

Building a Biblical Faith
Lesson 6 – Let Faith Build Your Home
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Introduction: We face a momentous task with the greatest consequences at stake when we begin to build our homes.

A. God has designed us as social creatures that need years of training and care in the home. This is the job of building people! **(Deut 6:4-8)**

1. What is the difference between a godly home and a home when there is no effort to train and teach?
2. It is the difference between humans and beasts. What did the breakdown of the home do for the Roman culture? **(Rom 1:29-32)**

B. Those who have good homes are the ones most likely to believe in God. **(Eph 6:4)**

1. God calls Himself our Father! What if one had a bad home?
2. I have a book called “The Atheist Syndrome” that brings these truths out regarding famous atheists.
3. When you learn more about the works of the flesh, homosexuality and other enslaving sins, you come to see what a great advantage one has when they are “put together” well in a godly home.
4. You will never regret the time and effort you spend in building your home.

I. Building a home requires the same kind of commitment as of going to war.

A. Those who study history know that war is not a casual issue. What happens to the loser?

1. The Christian life requires this kind of faith. **(Lk 14:28-33)**
2. How many wars have been lost because of overconfidence and under commitment?
3. What can the worldly person expect of their marriage? Consider the current statistics. Do those in churches of Christ do better than the world?
4. What makes the difference between the world and the Christian in these areas? **(1 Jn 5:4-5)**

B. We have to completely commit to God’s wisdom.

1. Many nations have studied war and built great armies and lost it all. Why does this happen? **(Isa 34:1-2; 40:15-17)**
2. What did David know about winning a war? **(1 Sam 17:45-47; Psa 44:6-7)**
3. Think of as many occasions where God gave instructions that led to great victories that to the worldly made no sense.
4. This is one of the greatest issues we will face! Will we really trust God?
5. If you are not committed to God and taught His ways, then you will succumb to the deception of Satan.
 - a. Consider the temptation God allowed King Saul to experience. Why did Saul do what he did? Was it reasonable? **(1 Sam 13:5-12)**
 - b. Make a list of the ways we will be tested in the home.

II. How we start our homes is crucial

A. Did Abraham have any concerns over who Isaac married? **(Gen 24:1-4)**

1. Who did Abraham trust to find a wife for Isaac? (**Gen 24:6-9**)
 2. What steps were taken to find him a wife? (**Gen 24:12-14**)
 3. What can we learn from these examples about what both the parent and the child can do to find a godly mate?
- B. Does God's Law permit this one to marry? (**Mt 19:9**)
1. Those who may many fall into three groups.
 - a. Those who have never married.
 - b. Those whose mate has died.
 - c. Those who have put away their mate for the cause of fornication.
 2. It is extremely foolish to date or keep close company with someone who is not eligible for marriage.
 3. How many times have I heard "We are just friends" turn into something more.
- C. Is this person a Christian?
1. Can anyone deny the strength in two faithful Christians serving God? (**Luke 1:6**)
 2. Paul did not think in terms of marrying anyone else. (**1 Cor 9:5**)
 3. A marriage between a Christian and a non-Christian is regulated by the word of God and therefore is acceptable. (**1 Pet 3:1-2. 7**)
 4. What will happen in the majority of cases?
 - a. See enclosed article on mixed marriages.
 - b. See enclosed article "Young Lady, Many a Christian" by Bill Hall.
 - c. If you are planning to marry a non-Christian please do these things.
 - i. Talk with several Christians who married non-Christians and find out what can happen.
 - ii. Give this as much time as you can. Marriage is forever!
 - iii. The rule of wisdom to follow: "Make all necessary changes before marriage.

III. How to Find a Mate.

- A. Be the kind of person that you want to marry. (**Ruth 3:11**)
1. Your reputation will limit the number of those who will ask you out. This is good!
 2. Far too many enter the dating relationship as a parent. They think they will "mother" this person to the point he becomes of good character. This is a mistake!
- B. Go to places where good companions can be found.
1. Parents! **There** is much you can do here. Do you open your homes to Christian young people?
 2. I have known of Christians who went to bars to find a date!
- C. Pray to God. (**Matt 6:33**)
1. We may have to wait.
 2. If we never marry, then so be it. I want to go to heaven.
 3. God knows our needs and will respond to our faith in Him.

Conclusion: Are you a faithful Christian? (**Heb 11:6**)

MIXED MARRIAGES

Bobby Key, who has preached for the church in Miami, Oklahoma for 20 years, has compiled some interesting facts on marriage. We have long stressed the importance of Christians marrying Christians, and this information shows how important it really is.

“143 Christian young people in the Miami congregation have married during the past 20 years. Seventy-nine married non-Christians; of these 57 left the church with 25 being divorced. Twenty-two are still faithful and 14 have converted their mates. Sixty-four married Christians, and of these, 59 are still faithful to the Lord. Two marriages ended in divorce.”

Young people, take another look at these facts, and be impressed with the fact that your chances of being faithful as a Christian, and your chances of making your marriage a successful one, are greatly increased when you marry a Christian. So, look again:

CHRISTIANS MARRIED TO NON-CHRISTIANS

79 - Total
57 - Left the church
22 - Faithful as Christians
14 - Converted their mates
25 - Divorces

CHRISTIANS MARRIED TO CHRISTIANS

64 - Total
5 - Left the church
59 - Faithful as Christians
2 - Divorced

These facts speak loudly. In the words of brother Key, “Let us continue to stress the importance of Christians dating and marrying those of like precious faith. It is hard enough to live the Christian life when both husband and wife are trying to serve the Lord; however, it becomes increasingly difficult when one is trying to pull the whole load”.

YOUNG LADY, MARRY A CHRISTIAN!

BILL HALL

Before any young lady marries a non-Christian, she should consider the following problems which so often face the Christian in a mixed marriage.

1. Problems in attending services. She should ask herself, “What will I do when my husband some Lord’s Day drives away in the car at 9:15, leaving me with no transportation to the service?” “What will I do when my husband announces that his company is moving us to some distant community where no church of the Lord meets?” The husband may not be as cooperative as the young lady thought he would be.

2. Problems in giving. The young lady recognizes that if they are to reap bountifully, they must sow bountifully. She loves the Lord and His work, and wants to give liberally in support of it. Her husband, however, does not share her convictions and interest. He feels that a dollar is plenty to give.

3. Problems in training children. Yes, some have succeeded in bringing up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord without the help of their companions. Eunice succeeded with Timothy. Other good women have succeeded. But the influence of a father is great, and many are the women who have not been able to overcome this influence to see their children become Christians.

4. Problems in overcoming the influence of one's companion. Marrying with the hopes of reforming one's companion is a dangerous thing. Often the companion is lifted to a higher standard, but seldom to the standard of a Christian. Instead, as the non-Christian's standards are raised, the Christian's standards are lowered, so that the two meet somewhere in between. The young lady should realize that the man whom she marries will be the greatest earthly influence on her life, and she should ask herself, "Will this man help me to go to heaven?"

5. Emotional problems. The problems faced in life are great, but the emotional problems faced in death may be greater. Recently a godly woman, having just received word of her husband's death in an automobile accident, cried, "Why couldn't it have been me or one of the children, for my husband was not ready to die?"

The young person reading this is probably thinking, however, that she will convert her husband. She may be able to do so, but statistics show that her chances really are not very good. For every one who has been successful in converting her husband, there are several who not only failed in converting their husbands, but were influenced by them to return to the mire of sin and to enter the ranks of the unfaithful.

No, the risk is too great. The only safe course is for Christians to marry Christians.