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# THE PAPER PULPIT

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Home: As God Designed It

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## Husbands & Fathers

**T**he man's role in the home, as husband and father is frequently misunderstood, in our society. God has ordained that men and women must fulfill specific roles and responsibilities, in order for the home to function properly. It seems that men struggle more than women with understanding and playing the roles that God has appointed for them, in every household.

In Ephesians 5:22 and 23, the Bible says, "*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 savior of the body.*" The husband's role as the "head" of the

house, it is the man's God-given responsibility to provide for the material needs of his family, as well as their spiritual needs. First Timothy 5:8 Second Thessalonians 3:10 make it plain that any man who is able to work and support his family, but refuses to do so, is failing to fulfill his duty toward them and toward the Lord. For many years, people have bemoaned the sad condition of our society, in which fathers abandon their families and spend all their time and resources in selfish pursuits. This sort of behavior is intolerable in a Christian home.

In Ephesians 5:33, the Bible says, "*Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.*" It is the wife's duty to "submit to" and to "reverence" her husband. This means that she is to respect his judgment and be supportive in his guidance of the home. But, a husband who fails to lead his house in the right direction is not deserving of respect or support. A woman will respect a man who behaves as a man should, but she will not have respect for a man who is derelict in his spiritual and material responsibilities.

house is one that is the most misunderstood. It does not mean that he is a dictator in his home, or that his wife is bound to obey his every command. It does, however, mean that he is the spiritual head of his family, and that it is his God-given responsibility to make sure that everyone in his home is on their way to Heaven (Eph. 6:4). Many husbands in our society are unconcerned about spiritual things and are certainly not leading their families in the pathway of righteousness. If a man wants his wife and children live Christian lives, he must *lead* them in doing so.

***"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"***

**—Ephesians 5:25**



## Quotable Quotations

“When husbands lift up the Bible in the home the Bible will lift up husbands in the home.”

“When the wife lifts up the Bible in the home, the Bible will lift up wifedom in the home. This will follow as surely as night follows day.”

“Words from a father’s lips will not mean much to a child if there is a serious gap

between what Dad says and what Dad does.”

“Woman has no greater challenge than meeting the responsibly the queenly role she has as wife and mother in the home.”

“Obedience and honor belong to our parents while we are under them in the home. Honor and respect should be our attitude toward them

when we are grown and they are aged. God’s law of honoring parents is in force as long as they live. Even when they have left earthly scenes we should honor their memory.”

—Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

## Wives & Mothers

***“Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”***

***—Ephesians 5:33***

The woman’s role in the home, as wife and mother, is frequently maligned in our society—to the detriment of families everywhere. Many regard a woman’s life to be wasted, if she foregoes a career, in order to raise her children and attend to her family. While a woman has every right to pursue her ambitions and leave her proverbial mark on the world, it must be recognized that there is nothing wrong with a woman who wants to devote her life to being a wife and mother. Some may argue otherwise, but the woman’s role in the home is of paramount importance.

The Bible says that the woman is the “keeper” of the home (Tit. 2:4,5). This denotes the idea of her making the home a safe haven from the world for her husband and children. In this way, she is her husband’s “helper” (Gen. 2:18-25). It is her responsibility to follow his Godly leadership and to support him, as he watches out for the best interests of the family. Also, she is responsible for keeping her family on the right spiritual path (2 Tim. 1:5). If her husband will not lead the family in the right direction, she must do so, herself (1 Pet. 3:1-4).

The Bible does not say that Christian women have no choice about how they may live their lives. In the Bible, we read about Godly women who had careers (like Lydia; Acts 16:14,15). Also, we read about Godly women who devoted their lives to serving others (like Dorcas; Acts 9:36-41). The point is that a Christian woman can be whatever she wants, as long as she does not neglect her duties as wife and mother. When a woman **chooses** to get married and have children, she takes up a mantle of responsibility that she cannot put down. She must take her commitment seriously.

**PP**

# Children: An Heritage of the Lord

**T**here is no doubt that children are a special blessing in any family. For the first seven years of our marriage, my wife and I struggled with the painful frustration of childlessness. We knew all too well the feeling expressed by Rachel, when she said to Jacob, in her desperation, “Give me children or else I die” (Gen. 30:1). But, when we adopted our son, sadness immediately turned to joy and we have always felt like we have had a special appreciation for the sentiment in Psalm 127:3-5.

If there is a role for children to play in the home, it is to be obedient to their parents and to learn all that they can from them. Ephesians 6:1-3 says, “Children,

*obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”*

The concept of children being obedient to their parents is described in the text as inherently “right.” In the natural world, the young look to the old for guidance and for a proper example of how to behave successfully. Parents owe it to their children to set a good example and to guide them in following the way of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). Also, children are directly commanded to “honor” their parents, which goes to the concept of respect. Parents are owed respect from their children simply because they

are the parents. A wise child learns to respect and appreciate his parents at an early age. If we take our parents for granted, we will find that they are gone from our lives much too soon.

In an almost instinctual way, children are prone to push their parents to the limits of their patience, but parents must not be faint of heart. It is only natural for children to test the boundaries of acceptable behavior and it is up to parents to keep those boundaries clear and consistent. Children must understand that most parents are not trying to ruin their lives, or take all the fun out of everything. Parents tend to want only what is best for their children. Kids would do well to keep this in mind. **P<sub>P</sub>**

**“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”**

**—Psalm**

**127:3-5**

## Home: As God Designed It

Genesis 2:18-25

### HUSBAND

Father

Head of House

Eph. 5:22-24

Provider

1 Tim. 5:8; 1 The. 3:10

Teacher

Eph. 6:4

Marriage

Mat. 19:4-6

**GOD**

1 Cor. 11:3

### CHILDREN

Obedient / Learners—Eph. 6:1-3

### WIFE

Mother

Keeper of Home

Tit. 2:4,5

Helper

Gen. 2:20; Acts 16:14,15

Teacher

2 Tim. 1:5; 1 Pet. 3:1-4



## Madisonville Church of Christ

### Sunday Morning Bible Study

—9:30 a.m.

### Sunday Morning Worship

—10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Evening Worship

—6:00 p.m.

### Wednesday Evening Bible Study

—7:00 p.m.

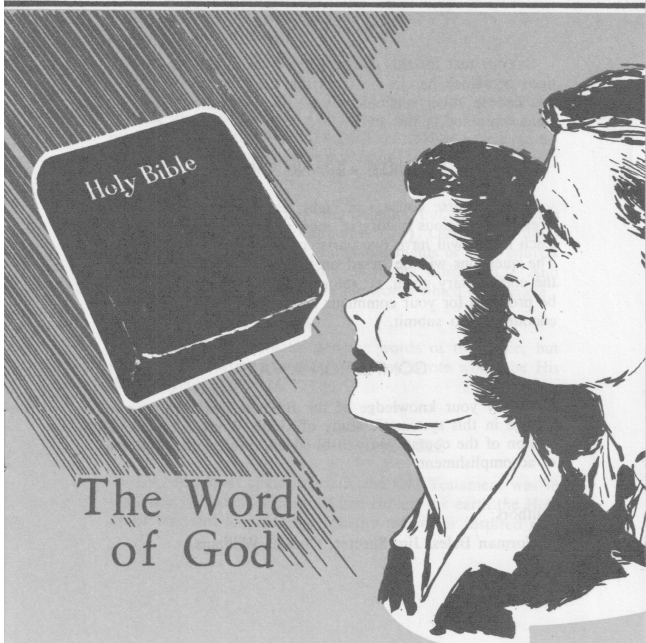
*A Christ-Preaching, Bible-Teaching Church*

## Is God Part of Your Family?

Families everywhere are in crisis. The integrity of what was once considered an “average” family (husband/father + wife/mother + children all living together in one house) is under assault from numerous adversaries. Many have given up on the ideals of marriage and family life, in favor of modern sensibilities. But, we don’t have to settle for anything less than the Biblical model of what “home” is all about. If you want a truly *Christian* home, then the first thing you need to do is make **God** part of your family. This happens when families make God’s Word the central focus of their lives. When the Bible is read in the home, obeyed in the home, and revered in the home, then the home will be as God designed it. The problem with modern families is that they are not based on God’s design for the home. Let’s all dedicate ourselves to making God part of our families. Our lives will be better for having made the effort.

Lesson 1

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