



CHRISTIAN RESOURCES



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Footprints into Africa

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

STUDY 1

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY IN TROUBLED TIMES

(Ephesians 5:18ff)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- The Christian Home - Jay Adams
The Christian Family - Larry Christensen
Bricks that build a happy home - Chuck Swindoll

1. THE ATTACKS ON THE FAMILY TODAY.

There is an all out attack on the family today.

A. MODERN CULTURE.

Around the world the Christian viewpoint has been rejected, everything is based on situation and ethics, they see nothing wrong with pre-marital intercourse. The idea of shacking up before marriage is almost excepted today, marriages that do take place are expected not to last.

B. CHURCHES

Sadly, there are even attacks from the church, standards have dropped, homosexuals are now being married, and there are no longer absolute standards for marriage.

C. DIRECT ATTACK

E.g. No more discipline.

D. SATAN

2. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE FAMILY

A. ORDAINED FOR THE PROCREATION OF CHILDREN

God's purpose is that the children are brought up in the fear of God.

B. IT IS AS A REMEDY AGAINST SIN

E.g. Pre-marital sexual sin.

C. IT WAS ORDAINED FOR MUTUAL SOCIETY THAT A HUSBAND AND WIFE GIVE TO EACH OTHER FRIENDSHIP, HELP AND COMFORT

3. THE CONSTITUTION OF A CHRISTIAN FAMILY

A man and his wife out of love for the Lord lead a godly home.

4. THE MARKS OF CHRISTIAN FAMILY

A. IT BECOMES A WORSHIPPING UNIT

B. IT IS BASED ON LOVE FOR EACH OTHER.

C. TREMENDOUS WITNESS FOR THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WHERE EVER THEY ARE.

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

STUDY 2

GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR A HAPPY HOME

(Genesis 2:24)

INTRODUCTION

There is one verse in the whole Bible that occurs in the Old Testament, the gospels and the epistles. In fact it is quoted four times throughout the Bible. Once in the Old Testament before man fell into sin and three times in the New Testament after man fell into sin. **“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”** (Gen.2:24.Matt.19:5, Mk.10:7-8, Eph 5:31.)

1. LEAVE.

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and they will become one flesh.”

A. WHAT IT DOES NOT MEAN

- i) It does not mean that you forsake or abandon your parents. All our lives we are to love and respect our parents.
- ii) It also does not mean you need to move out of their geographical area.

B. ONE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR PARENTS MUST BE RADICALLY CHANGED

- a) You must have an adult relationship with your parents.
- b) It does mean that you become a man concerned about your partner's ideas, opinions, and practices than that of your parents.
- c) It also means that you are no longer dependant on your parents for affection, approval, assistance or council.
- d) It also means you stop trying to change your partner because your parents don't approve.

In other words you make the husband-wife relationship the priority human relationship.

2. CLEAVE

A good marriage is based more on commitment than feeling or attraction.

A. WIFE.

The wife is to stay with her husband till death, even if he has bulges, baldness, bunions and bifocals.

B. HUSBAND.

He will be faithful to his wife until death, there is cleaving to each other. The cleaving is until death, in sickness or health, in poverty or in wealth, in pleasure or in pain, in joy or in sorrow.

3. BECOMING ONE - UNITY

This refers to the sexual unity between a man and his wife, a wonderful and pleasurable relationship in marriage. It is wider than the sexual connotation, bodies, possessions, ideas, ambitions, problems and failures. Marriage therefore is the total commitment of the total person for total life. But this unity is not easy because of our sin. It can be destroyed by selfishness or pride or bitterness or jealousy or ingratitude or neglect.

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY
STUDY 3

GOD'S ORDER FOR WIVES
(Ephesians 5:22)

BACKGROUND

1. Every couple marries with high expectations.
2. Something goes wrong for many families the spark goes out and very sadly, they face the decision either to work at it or simply to leave. At the end of the day, we ask what goes wrong? In simple terms the answer is they never listened to the Word of God. They did not conduct their marriage on the principles of the Bible because God has provided specific information concerning the responsibilities in the marriage. If we listen there is blessing, but if we do not there is heartache.
Lahaye: “The supreme hallmark of the Spirit-controlled family is not happiness, children, or prosperity, it is obedience to the Word of God.

1. **SUBMISSION.** (Eph 5:22-24, Titus 2:4-5, 1 Peter 3:1-6)
This idea is not popular in 2015.

A. WHAT IT DOES NOT MEAN.

- i) It is not merely a concept for woman, it is a concept for all believers. **(Eph 5:21)**
- ii) Submission does not mean that the wife becomes a slave to the man but rather it brings her freedom.
- iii) Submission does not mean that she never opens her mouth, has an opinion or gives advice.
- iv) Submission does not mean that the wife allows all her abilities to lie dormant, her husband knows how to bring out her abilities to the fore so that she blossoms as a woman before the Lord.
- v) Submission does not mean that the wife is inferior to the husband. It shows us that there must be order and structure, but sadly distorted views are rife among Christians. Often gifts and ministry have been killed.

B. WHAT IT DOES MEAN.

- i) It means that she makes herself submissive. **(Eph 5:22, 1 Pt 3:1)**
- ii) This submission is never optional it is not to be based upon the way her husband treats her, nor is it conditioned by the husband's abilities, talents, wisdom, education, or spiritual state.
- iii) It is to be continuous.
- iv) Ultimately it is a spiritual matter as unto the Lord. Refusal to submit is therefore rebellion against God, so submission is a test of her love for God and her husband.
- v) It is a positive not negative, she places her life and her talents and her resources at her husband's disposal, and under his leadership, she seeks to build up a godly home.
- vi) Submission involves attitude plus action, her submission is to be done in a cheerful way.

2. SHE IS TO BE HIS “HELP-MATE”

- A. MAKING THE HOME A SAFE PLACE (Prov 31:11+20)
A place of encouragement, comfort, and love.
- B. BEING TRUSTWORTHY AND DEPENDABLE (Prov.31:12)
- C. ALWAYS MAINTAINING A GOOD ATTITUDE (Prov. 31:20)
- D. DISCUSSES THINGS LOVINGLY, OPENLY, HONESTLY. (Eph.4:25)
- E. SHE IS SATISFIED WITH HER POSITION, POSSESSIONS, TASKS (Php. 4:6-13)
- F. SHE IS PATIENT, FORGIVING AND FORBEARING (Col, 3:12-14)
- G. SHE SHOWS AN INTEREST IN HER HUSBAND’S PROBLEMS AND CONCERN. (Php. 2:3-4)
- H. SHE IS INDUSTRIOUS, DILIGENT, AMBITIOUS, AND CREATIVE. (Prov. 31:10-31)
- I. SHE OFFERS SUGGESTIONS, ADVICE AND CORRECTION IN A LOVING WAY (Prov. 31:26)
- J. SHE ALWAYS KEEPS HERSELF BEAUTIFUL. (1 Pt. 3:3-5)
- K. SHE MAINTAINS A GOOD SPIRITUAL LIFE
- L. SHE ALWAYS CO-OPERATES IN RAISING THE CHILDREN (Prov.31:26-28)
- M. SHE BUILDS UP A LOYALTY TO HIM IN THE CHILDREN
- N. SHE IS GRATEFUL TO HIM.
- O. SHE SHOWS CONFIDENCE IN HIS DECISIONS.

CONCLUSION

What a lovely picture emerges of God’s plan for the wife. We need to teach it, and encourage woman today to be home-makers. If they are failing they need to repent and turn back to God.

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY
STUDY 4

GOD'S ORDER FOR HUSBANDS
(Ephesians 5:22-33)

INTRODUCTION

For my marriage to be successful two things are important”

1. There must be a sorting out of responsibilities.
2. Both the husband and wife must know and accept their varying yet complimentary responsibilities.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

The Effective Father - Gordon Macdonald
Straight talk to men and their wives - J. Dobson.

1. HE IS TO BE THE WIFE'S LEADER.

The main task of the husband is to lead his wife, but with a biblical leadership, where the main characteristic is that of a servant leader, so his main concern is not himself, it is his wife (**Jn. 13:1-15.**) From Jesus' leadership we learn four principles:

A. WITH CONTINUOUS ASSOCIATION (1 Peter 3:7)

This teaches us that Jesus spent great amounts of time with his disciples and therefore no husband is fulfilling his responsibility to his wife who does not spend time with her.

B. HE ALSO CAREFULLY INSTRUCTS (1 Cor.14:35)

C. HE LEADS BY HIS GOOD EXAMPLE

D. HE LEADS BY MAKING DECISIONS AND DELEGATING RESPONSIBILITY (Mark 1:35)

2. HE IS TO BE HIS WIFE'S LOVER

He ought to love his wife enough to die for her.

A. HE MUST LOVE HIS WIFE AS HE LOVES HIMSELF

He must provide for her

B. AS CHRIST ALSO LOVED THE CHURCH

- i) It is unconditional love (Rom.5:8)
- ii) It is volitional love.(Eph.1:6)
- iii) He must love with an intense love (Jn.13:11)
- iv) It is an unending love (Jer. 31:3)
- v) It is unselfish love (Php.2:6-7)
- vi) It is purposeful love (Eph. 5:26-27)
- vii) It is sacrificial love (1 Peter 2:24)
- viii) It is manifested love (Jn. 10:1-14)

3. **PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.**
- A. **ONE OF THE SIMPLIEST AND YET MOST NEGLECTED IS WORDS**
 - B. **HE PROVIDES FOR THE SATISFACTION OF ALL HER NEEDS**
 - i) Physical needs
 - ii) Emotional needs
 - iii) Intellectual needs
 - iv) Social needs
 - v) Recreational needs
 - vi) Sexual needs
 - vii) Spiritual needs
 - C. **HE PROTECTS HER**
 - D. **HE ASSISTS HER IN HER TASKS**
 - E. **HE SACRIFICES FOR HER**
 - F. **HE ALLOWS HER TO SHARE HIS LIFE (1 Peter 3:7)**
 - G. **HE REFUSES TO COMPARE HER TO ANY OTHER WOMAN.**
 - H. **YOU TELL HER THAT SHE HAS FIRST PLACE IN YOUR LIFE OUTSIDE CHRIST.**
 - I. **YOU SHOW HER COURTESY AND RESPECT.**
 - J. **YOU EXPRESS APPRECIATION IN LARGE DOSES.**

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY
STUDY 5

HOW TO MAKE YOUR MARRIAGE DIVORCE PROOF

INTRODUCTION.

In a society where the family is crumbling, the Bible lays down seven principles that will cause a marriage to become divorce proof.

1. BUILT EACH OTHER UP.

By this we mean that the husband and wife constantly display appreciation and affection

2. THE NEED TO SHARE HONESTLY WITH EACH OTHER.

In the beginning God created man and said it is not good for man to be alone and so between a man and his wife there is the need to share honestly as the problems arise, as the difficulties arise they are to be shared.

3. USE CONFLICT REALISTICALLY

Disagreement is not a sign of weakness in marriage, every marriage experiences conflict, but a godly one will handle conflict realistically

- i) Handle the conflict as soon as it arises
- ii) Confront each other courteously
- iii) Stick to the issue
- iv) Listen as much as you talk
- v) Seek a compromise
- vi) Look forward to a reconciliation there is a word never to be heard in the home **DIVORCE**

4. LEARN HOW TO SAY, "I AM SORRY PLEASE FORGIVE ME"
(Mark 11:25)

5. LOVE ONE ANOTHER - DO NOT BE JEALOUS.

The husband and wife show affection to each other and that enables them to set the other free without becoming jealous.

6. DISCOVER HOW TO HAVE FUN WITH EACH OTHER.

7. SHARE YOUR FAITH POSITIVELY

The Lord Jesus is always to be the head of the home.

CONCLUSION

How to have a divorce free marriage - Billy Graham.

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY
STUDY 6

COMMUNICATION - THE KEY TO YOUR MARRIAGE.

INTRODUCTION

The heart of marriage is its communication system and it can be said that the happiness and the success of any married pair is measurable in terms of a deepening dialogue which characterizes their marriage.

1. No two people can effectively walk together or live together without a good communication system (**Amos 3:3**)
2. Apart from our relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ, God intends the husband - wife relationship to be the closest of all inter-personal relationships.

1. MUTUAL OPENNESS OR HONESTY (Eph. 4:25, Prov. 23:7)

If we are going to really know one another we must reveal ourselves to each other.
(**Eph.4:26-27**)

2. SELF-CONTROL.

A. OVER A "SHORT FUSE" ANGER

This refers to one partner who continues to lose their temper.

(**Eph.4:26-27**)

B. OVER WORDS (Prov.12:18, 16:27, James 3:5-8)

Be careful how you speak at home, a word said in a moment of weakness can cause hurt.

C. RETREAT INTO SILENCE

D. TEARS

3. THE NEED FOR A CHARITABLE FORGIVING SPIRIT

4. GOOD LISTENING.

A. GOOD LISTENING INVOLVES LETTING THE OTHER PERSON SPEAK WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

B. GOOD LISTENING INVOLVES GIVING THE OTHER PERSON YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION

C. GOOD LISTENING INVOLVES MAKING SURE YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT THE OTHER PERSON IS SAYING.

5. PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

A. WHENEVER THERE ARE PROBLEMS BE WILLING TO ADMIT THAT YOU ARE PART OF THE PROBLEM

B. BE WILLING TO CHANGE

C. AVOID EMOTIONALLY CHARGED WORDS E.g. You always do that, you never say you love me.

D. BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN WORDS AND ACTIONS

E. ALWAYS AVOID RERUNS OF OLD ARGUMENTS

F. DEAL WITH ONE PROBLEM AT A TIME

G. DEAL WITH THE PRESENT NOT IN THE PAST

H. MAJOR ON THE POSITIVE NOT ON THE NEGATIVE

I. COMMUNICATE IN NON VERBAL WAYS

J. EXPRESS YOUR CONCERNS TO EACH OTHER.

K. PRACTICE THE GOLDEN RULE

Treat others as you would want them to treat you.

L. PRACTISE LUKE 6:35.

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY
STUDY 7

PARENT – CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

INTRODUCTION.

(2 Tim. 3:1) - One of the marks of the last days is that children will be disobedient to their parents.

1. CHILDREN TO PARENTS

A. OBEDIENCE (Eph. 6:1)

- i) The reason for the obedience is because it is right.
 - a) Obedience and respect should be shown to our parents in word and deed.
 - b) Our obedience is careful obedience in all things **(Lk . 2:51)**
 - c) This will also involve listening to their counsel
 - d) We must comply with their commands.
 - e) We must seek to relieve their needs.
- ii) Because it is commanded in the Bible **(Ex. 20:12, Dt. 5:16)**
- iii) Because it is pleasing to the Lord **(Col. 3:20)**
A child is to obey his parents because God said so.

B. RESPECT

2. PARENTS TO CHILDREN

A. PARENTS ARE TO TEACH THEM (Prov. 22:6)

- i) By way of instruction
This will include general things like table manners, but more importantly teach them the Bible.
- ii) By setting the rules (parameters)
You must know where they are 24 hours a day
You must know who their friends are
You must know who their friends and parents are
- iii) Set a very good example

B. DISCIPLINE

Children ought to be disciplined.

- i) By way of the rod. **(Prov. 13:24)**
- ii) First response
- iii) Done with incredible love.

C. LOVE

3. PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- A. Never expect more from your children than they are capable of giving
- B. Be careful of the way you correct them. Do it in love.
- C. Practice what you preach.
- D. Fill their minds with the Word of God.
- E. Have lots of good times with your kids, built up a memory bank.
- F. Communicate love and appreciation.
- G. Allow them to fail and make mistakes.
- H. Make your expectations well known.
- I. Admit your mistakes. Ask for forgiveness.

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY
STUDY 8

SIX CHARACTERISTICS OF A STRONG FAMILY

1. **THEY CONSISTENTLY SHOW LOVE AND APPRECIATION TO EACH OTHER.**
2. **THEY DEAL WITH CRISES IN A POSITIVE WAY**
3. **THEY STRUCTURE TIME TOGETHER**
4. **THERE IS A STRONG LEVEL OF COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER**
5. **YOU MUST COMMUNICATE**
6. **SPIRITUALLY THERE IS DEDICATION.**

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

STUDY 9

TILL DEBT DO US PART

INTRODUCTION

Like giant containers of volatile gas, money must be handled with extreme care, sadly, too many homes can be described financially in six words. Bad mistakes, big bills, and bank loans. In **Gen.2:24** we saw the blueprint for a home, included in that unity is money. The husband and wife ought to be of one flesh but it has the potential of being the most divisive forces in a marriage today.

1. THE BIBLICAL PHILOSOPHY OF MONEY.

- A. GOD GIVES MAN THE ABILITY TO MAKE MONEY
(Dt. 8:18, 1Chr.29:11-12, 1Cor 4:7.)
- B. EVERYTHING WE OWN BELONGS TO GOD. (Ps.24:1, 1 Chr. 29:11-14)
This means that we must use our resources prayerfully and carefully, therefore we are stewards.
- C. MANY THINGS ARE MORE VALUABLE THAN GOLD.
(Prov.15:16-17, Prov. 22:1, 16:16, Matt.16:26, 1 Tim. 6:6-9, Matt 6:19-20.)
- D. COVETOUSNESS AND DISCONTENTMENT ARE SINS.
(Ex. 20:17, Col. 3:15, Heb. 13:5)
- E. GOD EXPECTS HARD WORK TO EARN OUR MONEY.
(Col. 3:23-24, Ex. 20:9, Prov. 13:1, 14:23)
- F. THE DANGERS OF "GET RICH QUICK SCHEMES".
(Prov. 28:22, 21:5, 28:20, 20:21)
- G. GIVING IS A RESPONSIBILITY AND A PRIVILEGE.
(Mal. 3:8-10, Gal. 6:6, 2 Cor. 9:7)
- H. LIVE WITHIN YOUR INCOME, DO NOT GET INTO DEBT. (Rom. 13:18)

2. PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- A. DETERMINE YOUR INCOME.
- B. DETERMINE YOUR EXPENSES
 - i) One gives to the Lord
 - ii) Taxes - Pension - Insurance Policies
 - iii) What are our needs as a family. - Rent - electricity - food - education - transport - furniture - doctor - recreation.
 - iv) If your expenses are greater than your income.
 - a) Ask yourself what is unnecessary?
 - b) Is there anything I could have a lot less of?
 - c) Could I rather buy something cheaper?
 - d) Can I postpone what I need?
 - e) Can I perhaps be a self producer?
 - f) Prayer

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY
STUDY 10

SEXUAL UNITY

1. WHY ARE THERE PROBLEMS IN SOME HOMES PHYSICALLY?

- A. OFTEN THERE IS UNRESOLVED GUILT. (Num. 32:23, Rom. 2:15)
 - i) Through the cross
 - ii) The power of the Holy Spirit.
- B. IT IS NOT NECESSARILY PHYSICAL
 - E.g.. Man - Looks
 - Wife - Touch
- C. BECAUSE OF IGNORANCE.
 - A good book is - ACT OF MARRIAGE - Tim Lahaye
 - i) Physical anatomy
 - ii) Ignorance of each others physical needs.

2. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT SEX IN MARRIAGE?

- A. SEXUAL RELATIONS IN MARRIAGE ARE TO BE SEEN AS GOOD AND HOLY (Rom. 13:4)
- B. SOMETHING THAT IS PLEASURABLE BETWEEN A MAN AND HIS WIFE (Prov.5:18-19)
- C. REGULATED BY THE PRINCIPLE OF THE OTHER PARTNER
- D. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS
- E. THERE MUST BE MUTUAL SATISFACTION
- F. THERE MUST BE NO BARGAINING.
- G. THEY ARE EQUAL AND RECIPROCAL