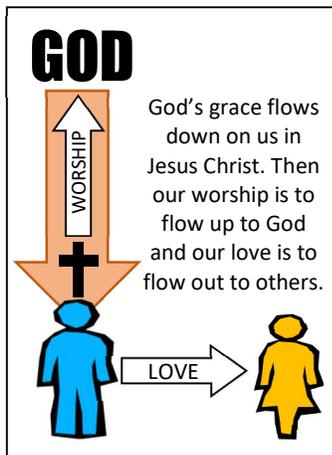




Lesson 6

FAMILY: BUILDING UP THE HOME

Christianity isn't that complicated, neither is Judaism. It just says: love God, love others. If you love God, you'll do what He says. If you love others, you'll do what they need, that's all. That's life for us. That's the whole thing. Because Matthew 22:40 sums it up. "On these two commandments"—like two nails, two pegs—"hang all the law and the prophets." Everything else God said in the Old Testament hangs on those two things. If you just love God with all your being and love everybody as you love yourself, you don't need any more rules. That's it. You don't need any more—everything else is just a definition of that. Everything else is just an explanation of that. —John MacArthur, Jr.



The God-Centered Life is a life of loving God and loving my neighbor as myself (Matt. 22:36-40). Practically speaking, I cannot love everyone in the world but I can love those who are “near to me,” those whose lives intersect with my own, those I interact with every day and those I happen to encounter in a day (Luke 10:25-37). Of particular priority in my “neighborhood” is my physical family.

THE PRIORITY OF MARRIAGE & THE FAMILY

1. Marriage is the first human relationship blessed and instituted by God. Thus, it is _____ to the functioning of all other relationships in society (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25).
2. Marriage is designed to reflect the relationship of _____ and the _____ (Ephesians 5:22-33; cf. Hosea 2:14-23).
3. A godly marriage, with a loving father and mother, is the best environment for raising godly _____ (Malachi 2:15).
4. Church leaders are to be selected based on the health of their marriage (*one-woman man*, 1 Timothy 3:2, 12) and their leadership in the _____ (1 Timothy 3:4-5; Titus 1:6).
5. To neglect one's family is to lose one's _____ as a believer (1 Timothy 5:8).
6. God closes His ear to the husband who _____ his wife and neglects his family (Malachi 2:13-16; 1 Peter 3:7).

One of the central ironies of American life today is this: faith and family life have hit record lows even as the science continues to mount telling us how much they matter for the welfare of men, women, and children.

—W. Bradford Wilcox

If the family is not preserved, all of society will collapse; it is inevitable. The family is the basic unit of human society. When it crumbles, everything will come crashing down with it.

—John MacArthur, Jr.

Nearly the entire decline of Christianity in America since 1960 can be explained by the collapse in marital and relationship health.

—John Van Epp & J.P. DeGance

What you do in your house is worth as much as if you did it up in heaven for our Lord God.

—Martin Luther

No service of God is of any value which is contradicted by the life at home. —G. Campbell Morgan

Home is a mighty test of character. What you are at home you are everywhere, whether you demonstrate it or not.

—T. DeWitt Talmage

- 7. The primary environment to display the God-centered, Christ-like, Spirit-filled life is in the home (Eph. 5:18-6:4; Col. 3:17-21; Titus 2).

THE PROBLEM WITH MARRIAGE & THE FAMILY

- Every marriage and family is impacted by _____ (Gen. 3:12, 16).
- Every person carries both _____ and _____ from the dysfunction of their family (cf. Exodus 34:7).
- Since marriage and the family are a reflection of God’s image and the Christ-church relationship, _____ hates it and he has designed a world system to destroy it (cf. Eph. 6:10-18; 1 Jn. 2:16).

THE PROTECTION OF MARRIAGE & THE FAMILY

- _____ to the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
- _____ to one another (Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5).
Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church. Wives, respect and support the leadership of your husband. Children, honor and obey your parents. Fathers, lead the home with love and don’t provoke your children to anger. Mothers, nurture your children in the love of the Lord.
- _____ out those who are struggling in a difficult family or those without a family in our church and our community.
- _____ out for the priority and preservation of marriage, family, and children in our culture.

Walking the God-Centered Path This Week

- *For those who are married...*write a note of encouragement to your spouse. Make a commitment to strengthen your marriage.
- *For those with children...*take time this week to speak a blessing to each of your children.
- *For those who are single, divorced, or widowed...*rejoice in Christ’s love, seek out a family that you can help or bless, and strengthen your relationship with your spiritual family in the body of Christ.
- Complete the Lesson 7 study on *Church: Connecting to the Body*.

New life begins in the home. One can do heroic battle in the public arena but lose the war in the privacy of the home.

—David E. Garland

I am my biggest marriage problem - it’s me. Without a doubt, you will be sinned against in your marriage, but you still bring your own sin into the conflict.

—Paul David Tripp

Marriage is the union of two people who arrive at the altar toting some surprisingly large luggage. Often it gets opened right there on the honeymoon, sometimes it waits for the weeks after. The Bible calls it sin.

—Dave Harvey

Submit. Greek, *hupotasso*, “to arrange under,” used of troops under the command of a leader.

Every obedient, Spirit-filled Christian is a submitting Christian.

—John MacArthur, Jr.

Agape love is to subordinate one’s own interests, pleasures, and personality for the benefit of someone else. —Arthur Patzia

Pay attention to love’s high standard. If you take the premise that your wife should submit to you, as the church submits to Christ, then you should also take the same kind of careful, sacrificial thought for her that Christ takes for the church. Even if you must offer your own life for her, you must not refuse. Even if you must be cut into pieces ten thousand times and have all kinds of things to endure and suffer, you must not refuse.

—Chrysostom (AD 347-407)