has only spent 10,000 of her allotted 50,000 words. Husbands, listen, she has 40,000 words left and she is "dying to spend them." Talk with her. Do it lovingly and not begrudgingly. Communicate with her lovingly and openly. Allow her to spend her 50,000 words every day.

If husbands and wives will work at and learn to communicate openly and emotionally, and share your dreams and your sorrows, you will learn how to resolve any and every problem which you may face in your marriage. If you will do this, you will, year by year build a "Successful and Happy Marriage" that will last a lifetime.

SECTION THREE
LIKELY CONFRONTATION IN A MARRIAGE

Some married couple may say, "We have been married for over five years and we have never had a problem." D. L. Moody was preaching in a church here in the United States and he preached on "Doubting Your Salvation." After the service a lady came up to Mr. Moody and said, "I have been saved for over 25 years and I have never doubted my salvation." Mr. Moody responded and said, "Madam, if you have never doubted your salvation in 25 years, I doubt you're saved."

If you say you have been married for five years and you and your spouse say you have never had a problem, I doubt you are married! There are five basic groups about which married couples have problems. I will try and address those five groups.

There are Selfish Problems

Most of the time these problems come from being immature. The husband and wife get up in the morning about 7:00 AM, have breakfast and the husband leaves for work about 8:30. The wife begins to feed the children, clean house, etc. She works the entire day while her husband is on his job. The husband works for 8 hours, comes home, takes off his shoes, and flops on the couch! He considers his day as done! The wife continues working, preparing the evening meal, cleaning the kitchen,

helping their children get ready for bed, plus other little things that need to be done around the house. There is an old saying, "A woman's work is never done." And that is true.

There are always things which need to be done "around the house." There are always little things which need to be fixed, plus things which need to be done outdoors. Many husbands fix those, but there are husbands who do not. There are things the wife has asked her husband to fix or repair. Or sometimes she has asked him to help her, but he says, "I've done my work for today. That's your job." Those husbands would rather hire someone to cut the grass and fix things around the house. When a husband does not "help his wife" with all the things which need to be done around the house but prefers to sit on the couch and watch the television, this is what he is saying to his wife. Many husbands feel that since they are "the head of the house," they can just do what they want to and there is nothing the wife can say about it. "You are not important to me." That is being selfish! The scripture clearly deals with the problem of "selfishness."

"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, <u>that ye be likeminded</u>, having <u>the same love</u>, being of <u>one accord</u>, of <u>one mind</u>. <u>Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others</u>. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:"

There are Financial Problems

When I say, "financial problems" I am not talking about "the lack of money." That is another issue that a husband and wife need to work out together. I am talking about three major points concerning finances.

First, there is the problem of "overspending." Most of those problem can be solved by having "plastic surgery." Cut the credit cards up and operate on cash or set some type of guidelines concerning the use of credit. Unless it is "necessary," a husband and wife should not charge more on their credit card than they can "pay-in-full" by the end of the month. If that is not done, they go further and further in debit because the "interest rate" is out of control!

Second, young couples need to learn to "be content with what things they have." Most young couples end up in dept and develop financial problems because they want to purchase things which "they do not really need" but simply because they want it. I can understand that, but believe me, it is far better to "wait until you can afford it" than to go into debt to purchase things you do not need. God's Word is clear on this matter.

"Let your conversation <u>be without covetousness</u>; and <u>be content</u> with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5)

Third, there is a financial problem in the marriage when the husband feels that he works, he pays the bills, and whatever is left over "is his" to carry around in his pocket and spend any way he wants to spend it but is not willing to share part of "what is left over" with his wife. Many wives cannot purchase anything without asking their husbands for permission to purchase a certain item, and without asking him for money to make the purchase. That is unreasonable! Most wives work

"more hours in a day" than their husbands. Husbands, be considerate of your wife. You can live without just about anything – except your wife! She is "bone of your bone and flesh of your flesh." Share with her!

There are Sexual Problems

This most often comes from denial. I Corinthians 7:1-5 deals with that principle.

"Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency."

There are Nagging Problems

By using the phrase "nagging problems," I am talking about "continual fault-finding" in your mate. I feel badly about saying this, but the Bible indicates that most of these types of problems are created by "women," in this case, the wife.

Proverbs 21:19 states: *"It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman."*

Proverbs 27:15 repeats this principle: *"A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike."*

This is not to say that husbands cannot aggravate their wives. They can, and sad to say, many times it is over "little things" that do not amount to very much. Some husbands just seem to "enjoy" aggravating their wives!

There are In-Law Problems

There is ALWAYS a problem when "two women love the same man," and, "when two men love the same woman." The problems which occur in this section are generally when a father-in-law, on either side, wants to be involved in making decisions and/or when he want to control his child's family. The same is true when a mother-in-law, on either side of their child's family, wants to make decisions for their child's family or even control that family. God was aware of this problem before the couple was married. In Matthew 19:4-5 God said, *"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."* If this principle is true about "the man" it is equally true about "the woman."

God made it clear from creation that the husband is to be the head of the wife, not the "wife's father or mother." Genesis 3:16 states, *"Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy*

sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee."

Again, in a little different manner, in I Corinthians 11:3 God said, *"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.*

There is nothing in the Bible that forbids a husband and wife from seeking "counsel and advise" from the parents on either side, but when all is said and done, it is not the place or authority of the "in-laws" to make a final decision.

SECTION FOUR
HOW TO HAVE A GOOD FIGHT!

These are rules for "reaching a solution" to any problem which arises between a husband and wife.

1. <u>Pinpoint the problem</u>. Start your fight by reading Ephesians 6:12. *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* This tells you who your REAL enemy is. **<u>Your mate is not your enemy</u>!** Most "fights" between a husband and his wife end up by them accusing one another. Revelation tells you who is behind one person accusing another. **Revelation 12:10** tells us, "who our accuser is."

"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."

With that said, start your talk with this question. What are we "fighting" about? I have counselled with couples who were having a problem. I sat and listened to both sides, which got pretty serious. When they had finished, I asked them this question. "What started this problem? Go back to where you starting fighting one another and tell me exactly what it started over." On two or three occasions, the couple try, and talk as they may, could not go back to exactly where the problem began. After discussing this for 10-15 minutes, they both began to look at each other, laughed, hugged, and made up! They left where we were laughing together!

If the couple will go back to the beginning and "pinpoint" the problem and stop fighting one another, they can always resolve the problem. Sometimes it is that they are just too tired and/or too hungry to think clearly and that results in a disagreement.

I'll give an example. A man, driving on the expressway, was running late to get to his office. Traffic was bad, there was an accident blocking him for 30 minutes, then cars were dodging in and out. He was running very late and was frustrated, grumbling, and calling the car in front of him some unkind names. When he reached his office, parked and walked in the office, his secretary greeted and asked him where he had been, all in a nice away. The man, still angry, said some "short and unkind words" and walked to his office. His words upset the secretary and she took it out on the switchboard

operator. The switchboard operator had no one to take her frustration out on, but after work, she arrived home, walked in and saw her son sitting watching the television, when he should have been in his room doing his homework. She raised her voice, fussed at him, and told him to "get up out of that chair, get upstairs and do his homework." The little boy had no one to take his anger out on but got out of his chair and walked toward the stairway to go to his room, and his pet cat walked directly in front of him … and the kid took it out on the cat! Pinpoint the problem!

2. Learn to attack the problem: Most disagreements between married couples start with, and sometimes end up as a fight between "ego vs. ego." Both parties are more interested in proving that "they are right, and the other person is wrong." It is not really important "who is right and who is wrong." The important thing is to discuss the problem and come to a solution. In most disagreements, both parties generally share in the blame. As I stated before, there is no problem too big to resolve. The problem is "the people are too little to resolve it."

3. Deal with one problem at a time: Do you collect problems like people collect "reward points"? If you collect them long enough, the day will come that you cannot stand having all those "reward points" and will "CASH THEM IN!" Also, agree not to bring out things that have happened in the past. A pastor was counselling with a couple in his office. He was carefully asking each of them "their side of the story." When the wife had finished sharing "her side of the story," the pastor turned to her husband and began asking him what his side of the story was. The husband, said, "Let me go back to the beginning." The pastor said, "Sure." The husband started at the beginning and told about several "fights" that he and his wife had in the past and began to get "wound up." The wife suddenly interrupted and said, "Pastor, that's the problem. Every time we have a problem or disagreement, he "gets historical." The pastor said, "You mean he gets hysterical?" She said, "No! He gets historical! He goes back to the time we got married and brings up every disagreement we have ever had!"

When you and your spouse have had a problem or disagreement, never go to bed that night with a problem unresolved. When the problem is resolved and both parties have said they forgave the other party, if you EVER bring it up again, you lied! You did not forgive your spouse. Forgive, put it behind you and never bring it up again. That is what true Bible forgiveness is. In Hebrews 8:12, it records the words of our Lord Jesus. *"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."*

4. **Learn to Negotiate:** Never feel that YOU must win the fight. If you do, you will end up in a "no-win situation" that can last for your entire life. Never belittle your wife or call her names, and NEVER make her "the loser." If there is a problem between you and your wife, almost always, both of you share some of the blame. I Peter 3:7 says…

"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

5. Learn and agree to pray about every problem: If you both will, from your hearts, pray and ask God to show you where you are wrong – HE WILL SHOW YOU! When God impresses on your heart "where YOU were wrong," Go, put your arms around your spouse, apologize, and ask

forgiveness. The other party, if you have both honestly prayed from your heart, has shown them where they are wrong, and they will gladly forgive you and will apologize for "their part of the problem."

If you and your spouse will live by these principles, "Marriage is a Lifetime Commitment," you will have "Loving Communication," and realize that you and your spouse were made by God and you were each made different, and that there will likely be "Confrontations," and then "Learn How to Have a Good Fight," you will resolve every problem. And you will have a…

Hope you have a Successful and Happy Marriage that will Last a Lifetime!

CHAPTER NINE
THINGS TO DO TO SAVE A NATION

There seems to only be about **three possibilities** of "saving a nation" after the "failure of the home." The **"first"** must start with the local church. The church cannot be held totally responsible for the "failure of the home", but the church very definitely has been a major part of the failure. Why? Because the church, for about the past 50 years, has stopped "teaching the principles of the home" in their churches. I entered Bible College about 1963 at Memphis Baptist College which was a ministry of Thrifthaven Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee.

At that time, the college had courses on "The Home." More important, I can remember message after message which our pastor, and pastors of other churches, preached and taught on the home. Along with teaching and preaching on "The Home," the church had strong dress standards. It was usual for the pastor to preach on the principles of the home, the responsibilities of the husband, the responsibilities of the wife, how to raise children, and other basic principles, at least once a year. It was not unusual for our pastor to preach on "dress standards" two to four times a year. The result of that was that homes were strong, and both men and woman dressed, both in church and in public, according to the Scriptures! I never remember a lady coming to church or seeing one in public, who was "cross dressed!" Today, "cross dressing" is accepted almost 100% in public, and it is hardly ever mentioned in churches.

If America is to return to a Christian nation, one nation under God, and have the blessings of God poured out on our country, it will begin when "the church takes their responsibility and goes back to "teaching on the principles of the home in a clear and simple manner." It should be a "Sunday School" subject in every church, just as churches have a "Stewardship month" each year.

In my opinion, the reason pastors do not want to teach/preach on this subject is because they do not like to "step on toes or have confrontations." Therefore, they avoid it. In some cases, not all but some, it seems to be because they prefer to "please the people rather than please the Lord."

Through the early years of my life, while in Bible college, I read several books by Dr. Vance Havner. Many years ago, before I left for Mexico as a missionary, Dr. Havner was preaching at Trinity Baptist Church in Whitehaven, which is a subdivision of Memphis. I went to hear him preach. After services I waited until about everyone had left. Dr. Havner was still at the front of the church. I went

down and introduced myself. I explained that I was going to Mexico as a missionary. I told him I was young, dumb, and this was my very first experience in being "in the ministry." I then told him, "I had been in the Marine Corp and I had tried to be "the very best Marine I could be." Then I asked him for advice, I said, "Dr. Havner, I want to be the very best missionary I can possibly be." I asked him for "advice about how I could accomplish that." I will never forget his answer. He did not hesitate, but told me to open my Bible to the first blank page. I got excited and opened my Bible. He said, "Son, write this down. If you please the Lord, it does not matter who you displease. But, if you do not please the Lord, it is not going to matter who you do please." Over the years, I tried to follow his advice. It is difficult and I lost some "so called friends," but I have tried to do everything I have done "to please the Lord." Pastors, please forget "pleasing the people" and go back to "preaching the whole counsel of God." Help restore our nation!

As Paul did in the early days of the church, in **Acts 20:7**, Paul said, "*For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God*." If you want to study that statement to see if Paul was truthful or not, study the book of I Corinthians! Today, we would say, "Paul took the hide off of them." However, if you study the book of II Corinthians, you will find that the church repented, returned to a Godly lifestyle and had the blessing of God poured on the church.

So, what is the first and most effect possibility of the home being restored and the nation returning to a Godly nation? It is for preachers and teachers to stop being "people pleasers" and to preach the whole counsel of God.

The **"second,"** and this is only my recommendation, that any pastor who is going to marry a young couple, should REQUIRE both the man and the woman to either "read this book" or read any other book that deals with "the Biblical principles" in a clear and understandable manner. Again, I am the first to say, this book is not perfect, and it is not the only book available on the subject. I am, and have never been, in the "book selling business." Matter of fact, the Mission of which I am president, Fundamental Baptist World-Wide Mission, has "printed and given away" hundreds of our books to men and woman who have called and asked for them.

The **"third"** is for the husband, the "head of the home" after being taught what the Word of God teaches about "his responsibility as the head of the home" needs to STEP UP and take that responsibility! Sad to say, I have talked and counseled with several men/husbands over the past 30 -35 years who KNEW what their responsibility was, but simply did not want to take their responsibility!

Their reason was basically two things: (1) They were fearful of a confrontation with their wife, or (2) They were fearful it would cause a confrontation with their children. Those men preferred "not to practice the Bible teaching" rather than risk a confrontation with either their wife or their children. Men, for the good of the home, the good of the church, and the good of the nation, "step up, accept your God-given responsibility, and commit the result to the Lord."

Ephesians 5:23-28: *"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of*

water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself."

Ephesians 6:4: *"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."*