



Strong Homes Support Strong Churches

James Coffman – Commentator (quoting James M. Gillis)

“The family is the nucleus of all society. You can have no prosperous state unless the family is healthy. You can have no effective church unless the family is sound ... The family is the organic cell from which all human societies are constructed.”

Strong Homes Support Strong Churches

So if families are in disarray, full of strife and conflict ... members of those families will have a difficult time:

- Spurring their brethren on toward love and good works (**Hebrews 10:24** p1007)
- Involving themselves with any degree of zeal in works of ministry (**Ephesians 4:12** p977)
- And it will inevitably have a negative impact on their ability to give God worship that pleases Him (**John 4:24** p889)

We may try to compartmentalize our lives ...
home life separate from work life, separate from church/
spiritual life ... ultimately, it can't be done, and shouldn't.



The Bible is clear when it comes to our spiritual life, as it is to permeate all aspects of life.

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:1-4 (p984)

CHRIST MUST FILL OUR HOME

Translation: **ESV**
Unless Otherwise Noted

Christ Must FILL Our Home

Our Home's Foundation



- It's good to desire that God bless our home
- But for Christ to just be a guest? ... eventually guests leave

Plaques like this one really don't go far enough

Psalm 127:1 (p518) **"Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."**

- Consider: Whatever we choose to 'build' in life ... if we do so without God AS the builder, it will be useless.
- God needs to be the BUILDER of our homes (authority!).

Christ Must FILL Our Home

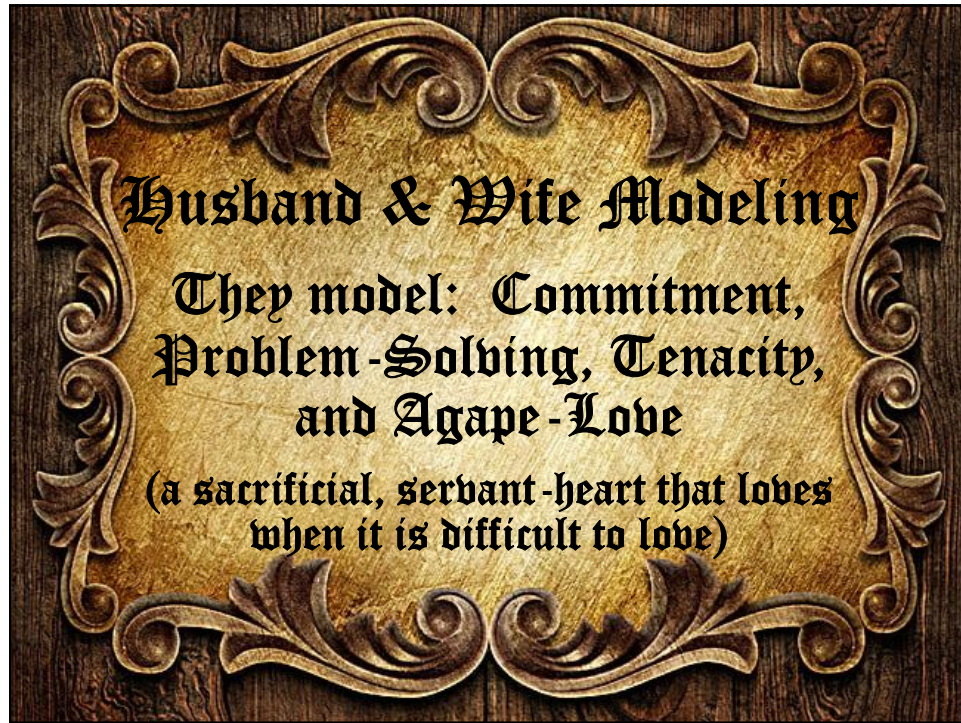
Our Home's Building Supplies

1 ... The Marriage Covenant

- Our world forgets this but marriage is GOD'S INVENTION.
(**Genesis 2:18, 24** p2) ... man and woman; one flesh
- And it is a covenant/vow to remain as one flesh until death
(**1 Corinthians 7:39** p956)
 - Vows are serious; it is a pledge made in the presence of God. These were taken seriously in the Bible (**Judges 11:30-40** p212).
 - In the case of Jephthah, an innocent girl was offered to God as a sacrifice because a vow was made and couldn't be taken back.

Matthew 19:6 (p824) **"What therefore God has joined together, LET NOT man separate."**

- The home, the family, is *held together* by this precious covenant that involves God joining the man/woman together.
- And the rest of the home/family is built upon this covenant the husband and wife make with each other.



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2 ... Husband/Wife Roles In The Home

- In the world, this is a controversial subject, but God has spoken on what he wants the roles to look like
- The husband is to be the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church (**Ephesians 5:23** p978).
- This is not a license for husbands to act like dictators; in fact they are to exude servant leadership motivated by sacrificial agape-love (**Ephesians 5:25** p979).
- The wife is to be submissive to her own husband, as to the Lord (**Ephesians 5:22** p978).



Interestingly, while both roles are different, there is a commonality – both are key characteristics of Christ: **his sacrificial love + his submissiveness**

- Both of these qualities are concerned about others before self; both qualities manifest themselves in *serving*. There is *no selfishness* in these roles.

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3 ... Parents to Children

- Parents receive both a precious gift and a tremendous responsibility when they bring forth children into the family.

Psalm 127:3-5 (p518) **“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!”**

- ‘heritage’ = inheritance/gift; the idea: we are to thank the Lord for any offspring we receive; it’s a gift from Him
- And since their origin is from God, with such a great gift comes great responsibility

a. Discipline ... for wise, mature living

Proverbs 22:15 (p544) **“Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.”**

- Discipline of a child has a noble, godly end-result in mind; it will help the child resist the evils of the world later in life

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A word of warning ...



There is a big difference between **discipline** and **abuse**. If a penalty is administered as a means to vent frustration and anger, run the risk of abuse.

- Discipline is administered with control and sound mind, with the blessings of what discipline brings to a child in view.
- **Prior to the penalty:** tell the child why the discipline is taking place (have a conversation); **Suggestion:** pray before you administer discipline.

b. Training the child in the Lord

Isalah 54:13 (p615) **“All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.”**

- Parents are mandated by the Lord to pass on the teaching of God to their children, coming with great blessing ... peace
- This is the reward for those who trust God (**Isalah 26:3-4** p586)

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b. Training the child in the Lord (cont'd)

Ephesians 6:4 (p979) **“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”**

- Both discipline and training are highlighted here, and since fathers are the head, they need to show leadership in these areas.

➤ From this verse we see that parents are to be self-controlled, patient, but firm, educators in the Word with their children



To The Parents: Have you allotted time during the day to provide instruction from the Scriptures to your offspring?

Also: Do you talk Bible (in general) in your home?
... as part of regular conversation around family?

Remember: Christ Is To Be “Our Life” (Col 3:4)

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And Consider The Example In Deut 6:4-9 (p151)

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4 ... Children to Parents

Ephesians 6:1-2 (p979) “**Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother.’**”

- The young ones may not realize this, but God has placed the protection of children within his Word.
- In **verse 4** we had read fathers shouldn’t provoke their kids to wrath. God also doesn’t want them discouraged (**Col 3:21** p984).
- Also here, obedience to parents is ‘**in the Lord.**’ This is the Lord’s will that they be obedient, but this phrase also conveys the idea that if a parent demands something that is clearly wrong in God’s sight, a child may refuse on that basis.



Having said all this, children are to respect their parents and submit themselves to the will of their parents. This pleases the Lord.

- Consider how God feels about a rebellious child:
Deuteronomy 21:18-21 (p163-4).

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5 ... Home Filled With Fruit

Galatians 5:22-23 (p975) “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

- **Consider The Source:** this fruit is divine, characteristic of God himself. If Christ fills our home, these traits will be characteristic of our home.
- We might consider using these two verses as a metric for how Christ-filled our home is.

6 ... Home Filled With Praise/Thanksgiving

1 Chro 16:34 (p347) “give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.”

Psalms 103:1 (p502) “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!” - to be given as a family!

- When God is mentioned, is he referred to reverently/respect as one would give a king. Is prayer characteristic of home?



Christ Must FILL Our Home

Conclusion

You may find this lesson has HIT HOME ...

Maybe if we hit our home enough ... do some significant renovation to it ... we will steadily bring more of Christ into it ... TO FILL IT.

Psalm 127:1 (p518) **“Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”**



A popular song the little ones like to sing is:
“The wise man built his house upon the Rock.”
(**Matthew 7:24-27** p812)

- Context (**v24**): **“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like ...”**

Understand That The House God Builds Will Have People Within It Who HEAR And DO His Divine Will

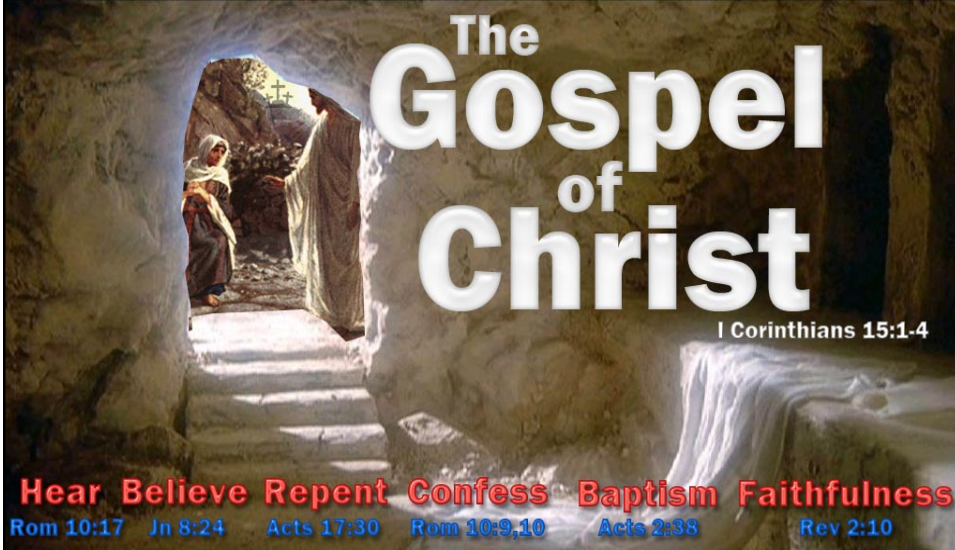
Joshua 24:15 (p198) **“As for me and my house ...”**

May God Help Us Build ...

Christ-Centred Homes



RESPOND TODAY!



The Gospel of Christ

I Corinthians 15:1-4

Hear Believe Repent Confess Baptism Faithfulness

Rom 10:17 Jn 8:24 Acts 17:30 Rom 10:9,10 Acts 2:38 Rev 2:10