



Part 2 (Lesson 12)

## **Biblical Principles For Family Life**

*From the very beginning of creation we can see that God intended for us to live in loving relationships. The family unit that God created allows us to experience fulfilling and nurturing relationships. The Bible gives very specific and helpful directions to us so that we can understand how to function in a healthy way within our families. In this lesson we will look at the biblical instructions for husbands, wives, fathers, mothers and children. Family life lived out within the Bible's directives brings great benefit to our lives.*

### **I. Husbands and Wives**

Read Ephesians 5:22-33 carefully and then answer the following questions based on the instructions given to us in this passage.

- A. How are husbands to love their wives according to v. 25? **(Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loves the church. Jesus gave His life for His church!)**
- B. What additional explanation is given to husbands in v. 28-29? **(Husbands are to love their wives as their own flesh, nourishing and cherishing their wives.)**
- C. How are wives to respond to their husbands according to v. 22-24? **(Wives are to be subject (in subjection) to their husbands as the church is to Christ. Wives are to acknowledge their husbands as the head of their marriage and family.)**
- D. Notice the level on intimacy and connectedness that is spoken of here regarding the relationship of a husband and wife in v. 31 – **(They are to be joined together as one flesh, and they are to establish a new family.)**

E. It is important to note that the directive for a man to “leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife” is not a directive to sever relationship with his parents but rather a directive to establish a new family of which he will serve as the head. Ongoing loving and respectful relationship with parents throughout life is clearly biblical. In what way does Matthew 15:3-6 and Ephesians 6:2 confirm this? **(The biblical command to “honor”**

**your father and mother is a lifetime command. To honor is more than to obey as a child.)**

F. In the summary at the end of Ephesians 5:22-33 what directives are given to husbands and wives? (v. 33) **(Husbands are to love their wives as themselves and wives are to respect their husbands. It should be noted that the primary need of a wife is to be loved (cherished and valued). The primary need of a husband is to be respected.)**

G. What instructions are given to husbands in 1 Peter 3:7 about how to view and treat their wives? **(Husbands are to recognize that though they are physically stronger than their wife they are no more valuable. They are to honor their wives as fellow partakers of God’s grace. In doing so, their prayers will not be hindered.)**

H. What instructions are given to wives in 1 Peter 3:1-2 about how to respond to, and influence their husbands? **(They are to continue to remain in submission to their husband and influence him by their chaste (pure) and respectful behavior.)**

I. What additional instructions are given to wives in 1 Peter 3:3-6 about the hidden qualities within the heart which are precious in the sight of God? **(A gentle and quiet (peaceful) spirit is powerful and is precious in the sight of God.)**

J. What additional admonition is given to husbands in Colossians 3:19? **(Husbands are not to be embittered against or harsh with their wives.)**

K. What additional admonition is given to wives in Colossians 3:18? **(Wives are to subject to their husbands because this is fitting in the Lord.)**

L. According to Matthew 19:4-6 how should we view the sacredness of marriage? **(We should recognize that it is God that puts a husband and wife together for life.)**

How long should marriage last? **(For a lifetime)**

M. According to Hebrews 13:4 how does God feel about reserving the sexual relationship for within the marriage? **(He says that marriage should be held in honor among all and that the marriage bed should be undefiled. God will judge sex outside of marriage.)**

Meditate upon this truth and consider why God would give us commandments that sex must be reserved for within the confines of marriage. Write your thoughts here - \_\_\_\_\_

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## II. Children and Their Parents

A. What instructions are given to children in Ephesians 6:1-3? **(Children are to obey their parents and they are to honor their parents.)**

What promise is attached to this? **(A good and long life with blessings from God.)**

B. What command is given to children in Colossians 3:20? **(Be obedient to your parents in all things.)** How does this make God feel? **(This is pleasing to God)**

C. What is the 5<sup>th</sup> of the 10 Commandments found in Exodus 20:12? **(Honor your father and mother.)**

*Jesus reaffirmed this commandment in Matthew 15:3-6. It is important to note that obeying parents as an earthly authority while growing up in the home is clearly a biblical command. The role of child to parent changes once the child grows up and moves on establishing their own family. Obedience to authority is no longer the key but "honoring" is the key. According to Jesus' words in Matthew 15:3-6 this "honoring" even involves tangible caring for needs at some point in life. This command to "honor your father and mother" is a command for life though it has different implications for a growing child than it does for an independent adult child.*

N. How does 1 Timothy 5:1-8 confirm this command to "honor" our father and mother? Note especially v. 4 and v. 8 - **(The Bible instructs us to take care of our elderly parents when they reach an age where they can no longer independently care for themselves.)**

## II. Parents and Their Children

A. What instructions are given to fathers in Ephesians 6:4?

Do not **“provoke your children to anger”** What do you think means? **(Primarily by hypocrisy, not living out the values that are taught.) (Also, by unfair & harsh treatment)**

Bring them up in the **“discipline”** of the Lord. What do you think this means? **(Lovingly disciplining them which involves both affection and discipline (correcting).)**

Also bring them up in the **“instruction”** of the Lord. What do you think this means? **(Teaching them and guiding them to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.)**

Though these instructions are specifically given to fathers, they apply to mothers as well. The Bible speaks directly to fathers because as the head of the family they are lead the way in instructing and disciplining (correcting) the children. Mom and dad are a team, working together in this but according to the Bible, dad should be leading the way.

B. What admonition and promise are given to parents in Proverbs 22:6? **(Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from that way.)**

C. What instructions are given to parents in Proverbs 13:24? **(To withhold physical discipline (spanking) shows a lack of love. Proper diligent discipline is a loving act.)**

D. What instructions are given to parents in Proverbs 22:15? **(Spanking a child will help to remove foolishness bound up in his heart.)**

E. What instructions are given to parents in Proverbs 23:13-14? **(Proper discipline or spanking can save a child from destruction, heartache and eternal consequences.)**

Note - The term “rod” should not be taken literally here. It refers to a loving, but real “spanking” applied by a parent to help a child turn away from wrong actions and attitudes.

Remember that the greatest of all the commandments is to love God and to love others. (see Matthew 22:37-39) This certainly applies to parents deeply loving their children. When combining what we have seen here we find that the key to good parenting is “Lots of love and affection” combined with “consistent instruction and discipline”.