

HARMONY

IN THE

HOME



By Richard Elwell

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ULTIMATE OUTCOMES

WHY IDEAS MATTER.

www.ultimateoutcomes.org

Ultimate Outcomes is a non-profit organization founded on the fruit of the 30 plus years Pastor Richard Elwell and his wife Marty spent in church ministry, developing studies that would help their congregants discern and apply God's truth. Richard was a firm believer that the outcomes in our lives are a result of what ideas we choose to believe and follow.

After Richard died of a rare liver disease in 2018, Ultimate Outcomes has taken on the mission of sharing the Elwells' insights with all who desire to live a better life and are willing to look to God for understanding of the way they are to go. To that end, it makes available for free download on its website: Bible studies, Sunday school curriculum, and sermon podcasts.

Richard earned a Master of Divinity degree from the International School of Theology and was the founding and senior pastor at University Park Church, San Bernardino, CA for over 30 years. His passion was always to make God's truth understandable and applicable to all who hunger for it. Marty holds a Master's Degree in Teaching Processes from Claremont Graduate University. Her passion has been to train women and provide curriculum for parents who want to raise their children up in the ways of the Lord.

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STUDY PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to help Christian couples understand the fullness of God's plan for marriage and the family, and in applying God's principles in their life experience the blessing and delight that God wants for them in their family relationships.

STUDY CONTENT

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1

What Is Marriage?

INTRODUCTION

🕒 Introduction To The Study

What do you hope to gain from this study?

1. *Harmony in the Home* focuses on how to build families with integrity based on the plan God lays out in the Bible.
2. **Illustration:** Building with integrity
When Hurricane Andrew blew through Homestead, Florida in 1992, many new tract homes were destroyed while some small, low-income homes were left standing. The homes that were left standing were built by Habitat for Humanity. Before the hurricane the bigger tract homes looked more substantial and impressive, yet the hurricane proved that the more modest homes were built with greater integrity.

🕒 Lesson Focus

1. What is the modern view of the purpose of marriage?
Marriage is an institution designed to fulfill the needs of the partners. The word has really lost its meaning as it can now be whatever two people want it to be. There is the idea that it is only a contractual agreement, a partnership between any two or more people.
2. What does the Bible teach about marriage?
The Bible teaches that marriage is a covenant that is binding between one man and one woman who are complementary opposites. Its purpose is to bring honor to God and raise up godly children.
3. **Illustration:** After officiating at a wedding, I was told by the wedding photographer that it was encouraging to hear a wedding charge to the couple based on God's design for marriage. When I asked what was normally the charge, the photographer responded that vows now reflect the changing view of what marriage is, with the couples vowing to stay married "as long as our love lasts..."
4. The modern view of marriage sees marriage as a 50/50 partnership that can be dissolved if an inequality develops.
50/50 partnership; inequality



Remember:

Marriage is not like other human partnerships. It is not meant to be dissolved.



SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

☉ The Purpose of Mariage

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

What does it mean to be created in God's image?

We are created by God with some of His character attributes. A mirror reflects the image of the person looking into it. Like a mirror, we reflect God's image. Also like a mirror, we are not a perfect reflection, nor do we reflect every aspect of the original.

Isaiah 43:6-7

⁶Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth— ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Why did God create us in his image?

All things were created by God for His glory. Therefore, our reflection of His image is for the purpose of bringing glory to God. Likewise, marriage was created to glorify God.

☉ God's Perspective of Mariage

Mark 10:6-9

⁶"But at the beginning of creation God ⁷made them male and female.' ⁷For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, ⁸and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

1. Marriage has its foundation in creation (vs. 6).

⁶But at the beginning of creation God ⁷made them male and female.'

a. What does verse 6 mean in terms of marriage?

God made two unique beings for the purpose of marriage. Marriage was formed to reflect God's glory. There is something unique about the male/female relationship. This is not to say that everyone has to be married, but that marriage is why God created two distinct types of people.

b. How does having its foundation in creation set marriage apart from other human partnerships?

Human partnerships do not have their origin in creation, nor are they foundational to society. God specifically created the marriage relationship to form the foundation of social order. Human partnerships are formed by humans to meet the needs of the partners.

2. Marriage is the formation of a new family (vs. 7).

⁷For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,...

a. What does verse 7 mean in terms of marriage?

The spouses are to leave and cleave. A new family is formed which becomes the primary family.

b. How does the command to “leave and cleave” set marriage apart from other human partnerships?

In human partnerships you don't leave what you have behind to become a partner. Each partner still exists as an independent entity and maintains an independent identity.

c. What happens when a spouse does not leave his or her parents?

It gives a higher priority to the parents than the spouse, which is a flawed design. What are some examples of not leaving?

Illustration: When a queen bee leaves a hive she, and the workers she takes with her, form a completely independent hive; they are no longer a part of the original hive they left. If they didn't leave, the hive would not flourish; it would be overcrowded and not function well.

3. Marriage is two becoming one flesh (vs. 8).

⁸and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one.

a. What does verse 8 mean in terms of marriage?

In marriage each individual becomes a part of the other. The union is of greater importance than each individual is. A marriage cannot be dissolved without damaging one's own self.

The one flesh relationship is expressed in the sexual union, which has a three-fold purpose: the establishment of a covenant, procreation and recreation. In distorting God's design, the world emphasizes the recreational purpose for the sexual union while minimizing the covenant and procreation aspects. Even for those who don't hold a biblical view of marriage, engaging in a sexual relationship leads to wanting exclusivity.

Illustration: When you take a ball of yellow clay and a ball of blue clay and mix them together, you have a new ball of green clay. The yellow and blue clay are no longer separate, they form a completely new entity. It is impossible to separate the two colors and make them what they were before.

b. How does the one flesh relationship differ from the modern view of human sexual partnerships?

The sexual union is meant to establish the one-flesh covenant relationship and is a lasting exclusive union. Modern relationships see sex as only being recreational and therefore people have no problem in engaging in multiple sexual relationships. Sex becomes perverted and mocks the covenant of marriage.

4. Marriage is a three-way agreement (vs. 9a).

⁹Therefore what God has joined together...

a. What does verse 9a mean in terms of marriage?

Since God joined the marriage, he is a participant in it. It's not only a commitment to one another; it's a commitment to God. Even if there is a conflict between the husband and wife, they still have an agreement with God.

Illustration: A triangle is made of three angles joined together. The existence of the triangle is dependent upon the relationship of the three angles. Even when the partners are in conflict in the marriage, the connection to God must remain.

b. How does the three-way agreement differ from other human partnerships?

A partnership only involves two people. It's a legal agreement between the parties involved, not a covenantal agreement with God.

5. Marriage is not to be dissolved (vs. 9b).

...let man not separate.

a. What does verse 9b mean in terms of marriage and divorce?

Marriage is a life-long commitment. Divorce is not a blessing; it is a shredding process.

Illustration: A button is designed to hold two pieces of fabric together, but it is not a permanent connection; it is meant to be unfastened. A weld is designed to be a permanent bond; it cannot be broken without destroying what was welded together.

b. How does the fact that marriage is not to be dissolved set it apart from other human partnerships?

Partnerships can be dissolved without harming the partners, a marriage can't be dissolved without bringing real harm to the parties involved. If a marriage is broken it damages the participants.

Unlike marriage, other human partnerships...

- Don't have their origin in c_____. creation
- Aren't the formation of a new f_____. family
- Aren't a one-flesh r_____. relationship
- Aren't a three-way a_____. agreement
- Aren't wrong to d_____. dissolve

THINKING IT THROUGH

1. What is God's purpose for marriage?

For a man and woman to be joined together to reflect him and his glory more fully. To form a permanent union as the basis for a family.

2. What is the world's purpose for marriage?

To have individual needs met, find satisfaction.

3. Why can't a marriage ever become what God intended it to be without being built God's way? Because we'd be looking out for our own self-interest. It won't produce harmony;

conflict will be the result. Even if a non-Christian couple seems to have harmony, their marriage can't become what God intended. Without marriage being focused on God, it is focused on the self (two selves) instead of bringing honor to God.

4. Do most marriages perfectly result in what God intended them to be? No

What keeps marriages from becoming what God intended them to be?

Not having God's perspective, focusing on self-interest, not dying to self.

Summary: Marriage is a divine institution, created and designed by God to reflect his glory. A marriage functioning by God's design is a visible reflection of God's nature.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

🕒 **Setting Aside Self-Interest**

Philippians 2:3-4

³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

1. What does it mean to set aside self-interest in favor of family interest?
To focus on what is best for the family, not personal wants and desires.
2. What are some examples of setting aside self-interest in favor of family interest?
Saving rather than spending money on self.
Doing what others want to do rather than what I am most interested in doing.
3. What is the result of setting aside self-interest?
The family flourishes and there is less conflict. We are able to die to self and serve God's purposes. Everyone is blessed as love increases.

What is the irony of that?

Being selfless is the most selfish thing you can do! By giving up self-interest you gain blessing.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

🕒 **Personal Evaluation**

1. Do you harbor thoughts of getting out of the marriage whenever you are in conflict with your spouse?
2. Do you put the interests of your spouse above your own interests?
3. Are you focused more on your needs being met in your marriage or on meeting the needs of your spouse?
4. Are you doing your part in your marriage to bring glory to God?

🙏 **Prayer**

Thank God that he created marriage for his purposes. Pray that he would reveal to you any way in which you are not honoring the marriage relationship or not relating to your spouse correctly. Pray that God would help you learn to honor him in all aspects of your marriage relationship.

2

THE HUSBAND'S ROLE

INTRODUCTION

🕒 Review

What is marriage?

Marriage is a divine institution, created and designed by God to reflect his glory. A marriage functioning by God's design has the potential of becoming a visible reflection of God's nature.

🕒 Lesson Focus

This lesson focuses on the role of the husband.

1. Are men and women different? **Yes**
2. The two views concerning the differences between men and women:

1st view: The differences between men and women are culturally based.

If the differences between men and women are cultural, then they can be changed with a change in culture.

Illustration: We speak the language we were taught. We can be taught to change the language we speak. The differences in language are cultural.

2nd view: The differences between men and women are biologically based.

If the differences between men and women are biological, then they can't be changed by a cultural shift.

Illustration: You can't make a dog act like a cat or a cat act like a dog because their differences are biologically based. To attempt to do so would result in frustration.

3. Why is the view that the difference between men and women is biological so strongly opposed today?
It boils down to the issue of equality. If there is no biological difference, then role inequality has no basis.
4. What does it mean to have equal status while performing different functions?
Galatians 3:28 – There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
We stand equal before Christ but we were designed as men and women to fulfill different roles.

Illustration: On a football team, the quarterback and the tight end are equally necessary in the completion of a touchdown pass, yet their functions are entirely different. If they both performed the same functions, one of them would be unnecessary.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

◎ The Role and the Challenge

Genesis 3:16

To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

1. What does this scripture teach about a husband's role?
The husband has positional authority over his wife that has been established by God. He is the leader in his home.
2. Is his leadership going to be challenged? (Remember, God is giving a punishment in this verse.) Yes Why? A woman's desire will be to be in charge and rule over her husband. This could lead to the Dance for Dominance (each spouse believing that things would be better if only he or she was in control,) or the husband relinquishing his role and simply letting his wife be the one in authority.

◎ The Progression of Authority

1 Corinthians 11:33

Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

1. What does this scripture teach about the progression of authority?
Christ is in authority over the man, and the man is in authority over the woman in a marriage.
2. Only under what conditions can this line of authority be broken?
This line of authority is to be maintained, presuming the wife is not asked by the husband to do anything illegal, immoral or dangerous. A man's leadership is only illegitimate when he clearly goes outside of God's will in violation of what God commands.

◎ The Nature and Purpose of the Role

Ephesians 5:21-33

²¹Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²²Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- ³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³²This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

1. What does this scripture teach about the nature and purpose of a husband's role?
It is a role of mutual submission. The husband submits himself to his wife through servant leadership in which he leads for the purpose of bringing well-being to his wife.
2. What is the example for men to imitate?
Men are to imitate Christ who gave his life for the church. Christ died for his bride, the Church. A man is to be willing to sacrifice himself and die to self-interest for the benefit of the family.

◎ The Husband's Relationship to His Wife

1 Peter 3:1-7

¹Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ²when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

³Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. ⁴Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ⁵For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, ⁶like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

⁷Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

1. How are husbands to view their wives? (vs. 7)
Husbands and wives are co-heirs, but the wife is a different vessel.



Note: The phrase weaker partner conveys the idea of a delicate and fragile vase rather than a heavy-duty jug. The vessel is not an inferior thing; it just has a different function.

2. What is a consequence of a husband mistreating his wife?
God ignores his prayers.

THINKING IT THROUGH

1. If a husband's role is to lead, what are the different options on what he can do with his leadership?
 - a. He can a _____ (give up) his leadership role. **abdicate**
 - b. He can become a s_____ or t_____ leader **Selfish or tyrannical**
 - c. Through Christ he can become a s_____ leader. **Servant**
2. One of the ingredients for a good marriage and a well-ordered family is male leadership in which the husband uses his leadership position to serve the family and in doing so places the needs of the family above his own personal needs. The best way a husband can improve his family is by fulfilling his own role better.

3. Currently, how are husbands and dads portrayed on TV?
As stupid, ignorant men who must be led and taught by their wives.

Why do you think that is?

It demonstrates the influence of feminism. It may just reflect the mentality of those who are developing television in terms of the family structure or it may be a conscious design to break down the authority of men in the family. It is a rejection of God's design.

Husbands: Giving up your responsibility to lead your family + pursuing selfish interests = not being respectable.

Wives: Taking up your husband's responsibility to fill the void + disrespecting your husband = not being lovely

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

🕒 **The Completeness of a Couple**

Genesis 2:18
The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

1. Is a husband and father necessary to a healthy family? **Yes** Explain.
Without him, the family misses the benefit of the functions a man has been designed to perform.
2. Can a single parent home with one good parent function as well as a home with two good parents working together? **No** Explain.
Without a spouse a person is missing the complementary other half who enables the other to fulfill his/her role more effectively. It's half of a team.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

🕒 **Personal Evaluation**

1. **Men:** What are some things you can do to better serve your family?
2. **Women:** How can you better affect your husband's leadership?

Prayer

Thank God for your spouse and how God has designed the marriage relationship. Pray for your spouse and you to understand more completely and better fulfill the roles God has given each of you in the marriage.

3

THE WIFE'S ROLE

INTRODUCTION

◎ Review

1. What is marriage?

Marriage is a divine institution, created and designed by God to reflect the glory of God. A marriage functioning by God's design has the potential of becoming a visible reflection of God's nature. God wants to be known through the marriage relationship.

2. What is a husband's role in a marriage?

Servant leader, ultimate authority for the benefit of the family

◎ Lesson Focus

The focus of this lesson is the wife's role in the marriage relationship.

1. What is the traditional role of a wife compared to that of the husband?

The wife is the nurturer (homemaker) and the husband is the provider, protector.

2. Why is there so much resentment toward and resistance to the traditional role of a wife?

Women have confused the ideas of equal status with equal function. They think a wife lacks power and her role is a lesser role.

3. Is having power always productive? No When is power productive?

When it is submitted to a useful design and used correctly.

◎ Axioms of Power and Design

Power is defined as strength, force or controlling influence (from the Latin *potere* meaning to be able). The use of power is not always productive. Power is only productive when it is used to build up rather than destroy and to be of benefit rather than control by force.

Axiom 1: The release of power is never neutral. It is either productive or destructive.

Example: The nuclear power in a power plant is productive power; the nuclear power of a bomb is destructive.

Axiom 2: Power that is submitted to design is productive. Power that is not submitted to design is unproductive.

Example: If you put gas into the gas tank, you are submitting to the car's design and the gas will produce productive power. If you pour the same gas over the engine of the car and ignite it, it is not being submitted to the design and the resulting power will not be productive.

Axiom 3: The degree of the productivity of power is proportionate to the efficiency of the design to which it is submitted.

Example: Pulleys would be an example of increasing the productivity of power through an efficient design.

Axiom 4: The exercise of power is only good when submitted to a morally good design.

Example: Hitler and the Nazi regime were an example of an efficient, yet evil, power design. In terms of a man's or a woman's role in the family it isn't a question of empowerment, it is a question of the proper use of the power one has been given. It is not a question of whether or not the spouses have power. The question is, "Is the power that has been given being submitted to God's good design?"

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

◎ A Wife's Power in God's Design

Proverbs 31:11

- ¹⁰ A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.
¹¹ Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.
¹² She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.
¹³ She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.
¹⁴ She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.
¹⁵ She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls.
¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
¹⁷ She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.
¹⁸ She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.
¹⁹ In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.
²⁰ She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.
²¹ When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
²² She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
²³ Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.
²⁵ She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.
²⁶ She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
²⁷ She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
²⁸ Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:
²⁹ "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."
³⁰ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
³¹ Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

- What are areas in this passage that describe a noble wife's exercise of power?
 - Vs. 13-15, 27 Power to organize and supervise the household for the benefit of her family
 - Vs. 16, 18, 19, 24 Produce income / labor for profit.
 - Vs. 20, 22 Extend hospitality and charity and create beauty.
 - Vs. 21, 25 Provide for the future security of her family and protect them.
 - Vs. 26 Give wise counsel and influence others.
- How does a noble wife's appropriate use of power affect her husband?
 - Vs. 11 He has confidence in her.
 - Vs. 12 She brings good not harm.
 - Vs. 23 She brings him respect.
- What are the results of a noble wife's power properly applied?
 - Vs. 10 She becomes invaluable.
 - Vs. 28 She receives praise from her family.
 - Vs. 31 She gains a reward and praise from the community.



Remember:

Power not submitted to a good design is destructive. A woman's power is not to be in competition with her husband; it is to work in harmony with her husband's power. A wife benefits not by being empowered to do what she wants apart from God, but by using her power to follow God's good design.

☉ **God's Design for the Role of the Wife**

Genesis 2:20

²⁰So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²²Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

- What does the phrase suitable helper mean and why do women chafe at that description?

A suitable helper means that a woman is a completion to what God has purposed for mankind. Women don't like it because they think it is a lower position; something that the man needs to be complete but not the woman.

2. The Hebrew word used for helper in Genesis 2:20 is used two other times in the Old Testament: One as a king coming alongside to help another king; the other as God coming to help man. What does the use of that word say about the woman's role as a helper? She fulfills a different function but has equal status. The helper enables the other to do better and be successful. It is not an inferior position since God refers to himself this way as he comes alongside to help men to do better and be successful.

1 Corinthians 11:3

Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

3. What does the headship of a husband provide for his wife? It provides protection for the woman and order in the family relationship. A man is accountable to God for the condition of his family as Adam was held accountable in terms of the Fall. If Adam had refused to eat the fruit and asked Eve to repent, and she said no to him, then she would have been accountable directly to God.

Ephesians 5:21-24

²¹Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²²Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

4. Why is a wife's submission to her husband so essential for harmony in the home? Without it there is chaos. A woman's lack of submission is more corrosive and destructive than a bad decision a husband might make. If a wife resists what she thinks is a wrong decision, she may save the family from the effects of that decision, but a greater damage is done in eroding her husband's authority and breaking down the family structure. Think about what would happen if the church didn't submit to Christ's headship.

1 Peter 3:1-6

¹Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ²when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. ⁴Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ⁵For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, ⁶like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

5. What is a wife's most powerful means of influence? (vs. 1) A submissive wife has the power to influence the behavior of her husband (even an unbelieving husband and even without a word) if she is behaving properly.



Remember:

A woman can't lead her husband to be a leader. She can influence him, however, through living a life submitted to Christ and him.

THINKING IT THROUGH

1. What does the feminist movement want?

To improve women's lives through equality and empowerment. To make women on par with men, so that they are able to do whatever men can do.

What is the irony of the feminist movement?

It has actually hurt women because they have given women a flawed design. Women end up unhappy and unfulfilled. In working outside the home they have to carry twice the load. It also sets up conflict and competition between men and women.

2. Are families better off today than 50 years ago? **No**

Why not?

Most are not subject to God's design. They are full of conflict and battles for control. The divorce rate has climbed and children are adversely affected.

Are women better off today than 50 years ago? **No**

Why not?

The breakdown of design has put women at a disadvantage. Instead of being protected and taken care of, they are stressed out and alone. Multitudes are on psychotropic drugs. Many are raising children on their own without the benefit of a husband's help in training and disciplining the children.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

© The Immeasurable Worth of a Noble Wife

Proverbs 31:10

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

What makes a woman of immeasurable worth?

Her noble character and her ability to reflect God's image.

Reflecting the Image of God

Masculine men
living by the
example of Christ

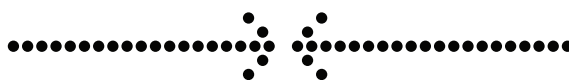


Dynamism
Completeness

Feminine women
living by the
example of Christ

Reflecting the Lostness of the World

Feminized men



Conflict
Confusion
Weakness
Brokenness

Masculinized Women



Remember:

God's design calls for a husband to love his wife and for a wife to respect her husband. Ephesians 5:33 says, *"However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."*

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

◎ Personal Evaluation

Wife: Do you find it easier to love your husband or respect him?

Why is that so?

Husband: Do you find it easier to respect your wife or love her?

Why is that so?

◎ Personal Action

Wife: What are some ways you as a wife can show greater respect to your husband?

Husband: What are some ways you as a husband can show greater love to your wife?

👐 Prayer

Thank God that he has a good design for marriage. Pray that you would relate to your spouse according to God's design and that God would reveal any way that you are not relating to your spouse properly.

4 CONFLICT RESOLUTION

INTRODUCTION

🕒 Review

1. What is God's design for marriage?

Marriage is a divine institution, created and designed by God to reflect the glory of God. A marriage functioning by God's design has the potential of becoming a visible reflection of God's nature.

2. What is God's design for a husband?

Servant leader

3. What is God's design for a wife?

Suitable helper

Diagnostic Question: Which is worse?

- a) A selfish, unloving husband
- b) A wife who belittles and criticizes her selfish husband

🕒 Lesson Focus

This lesson covers conflict resolution.

1. What causes conflict?

A struggle of opposing wills, different points of views or desires, trying to impose one's will on another person.

2. How do we most often try to resolve conflict?

By dominating to gain control based on the belief that if I am in control, then I can make things better (I can make wrong things right), convince or argue with the other person.

3. Many people believe that if they are in control that will make things right. What is the problem with that belief?

The struggle for control is itself what creates conflict.

Illustration: The *Dance for Dominance* is an expression used to describe two people who are both trying to be in control. It is seen in Genesis 3:16 as a result of the curse.

4. What are the different techniques used to dominate one's spouse?

Verbal manipulation, guilt, anger, cold separation, demeaning or irrational accusations, threats, violence, being argumentative or quarrelsome, withholding affection or sex.

5. Why doesn't domination ever really resolve conflict?

You don't get volitional agreement through domination. If you force agreement, you will only get resentment that will surface again in conflict. Look at how God treats us - He could easily dominate us, but instead he gives us free will to choose willingly.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

◎ The Nature of Our Struggle

Ephesians 6:10-12

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

1. Who is our struggle against?
The devil and his evil forces. They use evil schemes and wrong ideas.
2. Who isn't our struggle against?
Flesh and blood (our spouse)
3. Who do we usually imagine our enemy to be?
The person we are in conflict with, not wrong ideas.

◎ The Defeat of Evil

Romans 12:17-21

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1. What is our natural inclination when we are harmed?
Retaliation. To return harm for harm. The problem with this is that we tend to see what we've done as less harmful than what the other person has done.
2. Is our evil ever justified? No

Why do we sometimes feel justified in returning evil for evil?
We think we've gotten justice. They deserve it.
3. Is it wrong to want justice? No When is our view of justice wrong?
When we think it is our responsibility to enforce justice.
Illustration of inner city gang conflict: Kids taking justice into their own hands when in conflict with one another.
4. From God's perspective how is evil to be defeated?
Through returning good for evil.

THINKING IT THROUGH

1. Does returning good for evil mean we become a doormat to a dominant spouse?
It doesn't matter! It is the right thing to do. Doing the right thing brings blessing, disobeying God brings consequences. You become the champion and defeat evil when you return good for evil.
2. What are some ways to overcome evil with good in a marriage?
 - Not jumping into the conflict and keeping your mouth shut is a good place to start.
 - Finding what you can apologize for.
 - Recognizing that "punishing" your spouse isn't the answer.
 - Looking for ways to do good to or bless the other.
 - Letting go of any offense and not getting offended at little things.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

☉ Man's Anger Does Not Bring About What God Desires

James 1:19-20

¹⁹My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

1. Why do we get angry?
We think something is wrong or unfair and we want to control the situation in order to make things right.
2. Does anger ever make things right? **Never**
What does anger do in a situation?
It makes the situation worse, creating greater disorder and disharmony. It causes conflict to escalate.
If something never works, isn't it foolish to keep doing it? **It sure is.**
3. What will keep us from getting angry?
 - Wanting what God wants, which is to live at peace with others.
 - Listening to the other person and keeping quiet if needed.
 - Weighing words carefully.
 - Recognizing our own sin and role in the conflict.
 - Letting go of offense.

☉ Communication Tips

1. Don't accuse: Avoid using the pronoun "you". If you use "I" it isn't accusatory. Example: "I feel undervalued when I'm not told what is going on," instead of "You never tell me anything."
2. Drop hyperbole: Give up saying, "you never" or "you always".
3. Determine the right time: Can I talk to you now about something that might upset you, or should I wait until another time?
4. Forget the past: Don't bring up and rehash past issues. Stick to the issue at hand.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

🎯 **Personal Evaluation**

1. Do you focus more on whether or not your spouse is fulfilling his/her role or do you focus more on whether or not you're fulfilling your role?
2. Are you willing to keep your focus on what you're called to do regardless of what your spouse does?
3. **Husband:** Are you justified in treating your wife harshly if she is not treating you with respect?
4. **Wife:** Are you justified in disrespecting your husband if he is treating you harshly?

🙏 **Prayer**

Thank God for your spouse. Pray that God would do a work in you and you would learn to respond correctly to your spouse no matter how you are being treated. Pray that you would recognize when you are out of God's order in the marriage relationship.

5

A CHILD'S PLACE

INTRODUCTION

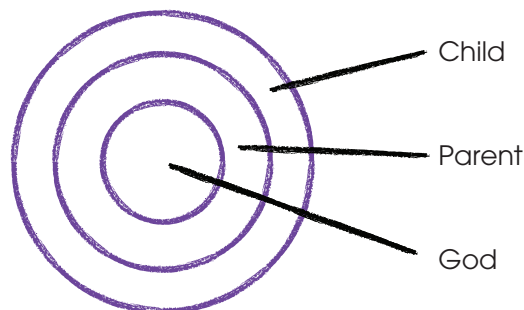
🕒 Review

1. What is marriage?
Marriage is a divine institution, created and designed by God to reflect the glory of God. A marriage functioning by God's design has the potential of becoming a visible reflection of God's nature. Through glorifying God in your marriage, your needs will be met.
2. What is the husband's role?
Servant leader. His role model is Jesus Christ. He is to love his wife.
3. What is the wife's role?
Suitable helper, complementary supporter, helpmate. She is to respect her husband. A woman's lack of submission is more corrosive than a husband's bad decision.
4. What do both the husband and wife need to focus on in terms of their roles?
They need to focus more on fulfilling their own role rather than whether a spouse is fulfilling his/her role. Both husband and wife have equal status, but different function. Both have the power and the capacity to produce benefit when submitted to God's design.
5. How is conflict resolved?
Realizing the battle is not against flesh and blood, but rather the evil ideas that the person believes, which motivates wrong behavior. Recognizing that your spouse is not your enemy; the devil and his lies and schemes are the enemy. Overcome evil with good. Anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

🕒 Lesson Focus

This lesson begins the second half of Harmony in the Home. The next four lessons will focus on gaining God's perspective on raising children. This lesson, entitled "A Child's Place," will look at where children fit into the organizational structure of a family. Remember, the center of the family is the husband/wife relationship. A couple is a family with or without children. For a family to function correctly, God must form the core.

The Correct Family Structure



What are some examples of how families differ in their view of the role of children?
Some think children should be at the center of the family structure rather than God and then the parents. Some parents put their needs before the needs of their children.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

© The Relationship of Children to their Parents

Ephesians 6:1-4

¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²"Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise-- ³"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." ⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

1. How are children to relate to their parents? (vs. 1-2)
With obedience (first time) and honor (which means parents have a higher rank, children are not equal in position to them). Children are to do what they are told and not think of themselves as peers.
2. Why is obedience right for children?
It teaches them submission to authority, protects them and keeps them safe. A disobedient child never functions well nor has a good outcome. Folly (a lack of wisdom) is in their heart if they are not obedient.
3. Why does honoring parents result in living well?
It establishes discipline in relating to any authority structure in life (God, boss, etc.)
4. How are parents to relate to their children?
To train and instruct without exasperating them.
5. How do parents exasperate their children?
By having unreasonable expectations – beyond the child's capacity. Their discipline is too harsh, unfair or inconsistent.
6. What is the reason God gives parents authority over their children?
To train them and keep them from a path of folly. It is for the children's benefit, just as God has authority over us for our benefit.
7. In what way are the parent/child roles designed to work together?
For the parents to be able to train the child, the child must be submitted to the parents' authority. To be responsive to training, the child must respect the parent so the parent needs to be respectable.

Illustration: It is the employee's responsibility to be submitted to authority and respectful towards the employer. The employer's responsibility is to treat the employee well and give quality training. If both fulfill their responsibilities, there is a beneficial result for both of them. If either one of them fails to fulfill their responsibilities well, they both suffer.

◎ The Relationship of Family Structure to the Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1-17

¹And God spoke all these words:

²"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

I ³"You shall have no other gods before me.

II ⁴"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

III ⁷"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

IV ⁸"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates.

¹¹For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

V ¹²"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

VI ¹³"You shall not murder.

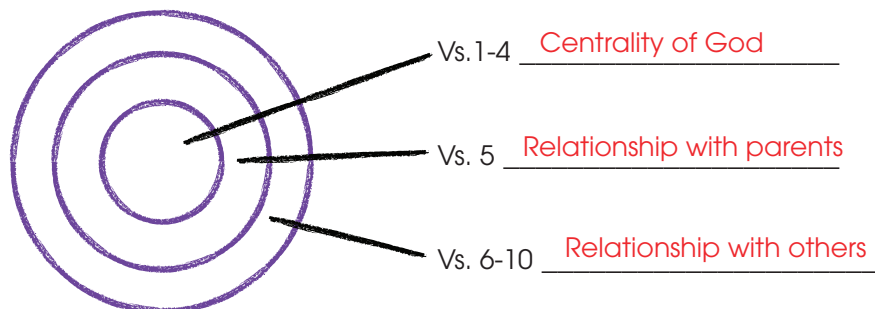
VII ¹⁴"You shall not commit adultery.

VIII ¹⁵"You shall not steal.

IX ¹⁶"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

X ¹⁷"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

How does the correct family structure relate to the 10 Commandments?



THINKING IT THROUGH

1. Below are some examples of poor family structures. What are their effects on the family members?



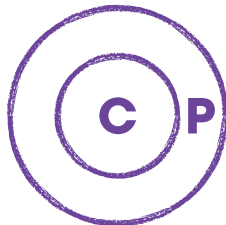
Child-Wedged Family

Play parents off of one another. Child is in the middle of a conflict between the parents.



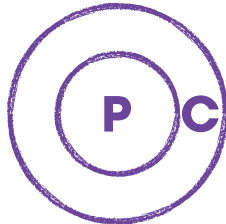
Equal Status Family

Parent and child have equal status – parents engage in bartering and paying for good behavior. Child is making decisions that the child shouldn't be making.



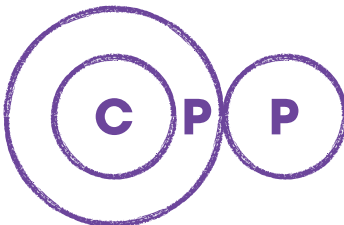
Child-Centered Family

Child gets whatever he or she wants. Parents are permissive. The goal is to please the child and protect the child from poor self-esteem. Makes for a self-absorbed child who thinks life and others should serve him.



Family Without God

Harsh, domineering parents who are not under God's authority or self-centered parents who are more concerned about themselves than their children's welfare. Children are afraid or resentful.



Child-Centered, Isolated Parent Family

Child is in the center of the family placed there by one parent (usually mom) and the other parent is on the outside. Makes for an isolated, resentful parent.

2. Are there any examples of wrong family structure in your home?

3. What are the differences between the husband/wife relationship and the parent/child relationship? (We are looking at a child's place within the family.)

HUSBAND/WIFE	PARENT/CHILD
One flesh relationship which never changes	Changes when child becomes an adult
Equal status	Unequal status
Mutual volition (Both enter this relationship willingly.)	Unilaterally dependent, born into family

4. What happens to a child raised in a child-centered family structure when the child leaves home?
The child expects the world (job, others) will likewise be centered on meeting his needs. The child won't relate well with others and often remains dependent upon the parents.
5. What happens to the parent in a child-centered family structure when the child leaves home?
The family structure now has a big hole in it. The parent is left without purpose.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

© The Evidence of Relating Rightly

Colossians 3:20,21

²⁰Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
²¹Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

1. How do children disrespect their parents?
Glares, wrong tones, rolling eyes, disobedience, rebellion, partial obedience (which is really disobedience). Doing something else that's good, but not what was asked. Demonstrating passive or open defiance or arguing and complaining when given an instruction.
2. What are the most important ways in which children show respect to their parents?
Obedience with a good attitude and quick response. Doing what is right on their own without being told. Giving the parents public honor by behaving well toward others.
3. How do parents embitter their children?
By disciplining out of anger and being irrational, harsh, cold, unforgiving, humiliating the child. Being unreasonable, inconsistent, belittling.
4. How is "embitter" different from "exasperate"?
Continually exasperating the child can lead to the child being embittered.
Embitter - to make someone bitter or aggrieved
Exasperate - to make someone angry or frustrated
5. How can parents best encourage their children in the Lord?
Being a consistent model of growing in Christ. Maintaining a balance of discipline and mercy. Instruction in truth and consistency in discipline.
Doing what is right themselves.
Saying sorry and asking for forgiveness when they have wronged the child.
Not giving into the child.

6

CHILD DISCIPLINE

INTRODUCTION

🕒 Review

The first four lessons examined the husband and wife's relationship and developed the biblical view of marriage as an institution created and designed by God to fulfill the purposes of God. The previous lesson switched the focus to the parent/child relationship by studying the topic of a child's place in the home.

How would you describe God's design for the family?

The core of the family is the husband/wife relationship. Children are a welcomed addition to the family. Parents are to train the children and not exasperate them. Children are to obey the parents.

🕒 Lesson Focus

This lesson will be looking at biblical principles of child discipline.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

Emphasize the progression of this lesson – Why, Who, How, When, Where

🕒 Why Should Parents Discipline Their Children?

Proverbs 19:18

Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.

Proverbs 23:13-14

¹³Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die.
¹⁴Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

Proverbs 22:15

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

Proverbs 29:15

The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

Summarize the scriptural principles:

Proverbs 19:18 & 23:13-14

Without discipline, children will be ruined by their own folly.

Proverbs 22:15

Children are foolish by nature. They have to be corrected.

Proverbs 29:15a

Discipline imparts wisdom, producing right behavior. We discipline to deliver the child from the folly that leads to death and to encourage right behavior which leads to life.

1. What is the biblical view of the nature of a child?

The Bible says that the child is born with a foolish (sin) nature and it is the job of the parents to deal with it so that the child is able to overcome it.

2. How does the biblical view of the nature of the child differ from the ideas of the world?

The world has a Freudian view that children are born pure and it is the environment or their parents who corrupt them. Notice that what the world says is the opposite of what the Bible says.

◎ **Who Are Parents to Discipline?**

Proverbs 29:17

Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.

Summarize the scriptural principle:

We are instructed only to discipline our own children.

What happens if we physically discipline those beyond our authority?

Conflict and resentment arises. At times, we give some of our authority willingly to other agents such as teachers, caregivers, etc. Others, however, do not apply physical discipline.

◎ **How Should Parents Discipline Their Children?**

Proverbs 29:19

A servant cannot be corrected by mere words; though he understands, he will not respond.

James 1:20

For man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

Ephesians 6:4

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Proverbs 13:24

He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

Summarize the scriptural principles:

Proverbs 29:19 Words alone are ineffective in the discipline process.

James 1:20 Anger is an ineffective form of discipline.

Ephesians 6:4 Effective discipline must be fair and reasonable. It must include training and instruction in what is right.

Proverbs 13:24a Effective discipline includes corporal punishment.

Proverbs 13:24b Effective discipline is motivated by and done in love.

How does the biblical view of child discipline differ from the ideas of the world?

The world says that words are sufficient in the discipline process. Corporal punishment is considered to be the equivalent of child abuse.

© When Should Parents Punish Their Children?

Proverbs 15:10

Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the path; he who hates correction will die.
(leaves refers to willingly)

Summarize the scriptural principle:

We should punish our children when volitional defiance occurs. However, sometimes prayer is the most effective response to an evil attitude or irrational acts.

When should wrong behavior receive instruction and when should it receive discipline?

Instruction is appropriate when the behavior is a result of ignorance or an accident versus defiance which necessitates discipline.

© Where Should Parents Discipline Their Children?

Colossians 3:21

Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Summarize the scriptural principle:

We should discipline the child where it doesn't humiliate him/her. Ideally, children should be punished in private rather than public.

THINKING IT THROUGH

1. Keys to Effective Discipline

Explain what the following keys to effective discipline entail.

a. Understand the goal of discipline.

The goal of discipline is to deliver from folly (leading to death) and deliver to right behavior (leading to life). It is not simply to restore the parents' peace.

b. Communicate expectations clearly.

Parents need to instruct and communicate clearly; otherwise there really is no defiance. If a child hasn't been instructed, it is wrong to discipline.

c. Discipline consistently.

Parents need to discipline whenever a violation occurs, before they reach a frustration level.

d. Discipline dispassionately.

Parents should never discipline in anger. Discipline should be viewed as an act of love in the best interest of the child.

e. Discipline appropriately.

Parents should demonstrate fairness in discipline and not be unduly harsh. The punishment should fit the crime.

f. Discipline adequately.

Discipline must be strong enough to bring the child back to the path of wisdom.

g. Discipline in a timely manner.

First-time obedience (listening) and as near as possible to the occurrence of the infraction.

2. How does the parents' discipline of their child affect the child's future relationship to God?
It prepares a child to be submissive to God. A child needs to understand that disobedience to God brings discipline, but it is a loving rather than harsh act. Discipline needs to be seen as a benefit and something to receive because it is for the child's good.



Remember:

Effective discipline is an opportunity to show your children their need for Christ.

3. How does the failure of parents to discipline their children correctly affect social order?
Eventually, the child will display the same lack of respect and obedience to their boss, pastor, future spouse, God, etc. Undisciplined individuals contribute to the breakdown of civilized society.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

◎ The Relationship of the Family to the Nation

Proverbs 29:2-4, 16-18

²When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan. ³A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth. ⁴By justice a king gives a country stability, but one who is greedy for bribes tears it down.

¹⁶When the wicked thrive, so does sin, but the righteous will see their downfall.

¹⁷Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.

¹⁸Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.

What is the relationship of the family to the nation?

The family is the foundational institution in any nation. The direction the family takes will be the direction the nation goes. If the family structure breaks down, the nation will follow. Conversely, strong families strengthen the nation.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

◎ Personal Evaluation

1. Do you as parents agree on the rules for your home?
2. Do you back each other up in front of your children?
Which is worse: unfair discipline or the parents correcting one another in front of the children?
3. Do you have a productive way to discuss your disagreement on discipline?
4. Are you able to help correct each other?

5. Which of the keys to effective discipline do you fail to follow?

- a) Understand the goal of discipline.
- b) Communicate expectations clearly.
- c) Discipline consistently.
- d) Discipline dispassionately.
- e) Discipline appropriately.
- f) Discipline adequately.
- g) Discipline in a timely manner.

Personal Action

Spend time together as a couple discussing and praying about ways you can improve the discipline in your home.

Prayer

Thank God that his way is good and beneficial. Pray that you would truly understand the nature of the child, how that affects child training, and apply appropriate child discipline.

INTRODUCTION

🕒 Review

The first four lessons looked at the meaning of marriage and God's design for the family. Lessons five through eight look at God's design for parents and children.

1. How are parents to relate to their children?

As a gift from God to be trained without exasperating them. Parents are the instructors. Children are not the center of the family, but rather a welcomed addition.

2. How are children to relate to their parents?

Obey and honor their parents.

3. What are the keys to effective child discipline?

Understand the g _____ of discipline. **goal**

Communicate e _____ clearly. **expectations**

Discipline c _____. **consistently**

Discipline d _____. **dispassionately**

Discipline a _____. **appropriately**

Discipline a _____. **adequately**

Discipline in a t _____ m _____. **Timely manner**

🕒 Lesson Focus

This lesson will focus on the training of children. What is the difference between discipline and training?

Child discipline is primarily correction – correcting defiance in order to prepare the child to have a right disposition toward authority. Child training is instructive – helping a child understand what is true and right so that his life will go well.



Remember:

The more effective the training, the less the discipline is needed.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

☉ Who Is Responsible For Teaching Children?

Deuteronomy 6:1-3

¹These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ²so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.

1. Who is responsible for teaching the children? **The parents** Why?
God has given them that responsibility.
2. Who do most people think are responsible for educating the children?
The public school system / classroom teachers.
3. Why do educators often think the idea of parents teaching their own children is foolish?
Because they consider the parents unqualified.

What is wrong with that idea?

If the parents are not qualified, it doesn't seem that the school system is doing a very good job since the parents were trained in the school system. If God has called parents to train their children, then he will equip and enable them to do this job if they are submitted to him and his truth.

☉ What Are Parents To Teach To Their Children?

Psalms 78:1-8

¹O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. ²I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old-- ³what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. ⁴We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. ⁵He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, ⁶so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. ⁷Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. ⁸They would not be like their forefathers-- a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.

1. What are parents to teach their children? (vs. 4-5)
The deeds and statutes of God.
2. What do God's great deeds include?
Creation, miraculous interventions into creation (Jesus' appearance on Earth, His resurrection, etc), redemption and salvation.
3. What are God's statutes?
The commands contained in the Bible (both Old and New Testaments)

© What Are The Possible Outcomes Of An Education?

Deuteronomy 6:3

Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.

Psalm 78:7-8

⁷Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. ⁸They would not be like their forefathers-- a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.

1. What is the result of an inadequate education?

Unfaithful and rebellious toward God.

2. What is the positive result of a good education?

A person's life goes well, and trust in God is maintained.

3. What causes a bad result?

Parents and children who don't know and are not submitted to God and his truth. Parents who don't teach their children God's deeds and statutes.

4. What causes a good result?

Parents and children who know and are submitted to God and his truth. Children who know who God is (deeds) and what he decrees (statutes).

© How Should Parents Teach Their Children?

Isaiah 28:9-10

⁹"Who is it he is trying to teach? To whom is he explaining his message? To children weaned from their milk, to those just taken from the breast?
¹⁰For it is: Do and do, do and do, rule on rule, rule on rule; a little here, a little there."

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

⁶These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.
⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
⁸Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.
⁹Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

How should parents teach their children?

We teach it systematically and in all circumstances. We repeat the truth over and over and make it part of our lives and conversations.

THINKING IT THROUGH

1. What are the school subjects that can be taught under the topics of God’s law and God’s deeds?

GOD’S LAW (God’s Word)	GOD’S DEEDS (God’s Work)
<p style="text-align: center;">Humanities</p> <p>Government / political science Ethics / morality Philosophy Psychology Sociology History Health / hygiene Economics, law, theology, art</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sciences</p> <p>Biology Physics Ecology Chemistry Astronomy Zoology Geology</p>

2. If parents delegate to a school the task of educating their children, what must the parents do to supplement the children’s education?

Lay a foundation of biblical truth. They have to teach their children to submit to and honor God. They have to develop in them a biblical world view and godly character. They must teach them to understand that their purpose in life is to glorify God and how to work as unto the Lord with diligence and perseverance.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

☉ The Result Of A Good Education

Proverbs 1:8-9

⁸ Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.
⁹ They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

Proverbs 2:12

¹² Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse.

Proverbs 3:1-2

¹ My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,
² for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.

What is the result of a good education?

Blessing, honor, discerning right from wrong, longevity and prosperity.



Remember:

A good education is more than learning how to read and write. It involves knowing what to read and write, how to act towards others, and the ability to live life well. It involves learning and obeying God’s way. The ultimate result of good training is seen in Deuteronomy 6:4-5: ⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Who, then, is a person that is truly educated?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

🕒 Personal Evaluation

1. Are you active in your children's education?
How?

2. Are you teaching your children God's law and God's deeds?
How?

3. Are you teaching in a way that builds on itself?
How?

4. Are you using everyday life experiences as a teaching tool?
How?

🕒 Personal Action

It is recommended that as a couple you work through the study *Building Stable Children in Unstable Times: Developing a Biblical Philosophy of Education* to better understand your role as parents in the education of your children. The study is available for download at www.ultimateoutcomes.org

🙏 Prayer

Pray that God would show you ways to improve your children's education so that they would understand more fully God's law and God's deeds.

INTRODUCTION

🕒 **Review - God's Design For Marriage And The Family**

1. What is unique about the marriage relationship?
It is permanent – one flesh; equal status but different roles; marriage is a three-way agreement.
2. What is a key phrase to describe the husband's role?
Servant leader.
3. What is a key phrase to describe the wife's role?
Submissive helper.
4. How is conflict resolved?
By not returning evil for evil, but rather returning evil with good; also, recognizing that your spouse is not the enemy – the wrong thinking they believe is the enemy.
5. What is the correct family structure?
God is at the center; then the parents; then finally the children. Also, a correct family structure is where the parents see themselves as ultimately responsible for the training and discipline of their children with the goal of them having a right disposition toward authority and a love for God.

🕒 **Lesson Focus**

This final lesson will look at the overall process of raising children. Proverbs 22:6 says, *"Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it."*

1. When a child is being trained, whose authority is he under?
His parents' authority.
2. When the child grows up and is no longer under his parents' authority, whose authority is he under?
God's authority.

This lesson is an overall view of the process of taking a child from being under the parents' authority to being under God's authority. The way a child is to go is God's way of truth and wisdom.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

☉ The Purpose of God's Discipline and Training

Deuteronomy 8:1-18

¹Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land that the LORD promised on oath to your forefathers. ²Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. ³He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. ⁵Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and revering him. ⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land--a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; ⁸a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; ⁹a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. ¹⁰When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. ¹²Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, ¹³and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹⁵He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. ¹⁶He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. ¹⁷You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." ¹⁸But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

1. What is God's discipline compared to? (vs. 5)
An earthly father's discipline.
2. What did God do to discipline Israel? (vs. 2a)
Placed them in a desert for 40 years where they were completely dependent on God (just like a child is completely dependent on his parents).
3. What is the reason God disciplined Israel? (vs. 2b, 3, 15)
To demonstrate that God alone is the source of life (both in the present and in the future).
4. How did Israel experience her lesson of complete dependence on God? (vs. 3-4, 15b-16)
By having their only source of food be from God. Their clothes did not wear out nor did their feet swell. God led them through the desert, bringing water out of rock.

5. What did God do with Israel after she learned her lesson? (vs. 6-9)
Brought the nation into the Promised Land.
6. What was God's purpose for his training of Israel? (vs. 16)
Ultimately it was to bless them and to grant them a good life, which would come from living in dependence upon God. The process was first humility, which led them to obedience.
7. How does God's training of Israel parallel the process of child training?
The purpose is that the children, too, would have a good life that comes from recognizing God as the source of all things and understanding their place in the hierarchy of life.

THINKING IT THROUGH

◎ **The Process of Discipline and Training - Sports Analogy**

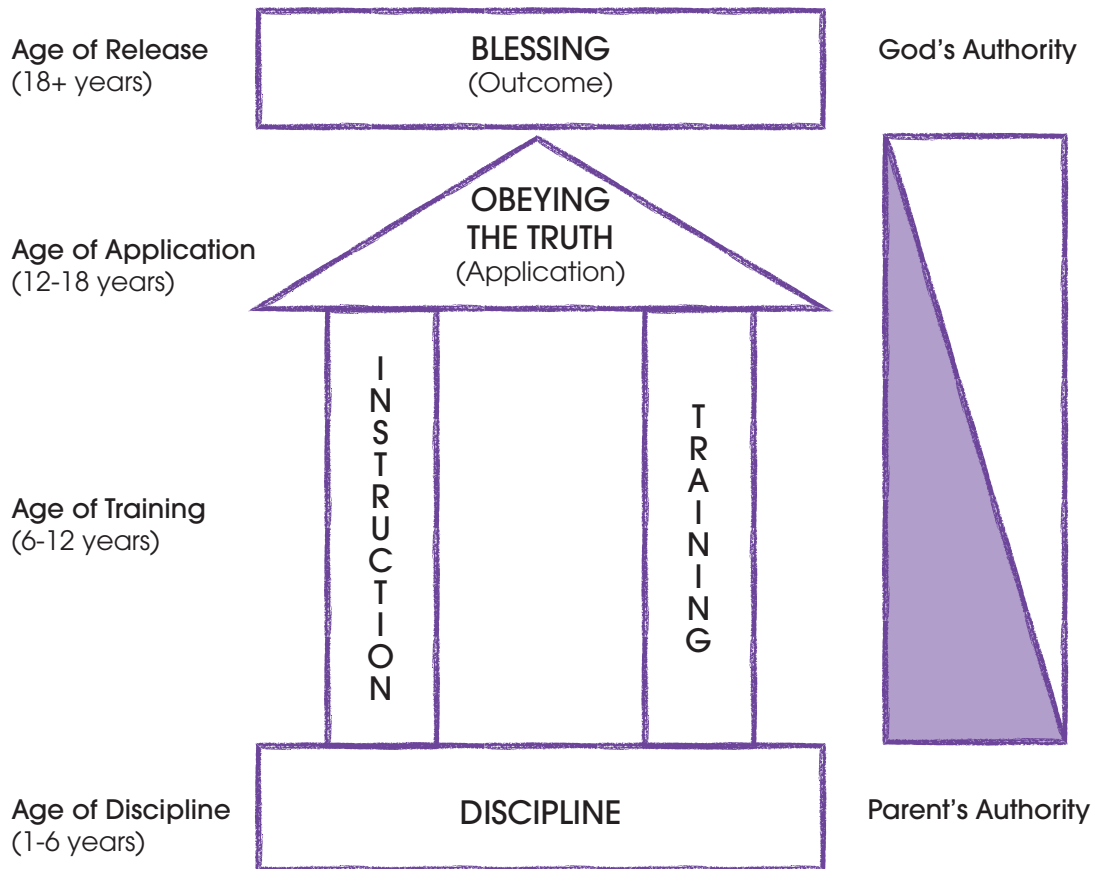
1. When a player joins a team, what is his relationship to the coach?
He places himself under the coach's authority. He subordinates himself to the coach's superior understanding.
2. When a coach wants to develop a team, what does he have to teach first?
Submission to his authority, basic rules and skills of the game.
3. What does a coach work on after the players submit to his authority and understand the basics of the game?
Strategies, the actual playing of the game, improvement of skills, application of rules, teamwork.
4. When do players get to come off the bench and play in a real game?
When the coach decides. When they have sufficient skills and can play the game effectively (put into practice what has been learned).
5. What is the application of the sports illustration in terms of training children?
Children first need to be put under parental authority. They are then taught the basic principles of life and how to apply them under parental guidance. When they are ready and demonstrate ability to make good choices, then they are given more responsibility. Parents send them into the game of life with plenty of practice and good coaching and an ability to apply what they have been taught.

◎ **The Progression of Authority**

There are four elements in training children up in the way they should go: discipline, training, application and release.

1. What is the goal of discipline?
To establish a right disposition toward authority.
2. What is the goal of training?
To teach the right way to live and think.
3. What is the goal of application?
To practice the right way to live and think.
4. What is the goal of release?
To live the right way under God's authority so that life will go well with them.

THE PROGRESSION OF AUTHORITY



CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

🕒 The Importance of Obedience

Deuteronomy 21:18-21

¹⁸If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him, ¹⁹his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. ²⁰They shall say to the elders, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a profligate and a drunkard." ²¹Then all the men of his town shall stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.

1. How important are obedient children to God?
Extremely important – a matter of life and death.
2. Why would a merciful God sanction such a severe punishment for rebellion?
Rebellion is like gangrene – the health and life of the whole culture is at stake. If it takes hold it will spread.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

🕒 Personal Evaluation

1. Why did God give you authority over your children?
2. Can you lead your children to be under God's authority if you are not?
Explain.
3. What are ways you have not placed yourself under God's authority?
4. What happens if you don't establish your authority over your children when they are young?
5. What happens if you try to keep your children under your authority when they are old?

🙏 Prayer

Pray that God will give you insight into ways you have not placed yourself under his authority and ways you can apply the Progression of Authority better in your home.