

LESSON 3

THE HUSBAND AND WIFE RELATIONSHIP

Scripture Texts: Ephesians 5:21-29, 33; Genesis 3:16; Romans 12:3-4

The Scripture gives us the order of authority for things to run smoothly in the home and in all other situations of life. God is the head of Christ. Christ is the head of the man. Man is the head of the woman. If all are not placed and held in their right order, serious problems will arise in the home.

MEMORY VERSE: *"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."*

1 Corinthians 11:3

Togetherhness

Even before He made man, God, in His wisdom, made plans for a successful home life. The home is the oldest of all institutions, being older than the church or the state. It is the basis of all civilization and order. As goes the home, so goes the world. The man is the head of the home. The woman is the heart of the home. It is God's plan that the man is to provide the income, to be the breadwinner. It is God's plan for the woman to stay at home, to keep house, and bring up children. When these objectives are taken out of perspective and men think that they have a better plan, trouble in the home is sure to come. The husband is the leader of the home and thus becomes responsible for choosing whom that household will serve, as written in Joshua 24:14-16. This responsibility is to be handed down from generation to generation, according to Deuteronomy 31:7 and Joshua 11:15.

Lean not to your own understanding in what is best for your home, but seek God's help and guidance. There are many enemies to the Christian home and only by God's divine guidance are we able to detect them before they do a destroying work. Whatever injures the home strikes at God's plan for a sacred work.

It is a very dangerous practice for parents to attempt to give the children all that they ask for or desire. It is a good practice to give the children a weekly allowance and to teach them to spend it wisely. Teach them to tithe from their allowance. If they do not learn to tithe while young, chances are, they will not tithe when they earn their own income. Along with this training there can be given a primary plan for budgeting their finances. Children can reap great dividends for success in their early marriage by learning to budget their limited income. Financial problems cause family trouble in a high number of marriages. Children should be given, and made to carry out, some particular responsibility in the home.

A Smooth Mixture

Providing food and raiment is very important for a good home life, but more important is the happy, peaceful, godly atmosphere to be provided for the children every day. Parents should have each child take part in the family worship. Parents should strive to make each child feel equally important and loved. God does not show respect of persons with His children and neither should we as parents. Showing partiality and favoritism to a particular one will bring havoc to the family structure. One instance of this is the resentment Joseph's brothers had toward him in Genesis 37:3-4. Teach children that certain things, which they lay claim to, do not belong to them alone and are to be shared with others. On the other hand, some things belong to them alone, and other members of the family are

to respect this fact. Children should be taught, by example, that some things talked about and done in the family are not to be talked of outside the family.

Teach the child about physical development of his body and about the sacredness of his body and how to care for it properly. Certainly, he should be taught that his body is the temple of God, and it should not be defiled. Parents can teach their children to love and respect them as parents, by loving and respecting one another as husband and wife.

Stewardship of the home has in it more love than force. It succeeds especially through the sharing and helping process. When stress is placed on helping others before getting everything possible for one's self, growth in character develops and life takes on a new meaning, both in the home and in the community.

JUST A THOUGHT

The most impressive evidence of tolerance is a

Golden Wedding Anniversary.