

The Home as God Would Have it (2)

Solving Family Problems

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Introduction: To achieve any worthy goal you must overcome significant problems.

- A. There is no greater goal than to help and lead our family members to heaven.
 - 1. The development of the character and faith of an individual is a goal that any honest person would find themselves wanting. (**Judges 13:8**)
 - 2. As I raise my children I often think of the challenges I presented to my parents.
 - 3. There will be no greater reward for me than to give my family and myself to the Lord for eternity! (**1 Sam 1:11**)
- B. Many think that if you “marry the right person” then there will be no problems.
 - 1. You can make a wreck of your home at the start by marrying one who is not a Christian. Can you seriously have heaven as your first goal and do this? (**1 Cor 9:5**)
 - 2. Will Christians face problems? Of course, but they have a God that will help them together. You can seek God’s way regardless of what your mate may do.
 - 3. If you want to build a biblical faith in others you must constantly be seeking God’s ways that will lead you to difficult paths when confronting problems. (**Heb 11:24-27**)
 - 4. A biblical faith in us is defined by how we solve our problems!

I. The Lord Places the Responsibility upon the Man

- A. How should a husband be head of his home? (**1 Cor 11:3; Eph 5:23**)
 - 1. He must make understanding a priority. (**1 Pt 3:7**)
 - 2. As a husband I put my wife’s needs before mine. If she is unhappy and hurting I look and examine the kind of head that I am.
 - 3. It is easy to ignore a problem and even find reasons to stay away. Too many churches and homes have these kinds of “men.”
- B. What some men call headship, Christ has never put a woman under.
 - 1. One cannot submit to one who wants them to disobey God. (Ex. Study with lady whose husband wanted her to attend his denomination.) (**Acts 4:17-20; 5:28-29**)
 - 2. A man who is a harsh head will be judged. (**Eph 6:5, 9; Col 4:1**)
 - a. Even with a harsh head submission is not removed. (**1 Pt 2:18**)
 - b. Woe to the man who treats his wife with condescension and contempt.
 - 3. If a man allows his own parents to be head of his home, he is a coward.

II. There must be a willingness to learn and change

- A. One who is truly a Christian should understand the need to have an open heart and to seek the Lord’s way. (**Lk 2:34-35; Heb 4:12-13**)
 - 1. It takes real faith to open your heart to learn with a desire to change.
 - 2. Did you exhibit these qualities while dating? What has changed?
- B. There must be a strong seeking after God’s wisdom. (**Prov 1:7; 24:3-6**)
 - 1. Lazy and foolish people will rely on “instinct” and what they learned from their parents.
 - 2. We along with every member of our family are different and we are constantly

changing. We ought to be humbled greatly to ask help of God. (**James 1:5-7**)

3. When God is the focus of our wisdom, then we can escape the pressures placed upon us from our family to give them what they want.

III. Some common family problems to be solved

A. Fighting and fussing in the home. (Eph 6:4**)**

1. I have sadly known of many families that accept as normal “outbursts of wrath”, grudge holding (hatred), and open fighting. (**1 Jn 3:15; Gal 5:19-21**)
2. How can you beat this problem? What does God’s wisdom teach?
3. Stop the fighting and talk it out. (**James 1:19-20**)
4. Learn how you are communicating! (**Prov 15:1**)
 - a. **Content of words** - 7%
 - b. **The tone of voice** - 38%
 - c. **Non-verbal, body language** - 55%
 - d. How often do people seethe with anger, but then try to deny it?

B. Depression and gloominess of a member of the home. (Psa 142:1-4**)**

1. Many depression issues go back to the home. It can be a form of buried anger!
2. When depression is ignored, it gets worse.
3. Consider some indications of chronic depression.
 - a. An unreal view of the world and people. They have their own reality.
 - b. They become ego centered. All things are viewed by how it relates to them.
 - c. There is a strong desire to withdraw.
 - d. There is a strong desire for escape. (Eating, shopping, drugs, alcohol, “binges”, spending all spare time on recreation)
 - e. There are physical changes.
 - f. There can be thoughts of suicide.
4. When this problem is ignored, then it becomes likely that the children will learn this angry approach to life! (“I will not be like my mother!”) (**Prov 22:24-25**)
5. The depressed person can be very manipulative and deceptive. Many depressed mates actually run the home! (Ex. Liberalism’s appeal)
6. It can be very difficult for the depressed one to genuinely seek help. Intervention is a real challenge.

C. Problems with the children. (Prov 22:6**)**

1. How can we mold our children to be like God?
2. We must be listening and involved. God will help us if we ask.

D. Money problems. (1 Tim 6:6-9**)**

Conclusion: How are you facing and solving your problems?