

Bible Study on The Christian Home – Handout 3

Developing a Christian Home

Grace Bible Chapel

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“If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?” Psalm 11:3

Making a Christian Home:

We have already seen from Psalm 127 “that unless the Lord builds the house they labor in vain who build it” an analogy of the home – not the structure, but the environment of stability and blessing through the husband, wife, and children and their overall true ultimate success. Knowing this and being committed to serving God, seeking His wisdom, and trusting His ways is the starting point for any Christian home. In order to function so that the home is being constructed according to God’s plan requires knowing the revealed will of God for each family member. Just as Christ has a role within the Godhead, He has designed the family so each person in the family has a role, and God has determined with precise measure those roles, their purpose, and how each must function.

What is the role of the Husband and dad?

Imagine the confusion that would exist in any team sport if individuals did not know or perform their roles. On a football team the coach has a role, the quarterback has a role, and the punter has a role – so does each player. Each must be dedicated exclusively to their role as a personal responsibility. They don’t seek to take someone else’s role but instead strive with absolute resolute commitment to serve the team with the goal of winning by being the very best they can be at the role or position they play. In the Christian home the Bible clearly delineates the role of each member. The role of the husband and dad is:

- To rule the home:
 - This is the primary meaning of man being made in the image of God (Gen 1:26; 28). If he is to rule on the earth, he certainly must begin by ruling at home (1 Tim 3:4-5).
 - “Rule” – this word in the Hebrew means to dominate, have dominion – the meaning is to govern, be in charge, responsible, and in command.
 - “Rule” – this word “proistemi in the Greek means to put before, set over, manage – it is the same word used for “manage” in 1 Tim 3:12 (manage) regarding the home, and also 1 Tim 5:17 (rule) regarding elders in the church.
 - It is specific and primarily to the male because of the order of creation (1 Tim 2:11-15).
 - There is a distinctive role for men and women based on God’s order (1 Cor 11:7-9; Eph 5:23).
 - It was delineated as specific to the male, or husband through the decrees of God after the fall of Adam and Eve into sin (Gen 3:16).
 - This ruling is to be benevolent (Eph 5:25; 6:4; 1 Pet 3:7).
 - What happens in the home when the man does not rule his home well?
 - Jacob – Gen 33-35 – conniving (Gen 33); treacherous sons (Gen 34); idolatry (Gen 35:2); incest (Gen 35:22); polygamy (Gen 35:23-26).
 - Jacobs son’s plot to kill their own brother (Gen 37:3-4 – leading to Gen 37:18-35).
 - Eli and his wicked sons (1 Sam 2:12-17; 22-24).
 - Nabal (1 Sam 25:3; 17; 25; 36-38).
 - Ahab (1 Kings 21:25).
 - Solomon and his polygamist marriages (1 Kings 11:3-4).
 - Abraham with Sarah’s suggestion (Gen 16:1-4).
 - Good examples of ruling well:
 - David with Michal (2 Sam 6:16-23).
 - Job with his wife (Job 2:9-10).
- To be the spiritual leader of the home:
 - When one thinks of leadership the first thought is someone bossing others around, or giving orders – that is not the way of biblical leadership (Mat 20:20-28)
 - Mat 20:25 – there is to be no lording it over others (rule by intimidation, bullying).

- Mat 20:26 – to be a biblical leader one must be like Christ. He must become servant minded. That is willing to do anything for the benefit of others. He puts others first, not himself. He is willing to sacrifice personal needs, wants, aspirations, time, money, and desires for the sake of his family.
 - John 13:1-15 – the example of Jesus Christ who was willing to do the lowest job. A job or task totally unfitting with who He is, yet He did it to set the example of what it means to be a leader – that the leader must be willing to sacrifice Himself. The leader of the home must sacrifice himself for his family.
- The idea of sacrificial leadership is seen best from Eph 5:23-25 as compared with Phil 2:6-8.
 - Jesus is the head of the church, just as the man is the head of the wife and family (Eph 1:22-23), and yet as the head, He gave himself for the church giving the example that the man is to give himself for his family.
 - This giving of self is complete, real, and purposeful according to the best interest of the family.
- Spiritual leading requires absolute commitment to Christ (Gen 18:19; Josh 24:15; 1 Thess 1:9; Luke 4:8).
- Spiritual leading requires a commitment to the Word of God to teach it thoroughly, unreservedly, and continuously to the family (Deut 6:6-12; Prov 2:1-5; Eph 6:4). This further means the leader must be able to rightly divide the Word (2 Tim 2:15), and able to defend the Word (1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:9).
- Spiritual leading requires a commitment to attend and be actively committed to a local assembly where the truth of God is taught, and sincere worship takes place (Heb 10:25). This is both for personal development and ability to lead (1 Tim 4:16), and as an example to the family (1 Cor 11:1; Phil 3:17; 2 Thess 3:7; 1 Tim 6:12).
- Spiritual leadership requires a continual prayer commitment on behalf of the family (Job 1:5; 1 Tim 2:8; 1 Thess 5:17; Col 1:9).
- To be his wife's lover:
 - The type of love the husband must show to his wife is first and foremost sacrificial (Eph 5:25). It is genuine biblical love, not mere emotional or self-centered as is often thought of as physical in our society.
 - The husband is to love his wife as himself (Eph 5:28; 33). Each person naturally loves themselves and takes care of themselves – their wants, desires, concerns, pains, needs, etc.. He naturally, carefully, thoroughly, timely, and fervently takes care of his own person. The same degree of love (and more as Christ gave up all this) is required in relation to the wife, and the family.
 - The husband should be His wife's best friend (other than Christ). They should be heirs together of the grace of life (1 Pet 3:7). She needs to know that other than Christ she has first place in her husband's life. She should know that she comes before all others (children, parents, friends), and before business, hobbies, sports or anything.
 - The husband should treat his wife with chivalry. He should be tender, respectful, and courteous. He should treat her as something precious and valuable (1 Pet 3:7; Prov 31:28).
 - The husband should be a physical lover according to the directions and example given in God's Word (1 Cor 7:1-5; Song of Solomon). This kind of love is intimate, tender, sacrificial, and appropriate. It is also discreet and personal between the married couple and should not be shared with anyone. The marriage bed is sacred.
- To be the principle provider for the home:
 - Those who do not provide are considered worse than an unbeliever (1 Tim 5:8).
 - Parents save for their children (2 Cor 12:14).
 - Responsibility for personal provision (2 Thess 3:6-12).
 - God decreed from the fall (Gen 3:17).
- To be the protector of the home (Eph 5:28; Mat 12:29). As the protector and thereby provider, he must as much as possible establish a secure environment, and seek to provide for his family and their well-being in his absence or death.
- To be the principle administer of discipline (Eph 6:4; Heb 12:7-11). The husband and father is not to ignore, or push off to his wife the responsibility of maintaining righteous equity, and reverence for God in the home. He must be proactive to nip rebellion appropriately when it is identified (Prov 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13; 29:15).