**The Home as God Would Have it**

**“Home” – one of sweetest words we know!**

**Very much a Bible subject, many texts, has much to do with our salvation.**

**Not eternal (Mt 22:30), but divine. Gen 2:24, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.” Therefore governed by God.**

**Two happiest places on earth: home, church**

**Preparation for Marriage**

**Courtship – not just “have a good time”**

**Not just “how attractive, educated, athletic”**

**Very important questions: Free to marry?**

**Character?? Disposition? Get along?**

**Church? Attitude toward Bible, Christ?**

**Good friends? Communicate? Mature?**

**Leave-cleave? Will he be the head? Will she be in subjection? How treat his/her family?**

 **Work? Responsible? $$$? Contribution?**

**Children? In-laws? Get a complete set!**

**Purposes of Marriage**

**Companionship, Gen. 2:18, “It is not good that man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”**

**Prevent sexual immorality, 1 Cor 7:2-5**

**Have children, Gen. 1:28, “be fruitful …”**

**Gen. 33:5, “And he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, "Who *are* these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant.” Ps. 127:3, “Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD.”**

**Marriage to be Permanent**

**Mt 19:6, "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.“**

**Mt 5:32, “whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.**

**Mt. 19:9, "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for (sexual) immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."**

**“Called an Adulteress”**

**Rom 7:2, “For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to *her* husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of *her* husband.**

**Rom. 7:3, “So then if, while *her* husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress.”**

**Still “bound” to her husband, even though she “marries” another man.**

**Don’t Leave Husband**

**1 Cor 7:10, “But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband.” (separate)**

**1 Cor. 7:11, “But if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to *her* husband.”**

**Not saying, “But if she does it’s o.k. just so she doesn’t marry again.”**

**Is saying: “Don’t make matters even worse.”**

**God Hates Divorce, Mal 2:16**

**"For I hate divorce," says the LORD.”**

**It breaks the vows (covenant). Prov 2:17, “who forsakes the companion of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God.”**

**Mal. 2:14, “she is your companion and your wife by covenant.”**

**Divorce separates what God joins, Mt 19:6.**

**In remarriage most couples commit adultery**

**Destroys defense against fornication.**

**Traumatic for all, especially children.**

**So be Christians, make your marriage work!**

**Husband, Head of Family**

**Eph 5:23, “for the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is head of church.”**

**Director, superintendent, leader, example.**

**Provides needs: material, spiritual, social.**

**Teach, train, discipline, protect his children.**

**Love wife as Christ loves the church.**

**Love wife as he loves himself. Eph 5:28,29, “So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it.”**

**Must express love in actions, but also in word.**

**Prov 31:28, “her husband .. praises her.”**

**Never cruel, Col. 3:19, “Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.”**

**Come from work angry and frustrated … take it out on his wife.**

**Cruel words. Prov. 12:18, “There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword.”**

**Prov. 18:21, “Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue.”**

**“We argue, make up”! Leaves terrible scars.**

**Be considerate …**

**1 Pet 3:7, “Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”**

**Be thoughtful, understanding.**

**Fussing and arguing will stop all praying (and attending services).**

**Many souls lost because of domestic quarrels.**

**Wife Subject to Husband**

**Created to be his companion, helper**

**As to salvation, equal, Gal. 3:28, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”**

**But divine order, 1 Cor. 11:3, “the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman *is* man, and the head of Christ *is* God.”**

**Subjection not inferiority, Heb 13:17, sub-jection to elders; Rom 13:1, to government.**

**Not just resisting husband. Resisting God!**

**Subject even though her husband not Christian. 1 Pet 3:1-4, “Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. Your adornment must not be *merely* external -- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; rather *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible *beauty* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”**

**Extremely important role**

**1 Tim 2:15, “will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.”**

**1 Tim. 5:14, “I desire that *the* younger *widows* marry, bear children, manage the house.” Make it a castle, paradise, refuge.**

**Titus 2:5, “to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.”**

**Great evangelist Timothy! But 2 Tim 1:5;3:15**

**Role of parents, Eph 6:4**

**Example: in home … in church (attendance, participation, wholesome attitude)… in work**

**Principal teachers. Deut. 6:6, 7, “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”**

**UNLESS they’re on the phone or Internet, watching TV, listening to stereo, playing, doing homework.**

**Teach them effectively**

**Josh 4:6, “that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones *mean* to you?” Why such apostasy? Judges 2:10.**

**“I taught them”? Effectively? With ample knowledge, conviction, enthusiasm?**

**Consistently? Takes time, self-discipline.**

**Bible stories (with the lessons) produce faith, love, courage, but must be repeated.**

**Children should participate… let them tell the Bible stories, put them in the role of “teacher” to commit themselves.**

**Not Provoke… Discipline Wisely**

**Provoke? Abusive, unfair, partial, ignore, inconsistent or neglect, Prov 29:15, “left”**

**Do the teaching we should, be good to them, praise every obedience and there’ll be little need for corporal punishment.**

**Just so they obey! Must learn obedience.**

**Never outgrow Bible wisdom: Prov. 13:24, “He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.”**

**Parents must be united in discipline.**

**Conclusion**

**Ps 127:1, “Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it.”**

**Have solid Scriptural marriage … Each faithful in his/her role, “til death separates.”**

**God hates divorce – very destructive.**

**Husband – head, director, provider.**

**Wife – in subjection, identify with husband**

**Parents – love, teach, discipline, give LOTS of TIME to this. It’s time well spent.**

**A good home is a foretaste of heaven!!**