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RESTORING THE CHURCH - PRINCIPLES OF CHURCH LIFE

The Home

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this lesson is to help the believer appreciate the tremendous value that God places on the home, to see how vitally connected the restoration of the home is to the restoration of the Church and to understand God's basic order and design for the home.

KEY VERSE:

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh *but* in vain. *It is* vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: *for* so he giveth his beloved sleep. 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: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate. **Psalms 127:1-5**

I. HOW IS A HOUSE ESTABLISHED?

Just as a material house does not come together by accident, but by design, so it is with our families.

- A. A house must be built by godly wisdom (Psalms 127:1; Proverbs 14:1).
- B. A house must have a proper foundation (Matthew 7:24-27).
- C. A house must have divinely instituted government, which is its structure (Ephesians 6:1-4; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Psalms 68:5).

II. WHAT IS THE ORDER OF HEADSHIP IN THE HOME?

There is an order of headship in the home even as there is in the Church and the godhead. This is God's chain of command (1 Corinthians 11:3; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23-25), In the home God's established order is: husband, wife and children.

III. DOES HEADSHIP IMPLY SUPERIORITY?

Absolutely not! All persons of the godhead are equal in person and nature and yet the Son recognizes the headship of the Father in terms of role and function (1 Corinthians 11:3; 15:28). The Bible clearly teaches that, in Christ, there is neither male nor female, and that both are equal in person and nature before the Lord (Galatians 3:28). But it is equally true that God has prescribed distinct roles and functions for each (1 Corinthians 11:3).

A. Headship does not mean:

1. Dictatorship
2. Inequality of person and value
3. Inferiority of womankind
4. Superiority of mankind

B. Headship does mean:

1. Ultimate responsibility. The man is ultimately responsible to lead, guide and provide for his home in all areas (1 Timothy 5:8).
2. Ultimate accountability. God will hold the man accountable for the state of the family at the judgment seat of Christ (Hebrews 13:17).

IV. WHAT ARE TO BE THE PRIMARY FUNCTIONS OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS?

A. The primary role and function of the husband and father.

1. The man is to be submitted to Christ as his head (1Corinthians 11:3).

2. The man is to provide for the home naturally and spiritually (1 Timothy 5:8; Exodus 12:3).
3. The man is the source of love in the home (Ephesians 5:25; Colossians 3:19).
4. The man is to unselfishly give himself to his wife and family as Christ did for the Church (Ephesians 5:25-31).
5. The man is to use his authority to serve each family member (John 13:3-4; Philippians 2:5-8).
6. The man is to treat his wife with dignity and honor as he would his own flesh (1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:29).
7. The man is to receive his wife as God's gift and an helper suitable for him (Genesis 2:18-24).

The man characterized in Ephesians 5 is a man of love and gentleness who is willing to give himself unreservedly to the welfare and strengthening of other family members. He is a giving person who nourishes and cherishes all under his care providing for them all things that make healthy growth and happiness.

B. The primary role and function of the wife and mother.

1. The woman must be willing to voluntarily receive her husband's ordained authority (1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22-24).
2. The woman is to honor her husband (1 Peter 3:6).
3. The woman is to maintain a meek and quiet spirit (1 Peter 3:1-5).
4. The woman is to be complement to her husband (Genesis 2:18).
5. The woman is to be given to hospitality (Hebrews 13:1, 2).
6. The woman is to be a creative homemaker (Proverbs 31).

The woman characterized in Proverbs 31 is a commendable wife and mother who is industrious, self-disciplined, orderly, charitable, given to hospitality, who lives for her home and family. She is a woman of virtue because she is spiritually minded and she takes her home seriously.

C. The primary role of the children in the home.

1. Children are the special gifts of God to man and woman.
2. Children are the heritage of the Lord (Psalms 127:3-5).
3. Children are as arrows of the mighty.
4. Children are as olive plants (Psalms 128:3).

5. Children are the Lord's reward (Psalms 127).
6. Children are a crown (Proverb 17:6)
7. Children are servants in the home and are to obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1).
8. Children are to give honor and respect to their parents (Ephesians 6:2).
9. Children are to receive correction when necessary (Proverbs 13:24; 22:6; 29:15; 22:15; 23:14; 20:11; 23:13; 20:30).

V. WHAT ARE SOME KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL FAMILY LIVING?

There are no magic formulas to success in the home. However, if certain attitudes and qualities prevail among all family members God will bless the house in a special way.

- A. Love. When each member of the family is motivated by selflessness the family problems will be minimized drastically (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).
- B. Servant heart. When each member of the family treats the other members as more important than themselves and serves gladly, everyone's needs will be met (Philippians 2:3).
- C. Mutual submission. As family members learn to yield their rights to others, peace will prevail (Ephesians 5:21).
- D. Communication. Every member of the family must be committed to open, honest, edifying communication (Ephesians 4:29).
- E. Forgiveness. Every home has abundant opportunity to exercise this virtue. Individuals who fail to forgive and apologize freely will live in torment. (Matthew 18:23-25).

CONCLUSION:

It is clear that God wants all of our homes to be an example to the world of kingdom principles in operation. It is one place where we can build according to God's pattern and expect to see the fruit that God has promised. Every Christians should realize this and do all they can to make their home a place of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17).