

God's Design for the Home

INTRODUCTION.

- A. The world is in the processes of successfully redefining the family structure.
 - 1. We see marriages between the same sexes.
 - 2. We see homosexual couples successfully adopting children.
 - 3. We see people willingly choosing to have children without the need for a husband and a wife.
 - 4. We see families where the wife is the dominate head of the family while the husband has become a submissive party.
 - 5. We see children who do not respect their parents and who do not obey their parents.
 - 6. We see parents running away from disciplining their children.
 - 7. We see many parents who are leading their children away from godliness and morality.
- B. In order for any family to function in a wholesome and proper way, the father and mother must willingly choose to fashion the family after God's design.
- C. With this lesson, we will establish, from the Bible, God's design for the family.

I. LESSON ONE: GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE HOME.

- A. The family must first be built on a husband and wife relationship.
 - 1. God created male and female. (Matthew 19:4-6)
 - 2. One man for one woman for life. (Romans 7:2)
 - a. Paul wrote, "*A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.*" (1 Corinthians 7:39)
 - b. The marriage is designed to exist as one man and one woman becoming "one flesh" for a life time commitment.
 - c. No man has the right to terminate this life time commitment. (Matthew 19:6)
 - 3. The only reasons for this union to be dissolved is:

- a. fornication. (Matthew 19:9)
 - b. death. (Romans 7:2-3)
- B. Rules for the husband.
- 1. Husbands are to love their wives. (Ephesians 5:25-27,33)
 - a. The word **love** is translated from the Greek word *agapao* which means, “(1) of persons - 1a) to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly.” (Thayer)
 - b. The husband is to love his wife the way Christ loved the church.
 - 1) Christ loved the church so much that he put the eternal well-being of man above His own eternal comfort.
 - 2) The Lord made a great sacrifice for the church. Husband should be willing to make sacrifices for their wives.
 - c. Love your wife as you love your own self.
 - 1) A man who truly loves his wife loves himself. Remember, the husband and wife are one. (cf. Genesis 2:24)
 - 2) A man should tend to the needs of his wife as much as he would tend to his own needs. This leaves no room for selfishness on the part of the husband.
 - 3) Paul said that we are members of the body of Christ. He then quotes from Genesis to show that the man should consider his wife as his own flesh and blood.
 - 2. Dwell with them according to knowledge. (1 Peter 3:7)
 - a. The husband is to dwell with the wife according to the Bible’s directions.
 - b. The husband should view the wife as a weaker or tender vessel. The husband should cherish his wife, treating her tenderly, not with abusive words or actions.
 - 3. Render honor unto your wives. (1 Peter 3:7)
 - a. The word “**honor**” is translated from the Greek word *time* which means, “. . . 2) honour which belongs or is shown to one 2a) of the honour which one has by reason of rank and state of office which he holds 2b) deference, reverence.” (Thayer)

- b. The word **time** also carries the idea of something of value, something esteem, something precious.
 - c. The wife is due this honor, this esteem, this reverence. Husbands are to show honor to their wives.
 - d. Without exception, the husband is to do his best to always maintain this view of this wife.
4. Do not be bitter towards your wife. (Colossians 3:19)
- a. The word **bitter** is translated from the Greek word **pikraino** which means, “1) to make bitter...2) to embitter. exasperate 2a) render angry, indignant...2c) to visit with bitterness, to grieve (deal bitterly with)” (Thayer)
 - b. The husband should not treat his wife with anger and bitterness. The wife is a far too precious for the husband to treat her with such hostility and bitterness.
 - c. The English Standard renders the last part of verse 19 as such: “*do not be harsh with them*” (ESV)
5. A husband should rule well his house. (1 Timothy 3:4,5)
- a. Although this passage is found within the qualifications of elders, the instructions should still be heeded by all men.
 - b. The word **rule** is translated from the Greek word **proistemi** which means, “1) to set or place before...1b) to be over, to superintend, preside over 1c) to be a protector or guardian . . .” (Thayers)
 - c. How does a man rule well his house?
 - 1) By leading the family in spiritual matters. (Ephesians 6:4)
 - 2) By understanding that his rule over the house is ultimately for the good of his house, not for his ego. Knowing that the rule of a man over his own house is compared in part to the rule of elders (cf. 1 Timothy 3:4,5), we can conclude that husbands are not to lord their authority over their family. (cf. 1 Peter 5:2-3)
 - a) If a man lords his authority over his family, then will he not try to lord his authority over the congregation if he was to

serve as an elder?

- 3) The husband / father is to work to make certain that his family is provided for, protected, and loved.

C. Rules for the wife.

1. Wives are to love their husbands. (Titus 2:4)
 - a. Love is the first step in a wife following the rules established by God.
 - b. If a woman does not love her husband, then not only is she setting a trap for the relationship, but she is also sinning.
 - c. If you do not love the man before marriage, then do not marry the man. If you married before realizing that you do not love the man, then learn to love him.
2. Wives are to submit unto their husbands. (Ephesians 5:22-24, 33)
 - a. “. . . *submit yourselves*” (v. 22) The phrase “**submit yourselves**” is translated from the Greek word *hupotasso* which means, “1) to arrange under, to subordinate 2) to subject, put in subjection 3) to subject one's self, obey 4) to submit to one's control 5) to yield to one's admonition or advice 6) to obey, be subject.” (Thayer)
 - b. “. . . *as unto the Lord*” (v. 22)
 - 1) If you will obey the Lord, then you will not reject the headship of your husband.
 - 2) Obeying the Lord means to obey or respect the leadership of your husband.
 - c. “. . . *for the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church:*” (v. 23)
 - 1) The phrase “**the head**” is translated from the Greek word *kephale* which means, “1) the head, both of men and often of animals....2) metaph. anything supreme, chief, prominent 2a) of persons, master lord: of a husband in relation to his wife 2b) of Christ: the Lord of the husband and of the Church.” (Thayer)
 - 2) The husband is the head of the wife. Paul uses the comparison of Christ being the head of the church to show the relationship

- between the husband and the wife.
- 3) The wife should follow the instructions, directions, and lead of the husband.
- d. “. . . *so let the wives be [subject] to their own husbands in everything.*” (v. 24)
- 1) The word “**subject**” is translated from the same Greek word *hupotasso*, seen in verse 22 as “**submit yourselves.**”
- 2) The wife is to be subject unto her own husband in “**everything.**”
- 3) The word “**everything**” is translated from the Greek word *pas* which means “1) individually 1a) each, every, any, all, the whole, everyone, all things, everything.” (Thayer)
- e. “. . . *the wife see that she reverence her husband.*” (v. 33b)
- 1) The phrase “**she reverence**” is translated from the Greek word *phobeo* which means “. . . 1c) to reverence, venerate, to treat with deference or reverential obedience.” (Thayer)
- 2) The wife is to have the proper respect for her husband. She is to hold him up, to venerate him, to respect him and obey him.
- 3) There are times when the husband, through his actions or lack of actions, may make these feelings very difficult. It is at these times when your love for the Lord must come first and you reverence your husband because it is the will of the Lord.
- f. “*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*” (Colossians 3:18)
- 1) The word “**submit**” is from the same Greek word, *hupotasso*, seen in Ephesians 5:22, 24.
- 2) The thought of something being fit is something being proper or right. It is proper, in the sight of the Lord, for the woman to submit herself unto her husband.
- g. “*that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.*” (Titus 2:4-5)

- 1) **“Obedient”** is from the same Greek word, *hupotasso*, seen in Ephesians 5:22,24 (submit) and Colossians 3:18 (submit).
- 2) Wives are to be obedient to their husbands.
3. The wife is to be self-controlled (discreet). (Titus 2:5)
 - a. The word **“discreet”** is translated from the Greek word *sophron* which means, “(1) of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses 2) curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate.” (Thayer)
 - b. Wives are to exercise self-control in their daily lives. Discretion or self-control is necessary to the wife following the rules and guidelines established by God.
4. The wife is to be pure (chaste). (Titus 2:5)
 - a. The word **chaste** is translated from the Greek word *hagnos* which means, “. . . 2) pure 2a) pure from carnality, chaste, modest . . .” (Thayer)
 - b. The wife should be chaste or pure in all areas of life, especially when seen by other people. (cf. Titus 2:5)
 - 1) Chaste in manner of life.
 - a) Peter uses the phrase “chaste conversation.” (1 Peter 3:1-2)
 - b) The word **chaste** is translated from the same Greek word, *hagnos*, seen in Titus 2:5.
 - c) The word **conversation** is translated from the Greek word *anastrophe* which means, “(1) manner of life, conduct, behaviour, deportment.” (Thayer)
 - 2) Chaste in dress. (cf. 1 Timothy 2:9,10)
 - 3) Chaste in speech. (cf. Ephesians 4:29)
 - 4) Chaste in action.
5. The wife should concentrate upon the inner person. (1 Peter 3:3-4)
 - a. The wife's inner person should be without corruption.
 - b. The wife should possess a meek and quite spirit.
 - c. The wife should consider the women of old as examples. (1 Peter 3:5-6)
6. The wife should be a keeper at home. (Titus 2:5)
 - a. The phrase **“keepers at home”** is translated from the Greek word

oikouros which means “1) caring for the house, working at home 1a) the (watch or) keeper of the house 1b) keeping at home and taking care of household affairs 1c) a domestic.” (Thayers)

- b. There are certain responsibilities which are given to the wife. These responsibilities are summed up in the phrase “**keepers at home.**”
- c. This charge is given specifically to the wife. Should the husband help to keep the home? Yes, because he loves his wife. However, the charge to keep the home was not given to the husband.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Despite the best efforts of man, we must never allow the wisdom of man to redesign our homes. God’s pattern is the only pattern which will yield a godly household.
- B. As we have shown in this lesson, God has established rules for the role of the husband as well as rules for the role of the wife.
- C. Christians must work to make certain that they are willing to follow God’s rules for the home before they enter into a marriage relationship.