

The Family

2017, September-November (Auditorium class)
Teacher: Steve Fontenot

Preparing for class

- Read the scriptures.
- Based on the scriptures, make notes pertinent to the point.
- Parents/young people in the class: Discuss the scriptures and your observations as a family.
- Bring pen or pencil to make further notes during the class on the front or back of the page.

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Lesson 1 - Why Study the Family?

1. Family and the nation **Gen 18:16-33; Pro 14:34**
2. Family and the church **Tit 1:5-9; Mk 6:17-19; Tit 2:4,5,8; Rom 2:21-24**
3. Family and our relationship with God **1Pt 3:4,7; Gal 5:19-21; Eph 4:30-31; Mal 2:16**

4. For thought and discussion:

- a. How many people your age are divorced?
- b. How many families do you know are unhappy?
- c. What is the history in your family (parents; grandparents; relatives)
- d. U.S.

National Center for Health Statistics

Data are for the U.S.

- Number of marriages: 2,140, 272 (49 reporting States and D.C)
- Marriage rate: 6.9 per 1,000 total population (49 reporting States and D.C)
- Number of divorces: 813,862 (45 reporting States and D.C.)
- Divorce rate: 3.2 per 1,000 population (45 reporting States and D.C.)

Sources: National Marriage and Divorce Rate Trends (data shown are provisional 2014) <<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/marriage-divorce.htm>>

$813,862 \div 365 = 2,230$ divorces per day in the U.S. in 2014!

5. Are you happy in your family?

Companionship, love, security, guidance, and protection are all provided for in the Divinely ordered family relationship. *Failure in the family can rob us of some of the most basic human needs.*

6. Divorce a possibility? **1Co 7:5; Pro 5:20; Mk 14:27-31; 1Pt 5:8**
7. Potential for the family **Gen 1:31; Ps 127:3; Pro 18:22; 19:14; 31:10; Ecc 9:9; Jn 8:44**

8. Every day applications

Using the checklist on the following page, discuss with your family how what we have studied applies to your family.

Checklist - Why Study the Family?

Discuss *with your family*.

1. Do you sing, “God Bless America”? If so, how does your family impact that?
2. Whether husband, wife, or one of the children, your conduct impacts whether the church will have qualified leadership. As a husband and father, is your conduct and leadership in your family preparing you for service in the Lord’s church? As a wife and mother, do you think about and work toward having the kind of influence and conduct that will be an asset to your husband serving as an elder, or a deacon (or a preacher?) in the Lord’s kingdom? As a child in the home, are you aware that you can make a difference as to whether your father will be qualified to serve as an elder or deacon?
3. Do you believe whether you speak to your wife and treat her with honor and dignity can affect whether God will hear your prayers? As long as the brethren believe you are a godly man, does it not concern you too much about how your wife feels? Should you be concerned? Are you able to explain with Scripture how you should exercise your authority and treat your wife?
4. Do you believe whether you respect your husband’s authority delegated by God and speak to him and about him in a way that reflects it is something God takes note of? Do you take comfort in the approval of your sisters in Christ and other friends (or even your husband), regardless of whether your conduct in the family accords with the Scriptures? Can you turn to the Bible and explain what your role and attitude should be?
5. As a young person in the family, do you want to do what is right before God? Does God approve of your attitude, speech and conduct in the family?
6. In the light of how you interact with your family, if you were killed in a car accident, would you be ready to meet God?
7. There are over 2,000 divorces a day on average in the U.S. (2014). Do you think it is possible you could become one? What does your mate think? Though not probable, if did think it was possible, what would you do?
8. Do you think having a good, happy, peaceful family is a matter of chance—just getting “the right one”? Hereditary? Determined by the stars—based on your horoscope? Do you believe it is even possible in our society to have a really “good” family? Why? How?

“God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was VERY GOOD.” Gen 1:31, NASB

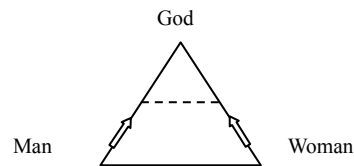
“ENJOY LIFE WITH THE WOMAN WHOM YOU LOVE all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun...” Ecc 9:9, NASB

Lesson 2 - Proper Attitudes for a Study of the Family

1. I need to study God's will about the family.
 - a. Tom Rainwater's survey
 - b. *Now* is the time to get wisdom! **Pro 1:20-33**
 - c. Human counsel — received and given **Job 32:6-10**
 - d. Change can be difficult, but expected at *any* age **Ac 7:23...30; 2Ch 34:1-3**
 - e. Who's to blame? **Eze 18:24-29**
 - f. It can happen to *me!* **Mk 14:26-31**

2. God's Word has the answers!
 - a. Safeguard against error - "know the truth" **1Tim 4:1-5**
 - b. The sure and dependable guide **Psa 19:7-9**
 - c. Teaching others **2Tim 3:16-17**

- d. The transforming standard **Rom 12:1-2**



- e. "Sin"?! **1Jn 3:4**

Which of the following are "sin"?

- i. A wife refuses to respectfully submit to her husband.
 - ii. A husband is inconsiderate of his wife's feelings.
 - iii. A mate obstinately withholds sexual obligations from their mate.
 - iv. Divorcing a mate for any other reason than fornication.
 - v. Parents who leave all spiritual training to the church.
- f. For thought and discussion:
 - i. What are some sources people turn to today for marital guidance?
 - ii. To whom do *you* turn?

3. Every day applications

Using the checklist on the following page, discuss with your family how what we have studied applies to your family.

Checklist - Proper Attitudes for a Study of the Family

Remember, discuss these *with your mate and your children/parents*.

1. Have you and your mate looked at Tom Rainwater's survey together and discussed it? Have you thought about what your responses, or your mate's responses would be?
2. Do you ever read Scriptures that have to do with your role and responsibility in the family? Do you know where to find them? Or, do you wait until you have a problem, and then frantically go to the Scriptures for help (or to justify yourself and show your mate where they are wrong)?
3. Have you ever given counsel to a friend or family member in regard to some family issue? Are you satisfied that God is pleased with the counsel you gave?
4. Do you believe older people always give good, wise counsel, and try to make that counsel the pattern for your thinking and conduct in your marriage? If older people have been married a long time, does that mean their counsel is good? Is it possible someone younger, or even someone not married, may have good counsel about the family? How would you judge what is "good counsel"?
5. Whatever your age, or however long you have been married, do you believe you can change attitudes and conduct in your marriage? Do you think there may be areas in which you should? Do you think God expects you to do so?
6. If your family is not what you wanted and dreamed of, do you blame God?
7. Although many you know have been through a divorce, do you think, "Not me! Even though so many divorce, I will never be divorced!" If so, read Mk 14:29-31.
8. You do not want a divorce and you want a good, stable, loving family. What do you think is the best way to insure you can enjoy that? Is it good health? A good job? Financial stability? Going to church? Good family (parents, brothers, sisters...)? Something else...? Or, do you believe there is nothing you can do to help insure you have a good family—it is just a matter of chance...some are lucky?
9. Do you think if *your mate* changed, your family would be better? If your *parents* changed...? Have you ever thought about *you* changing? If you were to think about it, where would you begin? What would be your standard? How would you go about it? Not sure? Difficult? Much easier: "If *they* would change, everything would be okay."
10. What is "sin"? Can you turn to a Scripture that defines it? How does this apply to a study of the family?

"Wisdom shouts in the street ... the COMPLACENCY OF FOOLS SHALL DESTROY THEM. But he who listens to me shall live securely..." Pro 1:20...32,33, NASB

Lesson 3 - Communication in the Family

1. Communication is vital! **Gen 11:1-9; 2Sam 10:1-4; 1Co 14:7-11**

For thought and discussion:

- a. Is interaction in your family peaceful? Tumultuous? Divisive?
- b. Do you think your family members really understand you?

2. Why don't we communicate?

Read the following scriptures. How do they bear on whether people communicate?

a. **Pro 11:13**

b. **Pro 15:1-2**. Compare **Pro 12:18; 15:28; 21:23; 29:11**

c. **Job 19:1-3**

d. **Pro 26:12**

e. **Mt 7:1-5**

f. **Pro 12:25**

g. **Pro 9:7**

h. **Pro 17:9**

i. **Jn 21:21-23**

j. **Eph 4:25-26**

3. Attitudes that will promote the desire and effort to communicate ...

a. "As those who have been chosen of God..." **Col 3:12-15**

b. "Love is ... is not ..." **1Co 13:4-7**

4. Every day applications

Using the checklist on the following page, discuss with your family how what we have studied applies to your family.

Checklist - Communication in the Family

Are communicating as a family? Are you sure? Consider the following and discuss with your family.

1. Have you given up on trying to communicate how you feel with your family—husband... wife...children...parents? How does this impact your relationship with your family member/s...does this barrier to communication draw you closer or cause you to be more distant?
2. If you and other family members talk to one another, do you believe you have participated in “communication”? What is essential for “communication” to take place? Suggestion: look up the origin of the word and discuss it among yourselves as to its bearing on “communication”—is “talking” communication?
3. Does your countenance send a message? Ask your family member! Your posture? Your avoidance of interaction (go to your room; avoid conversation; etc.)? Is it possible you are sending the wrong message? Or a confused message others do not understand?
4. Do you ever say, “He/she/they just don’t understand!”? Is it their fault ... your fault ... everybody’s fault...? Is it possible you did not make your feelings clear, but instead ranted and raved in an emotional outburst that made no logical sense? Or, instead of dealing with real problem, put forth a front that made you look better? Is it possible they *do* understand but you do not like their response? Do you *care* if another family member feels you do not understand?
5. Do you feel you cannot communicate with your family because they will not keep it private? Do they feel that way about you? Ask them!
6. Do you hesitate to communicate with your husband/wife/parent/child because you are afraid of their reaction, e.g. “bite your head off,” “jump all over you,” etc.? Turn it around—how do you react when they try to communicate with you, especially if it is something you are sensitive about?
7. For personal examination—are your criticisms *fair*? Are they objective, or merely emotional and subjective? Would you, do you, apply the same standards to *yourself*?
8. Do you ever say, “I was wrong. Please forgive me.”? When you have, what has been the reaction? If you haven’t, why not...do you think you are never wrong? Do you think it makes you look weak? Do you want to communicate with someone who cannot admit they are wrong?
9. Are you hypercritical? (If you don’t know what it means, look it up.) Ask your family what they think.
10. Do you ever communicate praise, commendation, thanks...? Or, is most if not all your remarks relative to things that displease you? When is the last time you said to a family member, “Thank you!” “Dinner was excellent!” “The house sure looks nice.” “Thank you for loving me like you do.” “Im proud to be your mate.” “I’m proud to be your dad/mom/son/daughter.” “Thanks for taking care of us.” You commend others—what about your family members?
11. Do you listen...*really* listen? Or, do you “listen” just waiting until you can jump in and respond?
12. Do you harbor anger? Do you stay mad at your wife/husband/mom/dad/child more than a day? Does it affect how you interact tomorrow...next week? Do you use the “silent treatment”?
13. Read Col 3:12-14 and 1Co 13:4-7 as a family. Discuss the application to the difficult but vital need of communication.
14. For thought: *Is having a family that glorifies God and provides well-being to all members of it worth all the effort and difficulties involved in developing and maintaining healthy communication?*

When the people constructing the tower of Babel could no longer communicate, **“THEY STOPPED BUILDING THE CITY.” Gen 11:8**, NASB. Have you stopped building your “city” (family)...?

Lesson 4 - Purpose of the Husband/Wife Relationship

1. Mistaken ideas about the purpose of marriage. Discuss some of these with your family.
2. The Divine purpose
 - a. Man Has a *Problem* **Gen 2:18a**
 - b. God Provides the *Answer* **Gen 2:18b-23**
 - i. Man's fourfold nature **Lk 2:52**
 - ii. Genesis 1 and 2 - order of thought, not chronology **Gen 1:20-31** with **Gen 2:18-24**
 - iii. Woman is
 - a) the *suitable* answer **v18b**
 - b) the *only* answer **vv19-20**
 - c) the *perfect* answer **vv21-23**
 - iv. "Helper"? **Gen 2:18** - compare **Dt 33:26,29, Jn 15:26** (NKJV, NASB)
 - a) When the "answer" is as God intended **Pro 18:22; 19:14; 31:10...28-31**
 - b) When the "answer" becomes a problem **Gen 3:6; Job 2:9-10**
 - c) The Divine *Solution* **Gen 2:22-25**
3. Polygamy?
 - a. Introduced **Gen 4:17-19**
 - b. "From the beginning..." **Mt 19:4-6,9**
4. Every day applications

Using the checklist on the following page, discuss with your family how what we have studied applies to your family.

Checklist - Purpose of the Husband/Wife Relationship

The following is a checklist to spur thought and application. Discuss these with your mate and seek for *understanding* - of how *he/she* feels and that your mate understand how *you* feel - i.e. *communicate*. *Parents—prepare your young people to understand the true purpose of marriage.*

1. Do you treat your wife like a maid? a stepchild? a concubine? a nanny? - or like a *companion*?
2. Do you view your role as a companion, or just a housekeeper and mother? *Why are you needed?*
3. If your wife were Cinderella, would the way you treat her be more like the evil stepmothers or like the prince? Do you see in her someone to do the domestic chores, or *someone to share your life with*?
4. Do you treat your husband like a teller machine? Like the proverbial “cookie jar”? Do you express interest in *sharing his life*—his interests, needs, joys, sorrows—or just his money?
5. When discussing things with your wife, do you talk to her like her daddy, or her *companion*?
6. When disagreeing with your husband, do you treat him like his mamma, or like a *companion* you wish to help?
7. Do you take your wife with you? Do you involve her in your activities?
8. Do you leave other things to be with your husband? Do you refuse to be involved with him if it is not something you especially like?
9. Do you *treat* your mate like your *best friend*?
10. Do your job choices reflect your appreciation of the importance of companionship? Do you choose jobs or assignments without regard to whether they will rob you and your mate of sharing life together for weeks or even months?
11. So you treat your mate in such a way that he or she *enjoys* being with you?
12. When you get off from work, do you go home to be with your wife, or do you go and do things with your buddies?
13. When your husband comes home, are you home, or are you off in the company of others?
14. When you get home, do you plop down in front of the T.V. or behind a newspaper, or do you talk with your wife and do things together?
15. When your husband comes home, are you prepared to give him your attention? Do you welcome him and make home a warm place to come home to?
16. Do you teach your daughters and sons that the purpose of womanhood is to be man’s companion, or do you spend more time and give greater emphasis to material and worldly accomplishments?
17. Do you talk to your wife like she has the ability to be a worthy companion, or like a dummy who hardly has sense to get out of the rain? Do you give her credit for being able to make intelligent decisions and being responsible?
18. Do you alienate yourself from your husband by not cooperating with his decisions and plans, or do you consider yourself his partner in life and try to cooperate as if you are pulling together?
19. Discuss with your mate: How does my treatment of you make you feel about why I need you?
20. When is the last time you told your mate sincerely and lovingly, “*I need you!*”

“If you know these things, you are blessed IF YOU DO THEM.” Jn 13:17, NASB

Lesson 5 - Authority in the Husband/Wife Relationship

1. Authority in the family is *delegated by God* **Gen 3:16; 1Tim 2:14; 1Co 11:3,8-10**
 - a. Responsibility to **respect** delegated authority
 - i. **Num 16**, esp. vv **3,11**
 - ii. **1Sam 8:7** “not...but”
 - b. Responsibility in **exercising** delegated authority
 - i. **1Sam 15:1-31**, esp. vv **17-18**
 - ii. **Mt 20:20-28**. Compare **Jn 13:1-17**.
 - iii. **1Ki 12:6-20**, esp. v7
2. *Explicit, Peculiar, Imperative* responsibilities of husbands and wives **Eph 5:22-33**
3. Mutual respect **1Pt 3:1-7. Col 3:18-19**.
4. “Manage their household” (ESV) **1Tim 5:14**. Wife’s responsibility; Husbands responsibility.
5. History
 - a. Lot **Gen 13:1-13; 19:1-26; 2Pt 2:6-7**
 - b. David and Abigail **1Sam 25**, esp. vv**32-35**. Contrast Ahasuerus, **Esth 1:12; 4:11**.
 - c. David and Bathsheba **2Sam 11** (“sent,” vv**4,6,14,27**, “called,” v**13**)
 - d. Period of the Judges - anarchy **Jdg 17:6; 18:1; 21:25**
6. Results
 - a. God pleased **1Pt 3:4,7**
 - b. God honored **1Pt 2:11,12...3:1; Tit.2:5,10**
 - c. Wife honored **Pro 31:28-31**
 - d. Family honored **Pro 12:4; 31:23,28; 1Pt 3:6; 1Tim 3:4**
 - e. Happy, orderly, home!
7. Every day applications

Using the checklist on the following page, discuss with your family how what we have studied applies to your family.

Checklist - Authority in the Husband/Wife Relationship

The following is a checklist to spur thought and application. Do you really *understand* how your wife or your husband feels about these things? Are you sure they understand how *you* feel? A suggestion: try “*communication.*” *Parents—what heritage are you instilling in your children about authority in the family as they observe the two of you?*

1. Since you are given authority over the family, *do you consider yourself “the boss,” or a servant?*
2. Do you *resent* the fact that your husband has authority in the family, or trust God’s wisdom and love and therefore *respect* his arrangement?
3. Do you treat your wife with respect *only* when she is pleasing to you and conducting herself as a godly woman? Do you believe God expects a man to treat his wife with honor if she is not a Christian?
4. Do you treat your husband with respect *even if* you think he is inconsiderate or is making what you deem to be a poor decision? Do you believe God expects a wife to be submissive to and respect her husband if he is man who is not a Christian and will not listen to the gospel?
5. Do you believe and treat your wife *like she is your equal before God?* Does the way you talk to her and about her, the tone you use with her, and the consideration you give her reflect the fact that you honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life?
6. Do you react to your husband’s efforts to rule his family by being argumentative, incessantly complaining, or by saying derogatory things about him? Do you believe the things you say, the tone of your voice, and the way you react display respect for his role?
7. When you make a decision, do you consider *how it will affect your family?* For example...
 - Will it expose them to tempting influences?
 - Will it contribute to their moral and spiritual upbuilding or undermine them?
 - Will it deprive them of your attention?
 - Will it set the example you want them to follow?
 - Is it selfish, considering only what you want, or mature, considering what the family needs and wants?
8. When your husband makes a decision, do you submit *respectfully?* For example...
 - Do you cooperate or make it a contest to see if he can implement it?
 - Are moral and spiritual concerns your first interest, or, getting your way?
 - Do you support him or wait for him fail and remind him it is his fault?
 - Does your conduct set the example for your children you want them to adopt relative to authority?
 - Do you react selfishly, pouting or otherwise expressing your displeasure, or maturely, realizing that your husband has the solemn responsibility of ruling in the family’s interest?
9. Do you spend enough time being with your family to know what is best for them?
10. Is the time spent with your husband discussing your needs and desires so he can have a basis for his decisions, or begging and making ploys for personal desires?
11. Does your family accuse you frequently, “You don’t understand”?
12. Do you use, “You don’t understand,” as a tool to leverage for your goals?
13. Would a man who honored his wife endeavor to know her, her needs—emotionally as well as physically, what embarrassed her, and what extolled her? Would he try to make his decisions and adjust his speech in the light of these things? Do you?
14. Would respect for your husband affect the way you dress, spend money, cook, and clean house?
15. Does *your mate* know you respect them, or does the way you talk to them, about them, and treat them deny any claims you may make about respecting them?
16. Do you believe *mutual respect* is vital in a marriage and that respect for your mate is essential to be well-pleasing to God?
17. Which bothers you most: Your wife not respecting you, or, fulfilling your responsibility to always seek her welfare in every decision?
18. Which bothers you most: Your husband doesn’t consider you like he ought, or, showing the proper respect for and cooperation with your husband?

“Faith WITHOUT WORKS is USELESS” James 2:20, NASB

Lesson 6 - Caring Love in the Husband/Wife Relationship

1. “Caring” love not a *feeling*, but an *attitude that determines how we treat others*. It sees in the person loved a value, and *always seeks their welfare*
 - a. “Do good to”—“neighbor,” enemies; “perfect” example: God **Mt 5:43-46; Lk 6:27-36**
 - b. “Does no wrong” - last six of ten commandments “summed up” by this love **Rom 13:8-10**
 - c. Proved by action **2Co 8:8,24; 1Jn 3:16-18**
 - d. Measured by sacrifice **Jn 15:12-13**
2. Husbands **Eph 5:22-33** (“as...just as”)
3. Wives **Tit 2:4,5**
 - a. These obligations “summed up” ... (**Rom 13:8-10**)
 - b. **Pro 31:10-31**
4. “Love is...is not...” **1Co 13:4-7**
5. Genuine love - examples of the “good” it practices **Rom 12:9-21** (note vv9...21)
6. This love loves the unlovely **Rom 5:6-8; Jn 3:16**
7. For thought and discussion
 - a. How would you *feel* about a husband/wife who loved this way?
 - b. Do we have an option as to whether we love our mate this way?
 - c. How would this affect the permanence of marriage?
8. **Pro 10:12; 15:17**
9. Every day applications

Using the checklist on the following page, discuss with your family how what we have studied applies to your family.

Checklist - Caring Love in the Husband/Wife Relationship

The following checklist is to spur thought and application. Have you and your mate been *communicating* about the things in these lessons? When are you going to start? Communication will aid and promote the application of the things we are studying. *Parents—be sure your children understand the different kinds of “love” in the family.*

1. Do you care about your wife’s *emotional* needs as well as her physical needs? (If you do not know what this is talking about, or if you think it is simply talking about sexual needs, you need help. You need to learn more about women and about affectionate love. Begin by getting to really know the woman you live with. To learn more about affectionate love, stay tuned for the next lesson.)
2. Do you care about your husband’s need for respect, cooperation, and responsible decisions and actions in the home? (The woman who thinks being “in love” will substitute for this kind of “love” likewise does not understand men nor her responsibility. She needs to reread Pro. 12:4, 19:14, 31:10f, and Tit. 2:4,5. “The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands.” Pro. 14:1.)
3. Do you ever touch your wife tenderly, or hug her, because you care about her feelings rather than for self interests?
4. Do you care enough about your husband’s needs and interests to be his loving and romantic companion even when you are not personally inclined to such?
5. Check yourself against the fourteen character traits of love in 1 Co. 13:4-7. How do you measure up? How much do you really “love” your mate?
6. Do you care enough about your wife to expend the effort and make the sacrifices necessary to treat her as someone special, to seek her honor in what you say about her and how you treat her, and to always pursue the things that will contribute to her moral and spiritual purity? Or, have you come to take her for granted, to say ugly and demeaning things about her, and not only fail to be a spiritual and moral leader but a weight that drags her down morally and spiritually?
7. Do you care enough about your husband to work to be the kind of woman that will be a “crown” to your husband, that because of his association with you will impart strength and dignity to him, and that will bring peace and joy into his life? Or, have you come to be satisfied just to drift aimlessly through life, not growing in character, not striving to learn how to be a better companion, and resorting to nagging and complaining because you are not treated as you think you ought to be?
8. Do you care that your wife has been with kids all day long and may long for some adult conversation and companionship?
9. Do you care that your husband may have had a rough and tiring day, and needs to find home a place he can look forward to finding rest, peace, and love?
10. Have you come to equate “love” with “sex”? Have you come to totally disassociate sex with love?
11. You say you “love”—does that describe how you feel ...or your commitment to *selflessly and sacrificially* care about your mate’s physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being? Do you know the difference?

“But prove yourselves DOERS OF THE WORD, and NOT MERELY HEARERS WHO DELUDE THEMSELVES.” James 1:22, NASB

Lesson 7 - Affectionate Love in the Husband/Wife Relationship

1. “Affectionate” is the love of friendship, warmth, and affection. While caring love exists in view of the value of the person loved, affectionate love is based on *delight and pleasure* found in and afforded by the person loved.
2. Jacob “loved” Rachel **Gen 29:11–35** (note esp. vv **11,17-18, 20, 31-34**)
 - a. Names Leah gave her sons **29:31-35; 30:19-20**
 - b. Leah’s “affliction” v**32**. Compare **1Sam 1:5-6; Dt 24:5**
3. Affectionate love without caring love can be selfish, cruel, and dangerous.
 - a. Shechem “loved” Dinah **Gen 34:1-31** (note esp. vv **2-3, 8**)
 - b. Samson “loved” Delilah **Jdg 16:4-21** (note esp. vv **4, 15**)
 - c. Amnon “loved” Tamar **2Sam 13:1-19** (note esp. vv**1-2,4**)
4. Affectionate love may be unlawful and morally ruinous.
 - a. Solomon “loved” many foreign women **1Ki 11:1-10** (note esp. vv **1-2**)
 - b. Jews married foreign women **Ezra 10:1-17,44** (note esp. vv **1, 44**)
5. Song extolling wholesome affectionate love - Song of Solomon
 - a. Note esp. **1:2,7; 2:4,5; 3:1,4; 4:1-15; 5:8; 7:6,12; 8:6,7**
 - b. Chorus - an important lesson about affectionate love **2:7; 3:5; 5:8; 8:4; 8:6-8**
6. Every day applications
Using the checklist on the following page, discuss with your family how what we have studied applies to your family.

Checklist - Affectionate Love in the Husband/Wife Relationship

The following checklist is to spur thought and application. If you are too stubborn, too proud, or too “busy” to *communicate* with your mate, you will be the loser, and your marriage will never reach the potential it could. *Parents—do your children see that you still “in love” with one another?*

1. Do you think you are giving your wife all the “love” she needs if you are providing her physical and sexual needs?
2. Are you making the mistake of thinking you can badger your husband into loving you? Do you think by being more obstinate, pointing out his faults, and generally making things difficult that he will grow in his love for you??
3. Do you scoff at showing affection, tenderness, and warmth toward your wife, and simply expect her to fulfill your sexual needs upon demand?
4. Do you talk to your husband, touch your husband, and generally treat your husband in such a manner as to encourage warmth and tenderness?
5. Are you so foolish as to equate “manhood” with crudeness, rudeness, inconsideration, and sexual performance? Are you “man” enough to change and be the kind of man God wants you to be?
6. Have you forgotten what it means to be a “woman”? Do you work at being feminine, lovable, and desirable to your husband? Do you wear the kind of clothes you know he likes, fix your hair like he likes it, and otherwise adorn yourself to make yourself attractive to your husband?
7. How did you treat your mate when you were courting? Why? What was the result? Did you like it? Why have you changed?
8. Has your wife become your “old lady” instead of your “sweetheart”? Has your husband become your “old man” instead of your beloved? Who wants to be married to an “old lady” or an “old man”?
9. Do you think affectionate love and romance is just for newly weds? Why? Who told you that? Do you really think it HAS to be that way, or is it you have simply not cultivated your relationship and thereby let the flame of love die? Do you think maybe it can be different, knowing what causes affectionate love?
10. Do you want to “tolerate” marriage with a few moments of happiness now and then, or to enjoy a relationship ever sweetened by affectionate love so that, regardless of the difficulties you face together, they will “seem but a few days because of the love you have for one another”?

“HE WHO HAS EARS, LET HIM HEAR.” Mt. 13:9, NASB

Lesson 8 - Intimate Love in the Husband/Wife Relationship

1. By “intimate” is meant love of a private or very personal nature. It may be called “sexual” love. However, “sex” may connote lust exercised without moral restraint. This is NOT what we are discussing. When we speak of “intimate” or “sexual” love, we speak of a love that pertains to the inherent biological difference between man and woman, with its impulses, attractions, and functions as God designed and created. **Pro 5:19**
2. Discuss with your family common views held by co-workers, friends, school mates, etc. about this kind of love.
3. God created men and women with the ability to enjoy intimate love. **Gen 1:26-28; 2:22-24**
4. Responsibility of husbands and wives toward their mates **1Co 7:1-5**
5. “Be intoxicated always in her love” (ESV) **Pro 5:15-23**. Read to get the imagery clear in your mind (not a discussion of literal water and thirst).
6. Man (men and women) looks at the outward appearance **1Sam 16:7**
 - a. Men toward women **Gen 29:16-18; 2Sam 11:2**
 - b. Women toward men **Gen 39:6b-7**
7. Women desire affection **Gen 29:32,34**
8. Your competitor **Pro 7:10-18**
9. Every day applications
Using the checklist on the following page, discuss with your family how what we have studied applies to your family.

Checklist - Intimate Love in the Husband/Wife Relationship

The following checklist is to spur thought and application. It will be far more productive to talk *with* your mate, i.e. *communicate*, than to talk *to* or *about* your mate. It may not be easy, and it may not be your habit, but learning and doing it will be worth the results. *Parents—are you embarrassed to discuss this with your children? They WILL know something about it; they WILL be interested in—now is the time to be sure their “knowledge” is correct! Do your job!*

1. Do you esteem the value of intimate love enough to *make time and conserve energy to treat it as a priority*, or do you put it on the bottom of the “to do” list after housework, taking care of the lawn, sewing, hunting, crafts, golf, doing things for others, the kids’ activities, TV, etc.? If the latter, you need to reread Pro 5:18f and 1Co 7:1-5.
2. Does caring love govern your attitudes and conduct in sexual love? *It must* if you are a servant of God. It may be good to go back and read the checklist on caring love.
3. Do you give attention and effort to *affection, tenderness, and warmth* before and after sexual love? Might it be profitable to go back and read the checklist on affectionate love?
4. Is your personal hygiene, appearance, speech, and the atmosphere, conducive to intimate love?
5. Do you “beat your mate over the head” with the passages stating their “God-given duty” to render conjugal love? If so, shame on you for so abusing the Word of God and your inconsideration and ignorance of your mate and their feelings. Where have you been? Did you just join this study or do you just choose to ignore what the Scriptures say about caring and affectionate love?
6. Do you wrest the Scriptures about caring and affectionate love to justify your failure to give attention to the intimate needs of your mate. Shame on you for handling the Word of God for selfish ends and for your selfishness. Were you asleep during this lesson, or do you just pick and choose the Scriptures that will justify you?
7. Does companionship, the very purpose of marriage, involve intimate love? Is intimate love the focus of companionship? If you are not sure about answering these questions, you need to back and study the lesson on companionship.
8. Do you think you have outgrown the need for sexual love in your relationship? Whatever you may think about yourself, what about your mate? *Do you think you or your mate may be vulnerable to sin? If not, reread Pro 5:19,20 and 1Co 7:5b.* Do you believe it? Don’t forget Peter and the “It won’t happen to me” deception. Maybe you ought to communicate with your mate and be especially alert to their comments and conduct that may reveal how they feel.
9. Physical problems can interfere with the ability to enjoy the potential of intimate love. This in turn may lead to poor self esteem or unjust criticism of your mate. Research (magazines, books, etc.) and/or consultation with your doctor may provide vital insight and treatment.

“And behold, you are to them like a sensual song by one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument; for they hear your words, BUT THEY DO NOT PRACTICE THEM.”
Ezekiel 33:32, NASB

Lesson 9 - Problems in the Husband/Wife Relationship

1. Money **1Tim 6:9-10; Dt 8:10-17; Mk 4:19; Eccl 5:10-20; 1Co 7:5; Pro 15:17; 17:1**

2. Religion **Dt 7:1-4; 1Ki 4:29-34...11:1-13; 1Co 7:26, 32-35; 1Pt 3:1-2; Mt 10:34-35**

3. In-laws **1Tim 5:1-2; Job 32:4-10; 1Tim 5:8; Gen 2:24; Dt 7:3; Gen 24:57-58**

4. Flirtatiousness **Mal 2:14; 1Co 7:1 (“touch”?); Tit 2:5; Pro 7:10,13,21**

5. Suspiciousness **Ex 23:1-3,7; Pro 12:17-19; 17:4; 21:28; Rom 13:9-10**

6. Laziness **Pro 6:6-11; 10:26; 12:27; 15:19; 18:9; 24:30-34; 26:13**

7. Suggestions:
 - a. Learn the nature and obligations of the marriage relationship as set forth in God’s Word. Strive to apply them.
 - b. Pray **Eph 6:18**
 - c. Grow up **Heb 5:12-14; 1Co 14:20; 16:13**

8. Every day applications
Using the checklist on the following page, discuss with your family how what we have studied applies to your family.

Checklist - Problems in the Husband/Wife Relationship

The following checklist is to spur thought and application.

1. Do you find it difficult to find time and energy to study your Bible (e.g. lessons like this)...assemble regularly... discuss God his will with your family... communicate with your mate... because you are working so much overtime, or working a second job, or because you and your wife are working to pay off bills?
2. Are your bills (credit cards, installment purchases, etc.) pressing on you bills you made because of *need* or *want*? Are they because you bought beyond your means (new car, big house, stereos, TV, expensive clothes, etc.) just for personal pleasure and comfort?
3. When you pay bills, or try to figure out how to pay them, are you affectionate, or more like infectious - i.e. no one wants to be around you?
4. Have you sacrificed your wife's main role of companionship and motherhood for material things and carnal pursuits?
5. Do you and your mate have the time and disposition to cultivate your relationship - to talk together...to laugh together...to love together, or are you too busy or burned out due to working to have more, or to pay for the more you already have?
6. Do you find yourself giving in to the pressures of having a mate that does not want you to go to church, will not help you with the children, or encourages you to engage in questionable activities? Do you find yourself getting bitter? Discouraged? If you are not married and considering marrying someone who is not a devoted Christian, *go talk to someone in that position first!*
7. Do you speak rudely and disrespectfully to your in-laws? Do you think this is justified because you think they are wrong?
8. Do you say ugly and demeaning things about your in-laws to your mate? How would it make you feel if your mate spoke that way about your folks? Does treating your in-laws this way encourage companionship with your mate and stir affection?
9. Are you a "daddy's boy"? A "mamma's girl"? Maybe you ought to ask someone you think will be painfully truthful.
10. Do you make remarks about the cheerleaders on TV (football, basketball) or about actresses or about *any* woman that sounds like a sexual interest in them? Not serious? Look up the meaning of "flirt"?
11. Do you engage in "innocent" horseplay or simply spend time with other men than your husband? IF you really consider it "innocent," dare you find out how your husband or the other man feels about it?
12. Do you imagine things about your mate and charge them with motives and conduct that has no foundation but in your imagination? Do you think a marriage license gives you license to engage in slander against your mate? To bear false witness against them?
13. Has your mate continually asked you to do something that continually find excuses for not doing? You do find the time to do things you *want* to do, right? Do you view yourself as *lazy*? Probably not, but go back and study the section on laziness.
14. Have you grown since you married (not in clothes size, though laziness with regard in our eating habits and exercise may have contributed to this problem also)? Are you a better Christian and thus a better example and support to your mate? Are you trying to learn to be a better companion? Do you *work* to be the kind of person your mate will delight in? Are you too lazy to order your time and energies to provide for intimacy in your relationship?
15. Do you and your mate ever discuss God's Word and his will for your lives together? Do you ever pray together? Do you pray for one another? Do you accept the responsibilities of being an adult, or is your mate condemned to live with a selfish little boy in a man's body, or a self seeking little girl in a woman's body?

"How blessed are those who OBSERVE HIS TESTIMONIES, who SEEK HIM WITH ALL THEIR HEART." Psa. 119:2 (NASB)

Lesson 10 - Parent/Child Relationship

1. Children's' responsibility - Honor parents **Ex 20:12**
 - a. Why? **Ex 20:1-11; Lev 19:32; Pro 23:22-23; Eph 6:1; Rom 1:30-32; Col 3:20**
 - b. How shown? **Ex 20:13-17; 21:15, 17; Lev 19:32; Pro 23:22-25; 30:17; Eph 6:1; Mk 7:9-13; 1Tim 5:8; Pro 28:24**
 - c. Even though imperfect **Heb 12:9-10; 1Tim 5:1-2; Gen 9:20-27**
 - d. Limitations **1Ki 15:3a; 22:43a; 1Sam 19:1; 20:30-34; Lk 14:26-27; Mt 10:37**

2. Parents responsibility
 - a. Love - protect, provide for **Rom 1:31,32; Psa 103:13; 1Th 2:7-8; 2Co 12:14,15**
 - i. Partiality breeds domestic discord **Gen 25:28...27:5-17...41-46...28:8-9; 37:3-4**
 - ii. By itself, does not mold character **2Sam 18:33; 1Ki 1:6; Pro. 13:24**
 - b. Train **Pro 1:8; 23:22-25**
 - i. Fathers **Eph 6:4; Col 3:21; Dt 6:6-9; 11:18-20**
 - ii. Mothers **Pro 1:8; 14:1 (24:3-4); 23:22-25; 29:15; 31:26-27; 1Tim 5:14; Tit 2:4; Ac 16:1-3; 2Tim 1:5; 3:15**
 - c. Discipline **Eph 6:4; Heb 12:9-11; Pro 3:11-12; 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15,17**
 - d. Example **Mt 5:16, 1Co 15:33, Rom 2:17-24; Eze 16:44**

3. Every day applications

Using the checklist on the following page, discuss with your family how what we have studied applies to your family.

Checklist - Parent/Child Relationship

1. Do you let your children get away with saying hateful things to you, calling you names, ignoring you when you speak, or ridiculing you? *Is this fulfilling your responsibility to teach them to “honor” their father and mother?*
2. Do you allow your children to hit you, raise their voice to you when they are angry with you, or throw temper tantrums? *Is this teaching them to respect your authority?* Are you confusing controlling them by your superior strength (e.g. dragging them when they do not want to go, simply restraining them when they are flailing and kicking, locking them in their room) with teaching them respect (“honor”)?
3. Do you the shows you watch, the magazines you look at, the books you read, the jokes you tell, and the remarks you make about the opposite sex *teach your children to honor moral purity between a man and a his wife?*
4. Do you just put everything out of reach of your children, or do you *teach them to respect (“honor”) your possessions?*
5. Do you allow your children to slander you by saying you are mean, or telling you, “You don’t love me!”? *Is this teaching them to honor your innocence and human justice?*
6. Do you think your children ought to have everything you have, to enjoy everything you enjoy, to stay up as late as you do, to go everywhere you go? If not, *what are you doing to teach them to honor human individuality*—that they are not adults, do not have the abilities you do, and by virtue of their station in life are not entitled to all you are?
7. Do you think children ought to let their parents have the best seat? Do you think children ought dictate what the family will eat for meals? Do you think children ought to learn to say “sir” and “ma’am”? Do you think children ought to interrupt you when you are talking? *What does “honor your father and mother” mean to you?*
8. How many times do you have to tell your children to do something before they do it? Do you have to raise your voice, maybe even scream? Do you believe honoring you as their parent involves *respectfully obeying you?* Have you accepted their hugs and kisses as a substitute for obedience?
9. *Have you set the example of honoring father and mother by how you have treated your mother and father?* Do you call them? Do you visit them? Do you see about their needs? Do you want your children to treat you when you get older like you are treating your mother and father?
10. Do you think showering your children with your affection will substitute for teaching and discipline? If not, are you making time to teach them and being alert to discipline them?
11. Do your actions and speech reveal to your children that you love them more than God? *Will this teach them the proper fear and love for God?*
12. Are you *alert* to what they are doing? *Do you know* what little Johnny or little Susie does when you turn your back? *Do you know* what your children read? *Do you know* what TV shows they watch? *Do you know* their companions?
13. *Fathers, do you leave all the teaching of the Bible to mother?* Do you talk to your sons and daughters about morals? Do you not believe that you have a responsibility to train your children morally and spiritually?
14. *Mothers, do you dodge your responsibilities in teaching and discipline?* Do you leave teaching the children about God and His Word to the Bible classes at church? Do you leave the discipline to dad? Are you “too busy” to read the Bible with them, to pray with them, to spend time helping them learn their Bible lessons and memory verses?
15. Fathers and mothers, do your children see you argue about their discipline and training *in front of them?* Do you not think they observe what is going on? Have you noticed them playing one of you against the other?
16. Do you use the “rod” of discipline in such a way that your children just get mad, or *get sorry?* What do they learn—that if they throw a big enough fit you will stop, or that “crime” doesn’t pay? Do you “admonish” them in your discipline so they know *why* they are being disciplined?
17. Is your administering of discipline mainly the outgrowth of frustration and anger, or the *controlled actions of a wise parent endeavoring by that discipline to “disciple”*—to train your child?
18. Do you spend time preparing *yourself* so you are capable of training your child in the discipline and instruction *“of the Lord”*?
19. What do your children *see?* Do they see a “Christian” at church and a worldly, ungodly hypocrite at home? What do they *hear* come out of our mouth? How do they see you treat your mate? Do they see you pray other than at meals? Do they see you read your Bible? Do they see you showing your love for God’s people by serving them or do they see you avoiding them and criticizing them? Do they see parents who look forward to assembling with the saints, or griping about the sermon, the people “down there,” and skipping for excuses that would not keep them from work or trips? Will you be surprised if your children grow up and are not interested in religion and going to church?
20. Are you ready to stand before God to give account for the job you are doing as a parent?

“THE TESTIMONY OF THE LORD IS SURE, making wise the simple..” Psa 19:7-11 (NASB)

Lesson 11 - Brother/Sister Relationship

1. Harmony vs disharmony
 - a. Harmony **Ps 133:1; Gen 13:8; Rom 12:18; Eph 4:30-32; 1Pt 3:8-12**
 - b. Disharmony **Gen 4:5; 27:41; Neh 5:9; Pro 6:16...19**
2. Jealousy a Recurring Cause for Disharmony
 - a. Cain and Abel **Gen 4:4-5**
 - b. Jacob and Esau **Gen 25:31; 27:19...41**
 - c. Rachel and Leah **Gen 30:1-2**
 - d. Joseph and His Brothers **Gen 37:4-11; Ac 7:9**
 - e. Moses and Miriam, Aaron **Num 12:1-2**
 - f. David and Eliab **1Sam 17:26-30**
 - g. Adonijah and Solomon **1Ki 1:1-2:25**
3. Overcoming Jealousy
 - a. Jealousy and its fruits are SIN **Gal 5:19-21; Eph 4:31**
 - b. Emulate **Gen 4:7**
 - c. Recognize Rights of Age and Position **Dt 21:15-17**
 - d. Realize Favoritism May Not be Brother or Sister's Fault **Gen 37:3**
 - e. Humility **Php 2:3,4**
 - f. Respect Delegated Authority **Num 12:1-8**
 - g. Find In the Success of Others Your Own Blessings **1Sam 17:51-52**
 - h. Zeal to Protect **Ex 2:4,7,8**
 - i. Jealousy Hurts YOU
 - i. Unhappiness **Gen 4:6-7; 30:1-2; 1Ki 2:13-25**
 - ii. Bitter hatred, revenge **Gen 37:7,8b,18; Pro 14:30**
 - iii. Hell! **Gal 5:19-21**
4. Avoiding Strife
 - a. Cooperation in making adjustments in attitudes and practices can help in attaining and maintaining peace. However, whether cooperation is present or not, the following proverbs will help in avoiding strife.
 - b. **Pro 10:12; 11:13, 16:28, 17:9, 26:20; 13:10; 15:1; 15:18, 29:22; 17:14; 18:6, 21:23; 22:10; 23:22-25; 23:29-35; 26:17; 28:25; 30:32-33**
5. "Shall the sword devour forever?" **2Sam 2:26**
6. Every day applications

Using the checklist on the following page, discuss with your family how what we have studied applies to your family

Checklist - Brother/Sister Relationship

Discuss these as a family. Parents, can you provide guidance and counseling based on the Scriptures?

1. Is there continual friction between siblings in your family? If so, does it make you happy? Does it make your parents happy?
2. How important is it to *you* that there is peace and good-will between you and your brother/sister? Should it be?
3. Parents, how important is it to *you* that there is peace and good-will between your children? Should it be something you pay attention to? Do you feel responsible for providing the guidance to overcome disharmony and rivalry?
4. Is continued bitterness, frequent quarrels, and ever present friction conducive to study for school lessons? For Bible study? For prayer? For family prayer?
5. If older brothers/sisters use speech and engage in conduct that is combative, undermining, and hurtful, what impact does this have on younger brothers/sisters? Do you care? Do you think you should care?
6. Are you ever jealous of your brother/sister? Are you sure ... can you define or describe jealousy?
7. Is there ever a spirit of rivalry between you and your brother/sister ... who's the smartest? who's the favorite? ... who's the best? ... who's more popular? etc. Can a spirit of rivalry be good? Can it be destructive?
8. Do you resent it when your older brother/sister tells you what to do? Does he/she have the right to do that? If you were left in charge for some reason, how would you want your brother/sister to treat you?
9. If you, as the older brother/sister, are left in charge, how should you treat your younger siblings? How would you want them to treat you?
10. Do you believe you should have the same rights and privileges as your older brother/sister? Does it make you angry if they are given rights and privileges that you do not have?
11. If you are given rights and privileges because you are older, do you taunt your younger brother/sister because they can't do what you can do? Do you make an effort to use your rights and privileges in a selfless, responsible way, or selfishly, not caring who gets hurt?
12. What is "delegated" authority? Do you agree with it—think it's okay? What are the responsibilities of those under delegated authority? Of those exercising delegated authority?
13. Who gets hurt the most if you are bitter, angry, or vengeful, toward your brother/sister? Is it worth it?
14. Do you ever say things to your brother/sister that you later regret? Do you go to them and apologize? Do you mean it?
15. Does it justify your bitterness and spiteful conduct if your brother/sister treated you selfishly, or without concern for you? When you feel they mistreat you, is there a better way to deal with it than harboring anger and resentment?
16. Are satisfied with the way things are between you and your brother/sister? Do you think it can change? If there are changes that would better your relationship, what are some of the first things that could help? Who should take the first step?

“Then Abram said to Lot, ‘PLEASE LET THERE BE NO STRIFE BETWEEN YOU AND ME, ...FOR WE ARE BROTHERS.’” Gen. 13:8 (NASB)