

THE CHRISTIAN'S POSITION AND AUTHORITY IN THE HOME

I. Principles of a Successful and Happy Marriage.

1. "Whosoever findeth a wife findeth a good thing and obtaineth favour of the Lord."
2. God's Word tells us how to have a happy marriage, love marriage, and a successful marriage.
3. It is not good that a man should dwell alone. Therefore a woman was made to be an assistance and help to the man. Gen. 2:18
4. Marriage is honorable in all and the bed undefiled and whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. Heb. 13:4
5. God made the kind of man who needed a wife. It was God who brought the Woman to Adam. God seems to be vitally interested in bringing the woman to to the man.
6. God planned marriage in the Garden; therefore, marriage is of the highest importance in the economy of God.
7. Christ endorsed marriage. "Have ye not read that God made them at the beginning male and female. For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife." Matt. 19:6
8. Home is the oldest institution. Church and governments are subsequent.

II. Why Should People Marry?

1. Mankind needs fellowship. Fellowship is the very inherent desire of God; man therefore, created after His image, has also that same incompleteness without it. "Truly our fellowship is with the Father and the Son." This seems to be the reason for our creation. God's relationship to man is likened unto the husband and wife relationship.
2. Marriage completes the biological structure of man. God has created the sex capacities. These urges are holy, normal and incorporated within the planned home structure. Satan has made this a real lewd, immoral and un-Godly. The entire biological structure is so instituted that God discusses it in detail without any evidence of shame and He would have the Church also present the entire subject as detailed as our Holy God presents it in His Book.

"Nevertheless to avoid fornication let every man have his own wife and every woman have her own husband." I Cor. 7:2 "The husband should give his wife her conjugal benefits which are due her (or that which is coming to her), likewise the wife should give to her husband that which is coming to him which is of benefit." Neither one or the other should refuse to give to one another these benefits except by mutual agreement for prayer purposes. This biological structure is so designed that marriage has incorporated this area as a very important part of the Marriage and Home Institution.

3. Children ought to be a very important phase of the Home structure. One of the first statements from God to Adam and Eve was to "Be fruitful and multiply." Children do not increase misery and heartache. In the nature of man are capacities that are never released until man has a family.

Man and wife enter into a Miracle of Mystery when God declares, "Likewise ye husbands dwell with them according to knowledge giving honour unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel as being HEIRS together of the GRACE OF LIFE." I Peter 3:7 God is in essence saying that He is letting us join with Him in bringing into existence an immortal soul and the directing of that soul into the EVERLASTING KINGDOM.

4. People ought to marry because they are in love. Marriage is the most intimate human relationship. Even mother and child relationship is not as intimate as the husband-wife relationship. This relationship is the only relationship likened unto God's relationship with man.

They were both naked yet God communed with them during the cool of the day. Neither of them were ashamed. We are open and bared before God and He is open before us without any reservation.

5. Christian people ought to marry only Christians. Nothing is more important on the subject of marriage. Duties of marriage are centered around Christian character and performances. No one can be his or her best in the realm of being a husband or wife unless he is a Christian. A person that is not willing to follow God is definitely not the best material for a husband or a wife. Such certainly cannot be a good mother or father if they refuse to be lovers of God. There will be a clash of will and purpose if both are not following Christ.

Marriages between saved and unsaved have very seldom experienced transformation. Devotion to a wife or husband is not strong enough to fulfill promises made. Devotion to God is imperative to bring about a performance of devotion to one another. "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers - for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness. What concord (what coming together is there) hath Christ with Belial?" Saved and unsaved cannot find real fellowship together. Fellowship is not built on the biological structure.

I Peter 3:7, "We are heirs together of the Grace of Life." Little ones are entrusted so that they might be directed into the Kingdom. Even if both are Christians the assignment is great when it comes to molding a little life for Jesus Christ. Marriage of the saved and unsaved should not be sanctioned by the Church and should not in any wise be performed. Solomon brought up the daughter of Pharaoh out of the City of David unto the house he had built for her for he said, "My wife shall not dwell in the house of David because the place is holy." How foolish for a man to marry one not fit for God's presence. This helped to bring about a separation among the people of God. Judah and Israel were one in the beginning, but they had to separate, and they began to fight one another. God said, "Ye shall not go in unto them for surely they shall turn your heart after other gods." Solomon violated with His eyes wide open, bringing shame, disgrace and defeat unto himself and also the people of God.

6. Christians should have the leading of the Lord in their marriage plans. John 8:12, "He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the Light of Life." Light is suggestive of direction, sight, information, leading for the pathway of life itself. No light is given apart from the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the light of the World.

Successful marriage must then be based upon heart agreement. "They twain shall be one." Protestants and Catholic, Jews, Jehovah-Witnesses, Christian Scientists, Unitarians, or any other religion that does not have concord (agreement) is forbidden by the Lord. "How can two walk together unless they agree." Amos 3:3 God on no grounds inspires one to love another unless this love is operating within the bounds of God's Word. This love of which we speak is in relationship to marriage. Physical magnetism is often misunderstood for the real love that is God ordained, which is the only love that will bring about a real happy, successful marriage.

About 4,000 negro boys married white women in England during the war. One in the flesh, one in desire, one in practice, one in dislikes and likes, one in New Birth, one in Water Baptism, one in Separation, one in Church selection, attendance and instruction, one in family altar, one in home instruction which demands complete unity on the part of mother and father. Husband's and wife's position must be definite, and mother's and father's position must be clear, ringing out a single note -- not many notes which will bring only confusion to the children. Differences of opinion, prejudices, traditions that conflict, and convictions that are in variance one to the other will bring about and gender strife, injury and thwarting of God's plan and objectivity.

MAN, GOD'S DEPUTY AS HEAD OF THE HOME.

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord," Joshua 24:15

"For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man," I Cor. 11:7.

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Saviour of the body," Ephesians 5:23.

God is always referred to as masculine. Jesus is referred to as the Man, Christ Jesus. He is entitled Bridegroom, Prophet and King which are all masculine gender.

Man is the IMAGE OF GOD. Image means replica, likeness, picture, copy, portrayal, reflection.

Man is the GLORY OF GOD. Glory means supremacy, authority or headship.

Man has responsibilities that a woman was never meant to have. Man was created for that responsibility and should be allowed to develop it. The woman was never fitted for this area and should not, therefore, enter it because it will be an invasion of an undesignated field. God established this word along with THE WORD before the foundation of the world.

God commanded Adam not to eat of the forbidden fruit before woman was ever made. When the two sinned, God sought out Adam, not his wife. The CURSE was pronounced upon Adam far beyond the pronouncement upon the wife. When a home disintegrates, the man, not the woman, is held responsible. If the United States disintegrate, the Government or those in the area of headship or authority will be responsible. The man is the government of God in the institution called the HOME. The wife should assume her role as God has designated. She is POSITIONED as HELPMATE or a help-to-the-mate. God made this position and outlined the area of operation. Man is the IMAGE or the picture of God, the reflection of God or the likeness of God. The Bible does not say that if man is able and if he demonstrated this likeness or portrayal, then he could assume this position. The Bible clearly and emphatically declares, "MAN IS THE IMAGE OF GOD."

The wife should be the help-to-the-mate so that the man of her house can take this position, and she should help him in assuming and developing this God-ordained area. She should also cultivate and inculcate in the minds of the children that the father has been assigned this role. The mother should always recognize it as her obligation to teach that the husband is the head, leader and representative of God in the home, as an ambassador represents this country, speaks for this country and acts for this country in his ambassadorial position. Every wife should be rightly and orderly related to the husband as her duty, as unto the Lord Jesus Christ. Man is likened to Christ as Christ is the HEAD of the Church. "Therefore, as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything."

As Christ is the Saviour to the Church, so is the man, his representative, the Saviour to the HOME. "Saviour" means safety, protection, deliverance. As Christ is safety, protection and deliverance to the Church, so is man safety, protection, deliverance to the wife and the home. God has authorized and executed this order; therefore, it is a workable operation (Eph. 5:23). Recognize, esteem, revere and declare this position in your own life and in the

area of the home; then, there will be the performance of this decree.

Man is THE GLORY OF GOD. Glory means supremacy, authority or headship. Recognize this truth and there shall be a performance of that which has been spoken. It is catastrophic not to recognize that which God has declared to be HIS IMAGE AND HIS GLORY. God informed Eve that "Thy desire shall be to thy husband and he shall rule over thee."

After a couple is married, on no grounds are they to secure a divorce. God does not authorize in any way permission for this pursual, but declares that those engaged in this area reflect "HARDNESS OF HEART."

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WIVES -- Their Position and Relationship to Their Husbands, Home and Family.

1. Genesis 3:16, "Thy desire shall be to thy husband, and He shall rule over thee."

Ephesians 5:22-24, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as UNTO THE LORD. For the husband is the head of the wife, EVEN AS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH: and He is the Saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in EVERY THING."

2. SHOULD A WIFE OBEY AN UNSPIRITUAL HUSBAND?

I Peter 3:1-2, "Likewise, ye wives, be in SUBJECTION to your OWN HUSBANDS: that, if any obey not the Word, they also may without the Word BE WON by the conversation (behavior) coupled with fear."

CHASTE -- Innocent, clean, right motives, without veneer.

FEAR -- Reverence, honor, recognition.

Today, there are women making decisions apart from husbands, women organizers, women in places of authority, women pastors and ministers, which is not quite in harmony with The Book.

Men sit passively -- politely indifferent -- as to what, where and how the church and home are faring. Women have invaded the fields of endeavor once given entirely over to men. Women expect in their marriage to have as much or more to say as men on any question such as expenses, discipline, rearing of children, etc. The church and the preacher are silent, or some silly gesture is made bringing a response of laughter from the congregation. The Bible explicitly and irrevocably commands the wife to obey or be in subjection to her husband whether he is spiritual or not. Preachers often omit the word OBEY from the marriage ceremony now because of insistence.

Modern men do not take authority over their wives, neither do they feel responsible for the care and protection of them. Thousands of boys and girls go undisciplined, becoming unruly, immoral, irreligious and rebellious toward home and community. The Bible is the sole authority relative to home, sex, health, money, social position and religious positions.

Man has disobeyed God as to HEADSHIP AND AUTHORITY, yet the wife disobeys God by assuming the headship and authority. Women often remark, "If the men don't, then the women must take this position." WHY SHOULD THE WOMAN SIN EVEN THOUGH THE MAN IS COMMITTING THIS SIN? Eve was created as HELP-TO-THE-MATE. The first SIN for which Adam was rebuked was, "...Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife..." Genesis 3:17.

"...The head of every man is Christ; and the head of the WOMAN is the man; and the head of Christ is God," I Corinthians 11:3. Christ had respect and recognition for God; man should have respect for Christ, and the woman should have respect and recognition for the man. We must not be guilty of breaking the link. When God speaks to husbands and wives in the Bible, He speaks to wives first. When He speaks to fathers and children about their relationship and duties toward each other, it is to the children first. He commands the lesser first -- servants then masters; subjects first, then rulers. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as UNTO THE LORD," Ephesians 5:22

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Prayers are hindered because of lack of recognition and proper adornment, which is not the outward adornment but the inward which is not corruptible. It is the adornment of a meek (in subjection to) and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of GREAT PRICE (I Peter 3:4).

WOMEN BECAME "HOLY WOMEN" by reverencing their husband, and women are to become "Sarah's children" if they do likewise. This is essential so that prayers are not hindered. Sarah was a queen in her realm and Abraham was proud of her. She did call him lord.

"Older women should teach the younger women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the WORD OF GOD be not blasphemed," Titus 2:4-5. Whether or not the husband is a Christian, the wife should have a Scriptural position toward him.

A woman who obeys her husband enjoys happiness domestically, sexually, economically and socially. Love produces its kind. Adornment suggests clothes and beauty. Adorn yourselves -- put on this Bible way of position and relationship; thus you become the children of Sarah who in turn mothered and produced the ground of DELIVERANCE and the MESSAGE OF REDEMPTION.

Rebellious wives produce IRRESPONSIBLE HUSBANDS, which coupled, denotes lawlessness on the part of the children. Man that cannot rule the wife certainly cannot and will not rule the children. Children do not respect mothers who have been disobedient and rebellious wives. "...You are HEIRS together of the GRACE OF LIFE: that your prayers be not hindered," I Peter 3:7.

Abraham commanded his children and God declared, "We will not hide the things we are going to do from him BECAUSE HE WILL COMMAND HIS CHILDREN." Wives, let your husbands RULE YOU, then he will know how to have authority to RULE HIS OWN HOUSE AFTER HIM. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

It is impossible for a man to rightfully and successfully rule his wife and continue in willful disobedience to God. However, this does not give the wife the authority to take her position adversely in relationship to her husband. The husband would have greater opportunity to assume his spiritual position if the wife would joyfully and lovingly take the position of subjection regarding her husband.

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I. Principles of the Home and Its Relationship to Children.

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture (chastening) and admonition of the Lord," Ephesians 6:4.

"If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not," Hebrews 12:7.

"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes," Proverbs 13:24.

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying," Proverbs 19:18.

"Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell," Proverbs 23:13-14.

"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame," Proverbs 29:15.

"Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul," Proverbs 29:17.

When animals, such as calves, colts, chicken, etc., are born, they are able to walk and eat immediately, or soon after birth. God must have intended for the child to be helpless and dependent long enough to stay under the hand of training and development. Every child has a fallen nature. If this nature is not directed and trained it will lead to defiance, rebellion, murder, adultery, etc.

"The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies," Psalms 58:3.

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me," Psalms 51:5.

No one goes to hell because of a fallen nature. God's grace keeps them until they are personally conscious of sin. Their decision followed by their deeds makes them sinners.

"Children, obey your parents in ALL THINGS: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord," Colossians 3:20.

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee," Exodus 20:12. Sickness is a killer of life. Obedience to parents keeps sickness away.

"But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye BASTARDS, and not sons," Hebrews 12:8.

The word BASTARD means illegitimate involving whoredom and severe biological violation. Any parent who does not discipline the child contributes to and brings into effect this illegitimate word which in effect is the seed planting of whoredom.

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"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the NURTURE (chastening) and admonition of the Lord," Eph. 6:4 Letting the child go fosters the works of the devil.

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 declares that the father and mother would better have their son dead than for him to live in disobedience to their authority and teaching. This passage also concludes that if the son does not obey his parents, that son should be stoned by the elders of the city. Eli had JUDGMENT fall on his house and himself because he did not restrain his sons regarding evil. "The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly," Proverbs 20:30.

The easy pat or the little brush on the shoulder is a hindrance to the child. They will not fear or respect home, authority, school or church. Real character is developed by the rod and Godly parents. "Correct the child and he will give thee rest and delight thy soul." Adonijah, son of David, warred against his father and the government. David's soft-hearted appeal, "Why hast thou done so," "He also was a goodly man," was mildly reprimanding which is not enough. Solomon, the brother of Adonijah, had to put him to death.

Fathers used to whip until they cried, and then they whipped until they stopped. No stomping of feet, sassing back, making faces, shrugging shoulders, running away, refusing to eat, etc. This used to be the order of the day. The habit of obedience and reverence should be so cultivated that grown children should find it a pleasure to obey.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it," Proverbs 22:6.

The following is Mrs. Susannah Wesley's recipe for her household. John Wesley was the seventeenth WANTED child. Charles and John Wesley shook England and caused world history to be changed from darkness to the light of God flashing across its horizon:

1. Conquer their wills at the earliest age. Self-will is the root of sin.
2. Parents are cruel to establish habits in the child that must be broken.
3. No willful transgression should be overlooked without chastisement.
4. Religion is nothing else but dismissing your will and doing the will of God. Therefore, they must not have their way after having been told once. The parent who permits this does the devil's work, makes religion impractical, salvation unattainable, and pronounces damnation and hell upon that life.
5. They receive nothing that they cry for.
6. Taught to reverence the Lord's Day and His house and to be orderly and quiet.

When a year old they were taught to fear the rod and cry softly. IN THE HOME CRYING WAS RARELY HEARD.

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Susannah Wesley kept millions out of hell.

Honoring parents results in HONOR for God, right attitude toward law and government, reverence toward sex and marriage.

Parents must see (and they are the only ones who can) that this honor be accomplished by discipline, chastisement and LOVE.

Couples who restrict having children have more difficulties and their marriages are more stormy.

Young people who enjoy biological contact called necking and petting to great depth, generally are void of genuine love. True love enjoys respect for one another without extreme contact.

Honorable engagements promote happy marriages. Short engagements are not encouraged. It takes time to know each other, find one another and prove one another. Engagements should not be used as license that promotes husband and wife privileges. God is very severe relative to pre-marital relationship. If love for one another is doubted, then the couple should absent themselves from one another for a period. If there is a desire to go with another during a couple's engagement, this marriage is destined for trouble.

-- HEGGE IVERSON --