

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 11

THE FAMILY AND HOME LIFE

It has been said, "If you want to know what kind of a Christian a person is, see what he does at home." The hardest place to live a Christian life is in our own home. Why is this? We know those in our home better than those outside our home. We live very close to each other in the home. When we live close to another person we see more of his mistakes. This may cause us to become angry with each other.

We will not be able to spend as much time on this subject as we should. We will look at some of the things the Bible says about the home life.

1. WHO SHOULD BUILD A MARRIAGE

The word "house" is sometimes used for marriage or for home.

According to Psalm 127:1, what could happen to a marriage if the Lord does not build it?

When the Lord is the great Head of the home, it will last.

Who should build a marriage?

2. MARRIAGE

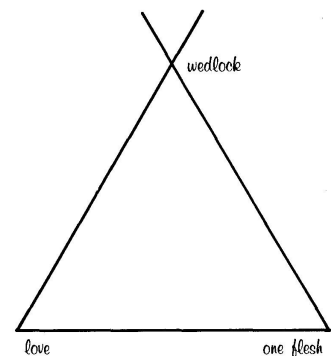
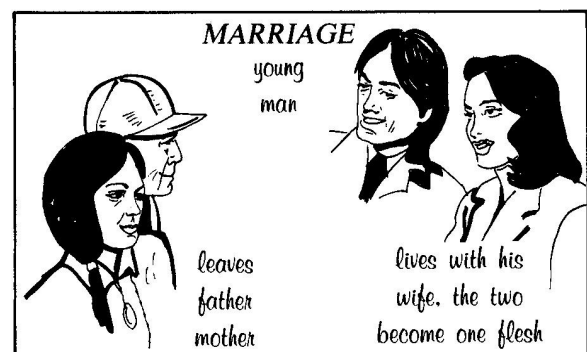
Read these verses:

Matthew 19:5; Ephesians 5:31; Mark 10:7,8;
Genesis 2:24.

What three important parts about marriage do we find in all these verses?

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Marriage is like a tent. There are three parts to it and if any part is missing, the marriage will not stand - it will fall apart. All parts must be thought about together or the marriage will not last. These parts



are:

- **Wedlock** - the ceremony where those getting married promise to be true to each other. They will love each other with all their hearts. This should be done in the sight of God and people. This is a witness of the marriage.
- **Love** - The Bible tells us that perfect love takes away all fear, 1 John 4:18. A couple who have real love for each other will not be afraid of each other. They will give themselves to each other without any selfishness. They will be kind and gentle with each other. They will respect each other.
- **One flesh** - This is the actual sex relationship. This draws them together more. Also the children born to them will draw them together. The children will feel safe in a complete tent. (From *I Married You*, Copyright 1971. Walter Trobisch. Used by permission of Harper and Row, Publishers, Inc.)

What three things must a young man do when he gets married?

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What are the three parts of a marriage?

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3. WHO IS THE HEAD OF THE HOME

The Bible teaches us very clearly who is to be the head of the home.

Who is to be the head of the home? Ephesians 5:23

When we do not know who is to be the head of the home, we can have a lot of arguing and fighting.

What does Ephesians 5:22 tell the wife to do?

What do we read in Colossians 3:18?

Who is to be the head of the home?

4. HOW THE HUSBAND SHOULD TREAT HIS WIFE

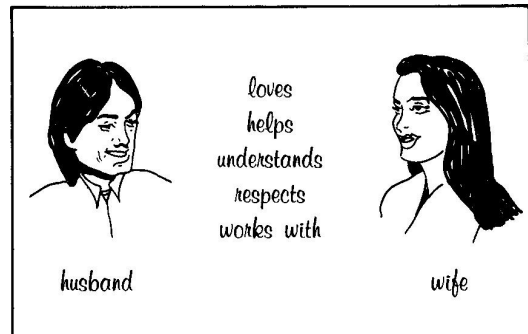
A. Love his wife.

In many homes the man thinks that he can do whatever he wants to his wife. The Bible has much to say about this.

What does Ephesians 5:25 tell the husband to do?

The love that we read about in Ephesians 5:25 is like God's love.

What kind of love did Jesus have for us? Romans 5:8



Are we willing to die for our wives? A Christian husband should be willing to die for his wife. A husband who is willing to die for his wife will be careful not to hurt her in mind or body. She will be able to trust him completely. The husband should remember that his wife is not as strong as he is. He should not make her work too hard, 1 Peter 3:7.

B. Help his wife.

Many times a man does not know how hard it is for his wife while she is carrying a child. She is often sick. She is often very tired. When she is very tired, it is hard for her to be always happy. It is during this time that she needs his love and help in a special way. During this time he must be careful about his sex relationship with her because it can make her sick. During this time a husband may have to give up some of his "wants" in order to give her the love that she needs.

How should a man treat his wife?

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- Understand and respect his wife.
- Work together with his wife.

C. Understand and respect his wife.

In 1 Peter 3:7 we are told that the husband is to understand and respect his wife. It is good for the husband to listen to his wife. There are times when the wife understands something better than her husband. She may help her husband stay out of trouble. Read Matthew 27:19.

D. Work together with his wife.

It is said, "God did not make the woman from the foot of a man so that he could walk on her. God did not take her from the head of the man so that she could boss him. God took the woman from the side of the man so that they could work together."

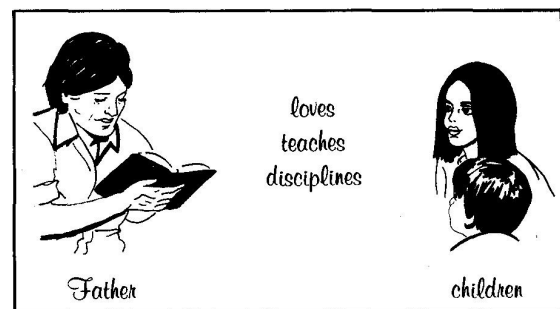
How should a man treat his wife?

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5. HOW THE FATHER SHOULD TREAT HIS CHILDREN

A. Love his children.

Read Luke 15:11-32. Here we have a beautiful picture of a father's love for his child. He loved his child even though the child did not love him. He loved his child even though the child wanted to run away. He loved his child even though the child did many sinful things. See Psalm 103:13.



B. Teach his children.

A father who loves his children will do his best to teach them and to train them. He does this because he wants them to have good lives.

The Bible tells us plainly how to bring up our children. Many times the father lets the mother take care of the children alone. The father has a very important part in the teaching and the training of the children.

What does Deuteronomy 6:6,7 tell the father to do?

C. Discipline his children.

The father should teach his children the Word of God and talk about it all the time.

There is a very good teaching in Ephesians 6:4. What is it?

Read Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13. What are we told to do with our children?

Many who are not Christians and even some who are Christians do not do this today. Because they do not discipline their children, the children get into all kinds of trouble. The children cannot understand why they get into trouble when they are not trained.

- **Discipline in love.**

It is hard to discipline children in the right way. It is much easier to yell at them or hit them on the ears, or tell them, "Something bad will happen to you." To discipline children in the right way, we must make sure the children know why they are being disciplined. Our rules should be the same every day. We must show love to them even though we may be angry. It is interesting to see how the children will show love to their father after he has disciplined them in love. There may be tears from the punishment, but the children know that dad loves them enough to care what they do.

- **Discipline with God's help.**

As the children grow up, the work of disciplining becomes harder. In fact, the only way we can discipline children is with the help of God. We must learn to pray for ourselves and for our children. Then God can show us how to teach our children.

According to Proverbs 22:6, why is it important to train children when they are young?

How should a father treat his children?

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How should a father discipline his children?

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6. HOW THE WIFE SHOULD TREAT HER HUSBAND

A. Love her husband.

The most important thing for a wife to do is to love her husband. Love does not come naturally.

What does Titus 2:4,5 tell young women about this?

B. Respect her husband.

What does Ephesians 5:33 ask the wife to do?



What does it mean to respect? If we respect a person, we will think good about him. We will say good things about him. We will think that he is able to do things well.

How should a wife treat her husband?

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- Obey her husband.
- Trust her husband.
- Help her husband.

C. Obey her husband.

What does the Bible tell the wife to do? Ephesians 5:22

If the husband loves his wife as he loves himself, will it be easy for the wife to obey him?
Ephesians 5:33

What is a wife to do if her husband is not a Christian? 1 Peter 3:1

Why?

A wife who respects her husband will obey him. It tells us in Ephesians 5:22 and in 1 Peter 3:1 that the wife is to obey her own husband. She should not let other men make trouble in her family life.

D. Trust her husband.

A wife will trust her husband when he loves her like Christ loves the Church. Christ died for the Church, Ephesians 5:25. Some women may have husbands who are not Christians. 1 Corinthians 7:13-16 tells the wife to stay with her husband. She may be able to bring him to Christ. 1 Peter 3:1 tells the wife to be obedient to her husband. If she does this, he will see the love of Christ in her life. God can use this to bring him to Christ.

If the husband runs around with other women, the wife should face him boldly about this. She should also seek counsel early.

E. Help her husband.

What does Proverbs 31:27 tell the wife to do?

A wife is to help her husband. Read Proverbs 31:10-13; Titus 2:4,5.

How should a wife treat her husband?

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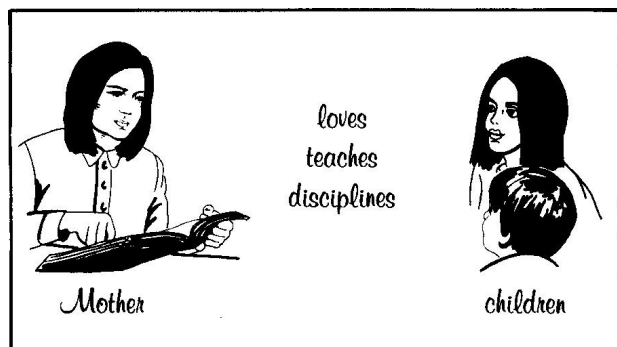
7. HOW THE MOTHER SHOULD TREAT HER CHILDREN

A. Teach her children.

The mother should treat her children the same way as her husband should treat them. Children spend the early years of their life with their mother. Because of this, the mother will do most of the teaching. She will teach them by what she says and by what she does. Children who see their mother read the Bible and pray will want to do the same.

B. Discipline her children.

As for punishing the children, the mother should not always wait until the father comes home. Some things need to be punished right



away. When the children are punished the right way, they will know why they are being punished.

It is not good for the father and mother to argue in front of the children. If they cannot agree about the punishment, the father should have the last word. The argument can be taken care of later when the children are not around. This will help the children to have respect for both parents.

C. Love her children.

In Titus 2:4 we are told that young married women are to be taught to love their children. If a mother does not love her children, she will not bother to teach them and discipline them. There are many mothers today who do not seem to love their children. They seem to love themselves instead. The children do not grow up right. They get into many troubles.

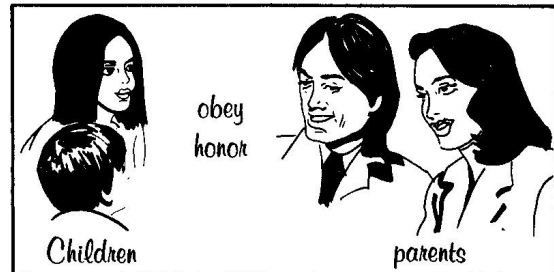
How should a mother treat her children?

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8. HOW CHILDREN SHOULD TREAT THEIR PARENTS

According to Ephesians 6:1-3, what two things are children supposed to do?

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What promise is given to the children?

We find that the children who are taught right and are really loved by their parents will want to love their parents. They will want to obey their parents. They are promised many good things and even long life.

How should children treat their parents?

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MEMORY VERSE

Memorize: Ephesians 6:4.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1. Who should build a marriage?
2. What three things must a young man do when he gets married?

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3. What are the three parts of a marriage?

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4. Who is to be the head of the home?

5. How should a husband treat his wife?

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6. How should a father treat his children?

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7. How should a father discipline his children?

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8. How should a wife treat her husband?

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9. How should a mother treat her children?

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10. How should children treat their parents?

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WORDS TO LEARN

1. ceremony - rules and order for an agreement or a service.
2. discipline - to punish with the wish to teach what is right.
3. train - to teach by practice; to make someone grow up in the right way.
4. wedlock - wedding; when a man marries a woman.