

The Family

Auditorium class

September-November 2024

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Lesson 1: Why This Course on the Family?

Impact on the nation

1. Gen. 18:16-33

Why did God consider telling Abraham what He was about to do to Sodom and Gomorrah?

What did God teach Abraham affected a nation's longevity?

2. Pro. 14:34

What exalts a nation? Disgraces it?

Based on your observation, how is the deterioration of the family affecting our nation negatively?

Impact on the church

3. 1Tim. 3:1-5

What is there in these qualifications that shows that the *family* affects the leadership of this church and churches throughout the world?

4. Mk. 6:17-29

Why did Herodias want John beheaded?

If Herodias was a member of a local church, what effect might that have on the preaching and teaching, and why?

Impact on relationship and service to God

5. 1Pet. 3:1-4; Tit. 2:4,5

From these verses, give four reasons why a godly woman will want to be the kind of wife God wants her to be. (There are at least three in 1Peter, two in Titus)

6. 1Pet. 3:7

What would a man lose if he did not treat his wife with understanding and honor?

Impact on personal well-being

7. Dt. 4:6

How would keeping God's commandments affect Israel?

8. 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.*

State of the family in our society

9. In the United States of America, observe the prevalence of ...

- Divorce
- Sexual unfaithfulness
- Illegitimate births
- Abandoned children; homeless children; runaways
- Homosexuality, lesbianism
- Pornography
- Diminishing importance, time, and effort given to cultivating family life and fulfilling family responsibilities (companionship, parenthood, caring for parents)

You might find it interesting to research statistics highlighting the problems in these areas. Include the source in your notes.

10. Consider the state of the families you know—your parents, your other relatives, your friends... Do the husband and wife simply “exist” together, or do they seem to enjoy one another’s company? Is there continual friction between the parents and children? Would you describe many of the families you know as “very good” relationships? Few? WHAT ABOUT YOUR OWN? Think. Discuss with your family.

Potential of the family

11. **Gen. 1:31**

Do you believe families today can be “very good”? *Based on this text* - Why? How?

12. For thought: Do you believe **your** family can be “very good”?

NOTE: If we want our families to be the best that they can be, *how should we approach a study to successfully accomplish that goal?* That will be the focus of our next lesson.

Lesson 2: Proper Approach to this Study

“I” need this study

1. Pro. 1:20-33

Here wisdom, by the figure of personification, is given the characteristics of a woman. What is this woman trying to get people to do?

Note some of the words and phrases in the text (**vv22,24,29,30,32**) that describe *why* they do not comply. Summarize their attitude.

2. Job 32:6-10

What does Elihu say about the wisdom of older people?

FOR THOUGHT:

- Have you ever given, or do you ever expect to give, advice to young married people?
- Are you prepared to give good, *scripturally supported* counsel? Test yourself: Could you write pertinent scripture references beside each of the following vital areas of family life if asked for counsel?
 - ▶ Companionship?
 - ▶ Authority?
 - ▶ Caring love?
 - ▶ Affection?
 - ▶ Sexual love?
 - ▶ Parenthood?
- Can you *explain the meaning* of each reference and *how it applies* to the roles and responsibilities involved in each of these areas?
- Are you willing to live and *die* with the consequences of your recommendations? Read **Mt. 18:7**.

3. Acts 7:23...30; 2Chronicles 34:1-3

How old was Moses when God called him from a shepherd's life to be the deliverer of Israel?

How old was Josiah when he “began to seek the God of his father David”?

Compare your age. Do you believe God expects YOU, *whatever age you are*, to make whatever changes are necessary to conform to His will, including as it pertains to the family?

4. Ezek. 18:24-29

Who did Israel blame for its troubles?

Who did God say was responsible for them?

If your marriage is not what you had hoped, who do you blame?

5. Mark 14:26-31

What mistake did Peter make?

Do you believe it is possible for your marriage to grow stale, experience trouble, or even end in divorce?

Is there any responsible, sincere, believer who cannot profit by a study of what God says about the family? If so, explain.

God's Word has the answers!**6. 1Tim. 4:1-5**

The Holy Spirit said there would be an apostasy, specifically in regard to food and marriage. Who would NOT be carried away by these false concepts?

What is *always* true and thus absolutely and unquestionably dependable? **Rom 3:4; Psa. 19:7-9**

7. 2Tim. 3:16-17

A “man of God” in the Old Testament was a prophet. Timothy is here being instructed relative to his work as a gospel preacher. If Timothy needed to teach on the family, what would he encouraged to use in his teaching?

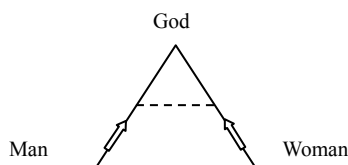
What four things are the Scriptures profitable for?

8. Rom. 12:1-2

According to *this text*, what are *two different standards* that mold who people are and how they live?

According to the text, how is the change of conduct to conform to the latter standard accomplished?

FOR THOUGHT: *Why* do you believe what you do about the role of a husband or wife? How much of what you believe and practice is based on culture (what Mom and Dad did) and society (what others do)? Do you think you have an obligation to change?

The Invincible Triangle

Invincible? “that cannot be overcome; unconquerable” *Websters New World Dict.* Note that when each partner moves closer to God they move closer to each other.

9. 1Jn. 3:4; 5:17

What is “sin”?

Which of the following are sin?

- A wife refuses to respectfully submit to her husband.
- A husband is inconsiderate of his wife’s feelings.
- A mate obstinately withholds sexual obligations from their mate.
- Divorcing a mate for any other reason than fornication.
- Parents who leave all spiritual training to the church.

10. Isa. 8:19-20

Who were the people turning to for counsel?

To what did the prophet say they *should* turn to?

11. List some sources people turn to today for marital guidance.

FOR THOUGHT: *To whom do YOU turn?*

NOTE: If we are aware that we need to be alert and informed about the family, and that essential and reliable guidance is provided in the Word of God, it can promote improving our families—if we are aware of problems that rob us of the potential blessedness God designed in the family. Our next lesson will focus on a practice that can be vital to ascertaining what those problems are.

Lesson 3: Communication in the Husband-Wife Relationship

Need and Importance of Communication

1. Gen. 11:1-9

What reason does the text give for the work of building the city stopping?

Read **Pro. 14:1; 24:3,4; Mk. 3:25**. FOR THOUGHT: *Have you quit “building your house” due to lack of communication?* Has it fallen into a state of disrepair because of your inability—or lack of effort—to understand one another’s feelings, desires, and needs? Did you reach a point where you felt you could build no longer, and learned to simply accept the status quo, though incomplete and uncomfortable?

2. 1Cor. 14:7-11

How can two people, living in the same place, members of the same race, of the same religion, and who associate together, become “barbarians” (v16, “does not know what you are saying”) to one another?

FOR THOUGHT: Do you know your mate? Does your mate think you know them? *ASK HIM/HER.*

3. 2Sam. 10:1-19; 12:26-31

Why did David send ambassadors to Hanun?

Why did Hanun *think* he sent the men?

What was the result?

Barriers to Communication

4. Pro. 11:13

What kind of person would you trust to pour your heart out to?

Why might a person hesitate to reveal their deepest feelings to their mate?

5. Pro. 15:1-2

What is the likely result of a harsh reply?

How will a wise mate respond to an emotional situation to make what they say have a better chance of being received?

Compare **Pro. 12:18; Col. 3:19; Pro. 15:28; 21:23; 29:11.**

6. Job 19:1-3

How did Job feel and why did he feel that way?

FOR THOUGHT: Are we guilty of measuring our mate by one standard while we measure ourselves by another? Read **Lev. 19:35-37** (compare v. 35a with v. 15), **Dt. 25:13-16**, **Eph. 4:25,31**, **1Pt. 3:10**. Do *you* want to be tried in an unfair court?

7. Pro. 26:12

What is the difference in being confident you made a wise decision and the man of this text? (Obviously, there *is* a difference.)

How would this affect your desire to discuss your differences with this person?

FOR SELF EXAMINATION: Can you...do you...ever tell your mate (or your children), “I’m wrong”? Is it more important to you to always be right, or that your relationship with your family be right? Read **Php. 2:3-5**.

8. Mt. 7:1-5

Why (“For”) did Jesus warn against hypocritical, hypercritical judging?

FOR THOUGHT: While *God* will judge us according to our treatment of others (**Mt. 6:14,15; Jam. 2:13**), is it not true that *men* will also tend to respond in kind? If our “communication” consists of hypocritical, hypercritical criticism of our mate, what will that invite?

9. Pro. 12:25

Note the contrast between line one and line two. What might cause a mate's heart to be filled with anxiety (relative to their relationship)?

Give some examples of “a good word.”

FOR THOUGHT: Do we make conscious effort to see the positive and commend our mate, or does our “communication” consist primarily of criticism?

10. Pro. 9:7

What kind of response can you expect from this person when you attempt to tell him what is wrong?

FOR SELF EXAMINATION: Is this the way WE react to criticism from our mate? Is it true that sometimes we act the worse when criticized by those closest to us? Do we agree to communicate only as long as it is complimentary?

Compare **Pro. 12:1; 27:5,6; 28:23**. A loving mate, who knows us better than anyone else—sometimes better than our own self—may do us the greatest favor by “wounding” us with deserved criticism.

11. Pro. 17:9

Who should be a husband or wife's best friend?

Best friends should be able to talk honestly and openly, to communicate. But here wisdom warns of something that will drive a barrier between best friends. What is it?

12. Jn. 21:21-23

What did Jesus say?

What did the people think he said?

FOR THOUGHT: Did you ever *think* you know what your mate said but he/she denies that is what they meant? Is it *possible* you misunderstood? Did you listen to *understand* their feelings - their hurt, their embarrassment, their difficulty, their desires...?

13. Eph. 4:26

What does this verse teach about anger?

FOR THOUGHT: Would this apply to the husband-wife relationship?

Attitudes helpful to communication**14. Col. 3:12-14**

List (or number in your Bible) the attitudes here specified (eight).

What do these attitudes contribute to? (last phrase in v. 14) Compare **Mk. 3:25**.

15. 1Cor. 13:4-7

List (or number in your Bible) the fourteen things this "love" does or does not do. The presence—or absence—of these traits cannot help but impact communication.

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 a healthy communication between a husband and wife?*

Lesson 4: Purpose of the Husband-Wife Relationship

Common ideas

1. Some (many ?) in our society do not believe people need to get married. If they do get married, *why* do they get married? Use your personal experience with people (e.g. ask a friend, co-worker, family member), news articles (e.g., Internet, TV, newspaper), or other research for your answer.
2. FOR THOUGHT: If someone asked *you* why people ought to get married, what would your answer be, and could you show that answer is based on Scripture?

Scriptural concept: Companionship

Man Has a Problem, Gen 2:18a

3. What was the man's *problem* (what was "not good")?

God Provides the Answer Gen 2:18b-23

4. What was the Divinely provided *answer* ("I will make ...")?
5. The *purpose* of woman's existence was to be man's "helper" ... *according to the context*, "help" with *what*?
6. **Lk. 2:52**
Woman was made to "correspond" to man (**Gen 2:18**, NASB marginal note)—"meet" KJV; "comparable" NKJV; "fit" ESV). Jesus increased in four different facets. What are they? This shows the fourfold nature of man.
7. Compare **Gen. 1:20-31** with **Gen. 2:18-24**. There is a difference in the sequence of the record of creation in the two passages. Yet they do not contradict each other. In chapter two, Moses follows an order of *thought*, not time. By writing as he does, he focuses on the fact that in all the created world woman is not only the "*suitable*" answer to man's need, but the *only* answer, *perfectly corresponding* to man's need, and that by Divine design.

FOR SELF EXAMINATION: Men, do you treat your wife like your *dearest companion*?
Wives, do you view your role as a man's *companion*? Is this a *priority* in your life? Do you work to be a good, loving, devoted companion *mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually*?

FOR SELF EXAMINATION: If a wife works outside the home, and if her husband expects her to work, WHY? (Read **Pro. 15:17**) How does it affect her role?

Can two people be married and still be lonely? Explain.

The following questions under #1 are not for class discussion. *They are, however, for HUSBAND-WIFE discussion.* Do not skip them.

- Though married, do YOU feel lonely? Do you feel like your mate ignores you? Do you long for more attention? Do you feel like your mate treats you as a true companion?
- Depending on your answer, WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?
- Does your mate feel lonely? Do they consider you their best friend, one with whom they can share their secret problems and greatest joys? ASK THEM...
- Depending on their answer, WILL you do anything about it, and if so, WHAT?

FOR THOUGHT: Can the following undermine God's plan for companionship in marriage?

- Devotion to work
- Devotion to hobbies, sports, civic interests
- Devotion to friends
- Devotion to parents
- Devotion to children
- Devotion to church

8. **Gen. 2:18**

Woman was made to man's "helper" ("help" KJV, ASV). Compare **Dt. 33:26,29, Jn. 15:26** (NKJV, NASB) and, based on these Scriptures, show why that does *not* imply she is inferior to man.

9. **Pro. 18:22; 19:14; 31:10...28-31**

Compare these passages with the modern practice of depreciating wifedom by both men and women. What can be done to restore wifedom to its proper honor

- by women?
- by men?

FOR SELF-EXAMINATION: Women, do you feel inferior "just being a wife"? Should you? How does your attitude affect your attitude toward being a companion to your husband?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

FOR SELF-EXAMINATION: Men, do your speech and conduct make your wife feel inferior? ASK HER ...! Depending on her answer, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

The Divine Solution: Marriage vv22-25**10. Gen. 2:22-24**

When a man and woman marry, to whom does their first allegiance belong (after God)? Explain the reason for your answer from the scripture.

DISCUSS WITH YOUR MATE: Do your speech and conduct make your mate feel like they are #1, or that your parents come first?

FOR THOUGHT: Since the purpose of marriage is companionship, should our personal hygiene, appearance, speech, and conduct make our mate *want* to be with us? DOES IT? *ASK THEM.*

One companion**11. Who introduced polygamy, Gen. 4:17-19**

Note: Polygamy the cause of domestic discord, **Gen. 16:4-6; 21:8-21; 29:21-35; 1Sam. 1:1-8.**

12. Mt. 19:3-9

Jesus was asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?” What was his answer?

Applications

For thought and discussion—How does what the Scriptures teach about the *purpose* of the husband-wife relationship impact the following ...

- Women working outside the home?
- Husbands and wives involvement in political, civic, social activities?
- Jobs and their demands (time, travel, associations)
- Vacations...e.g. spend them together or apart; “working” vacations?
- How one spends their “spare time”?
- Young marrieds and having children (e.g. sooner? later?)
- Older marrieds when children leave home?
- Those preparing for marriage and/or seeking a mate?
- Should we *all our married life* be working to be a better “companion”—someone our mate is proud and glad to be with, and if so, *how*?

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

The following is a checklist to spur thought and application. Why not discuss these with your mate and seek for *understanding* - of how *he/she* feels and that your mate understands how *you* feel - i.e. *communicate*.

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." (John 13:17, NASB).

Lesson 5: Authority in the Husband-Wife Relationship

1. Num 27:20; Mt 8:8-9

Based on its use in these texts, what does “authority” refer to?

Authority - two kinds

Inherent Authority

2. Job 34:13

What is Elihu’s question about God?

What is the answer? (See also **Job 40:8-14; 1Ch 29:11; Rom 1:20-21,25**)

3. Define “inherent”

Delegated Authority

4. 1Sam 15:17-18

How did Saul come to have the authority as “king” of Israel?

5. Define “delegate” (as *noun* and a *verb*).

Delegated authority in the family—the Divine arrangement

6. 1Cor. 11:3,8-10; 1Tim. 2:14; Gen. 3:16

Why did God delegate man the authority in the family? (Two reasons)

Why do people today think men have authority in the family? Ask your co-workers, friends, relatives...

7. Num. 16:1-14

- Why is the people's action described as rebellion “against Moses and Aaron” (v3) *and* “against the Lord,” (v11)?
- What they were rebelling against?
- What was their argument in justification of their rebellion?

8. 1Sam. 8:7

Had not the people rejected Samuel in favor of a king, vv. 4-5? Why then did the Lord say, “they have **not rejected you**, but they have rejected Me from being king over them”? (Compare **Lk. 10:16; Rom. 13:1-2.**)

FOR SELF-EXAMINATION: Women, do you look upon it as SIN to reject, undermine, or rebel against your husband’s right to rule the family?

9. 1Sam. 15:1-31

Saul was now king, the supreme authority in the nation. But what did Samuel point how he came to have that authority? (see vv. 17-18)

FOR THOUGHT: Men, never forget the authority you have in the family is delegated to you by God and you are responsible to Him to use it according to His will.

10. Mt 20:20-28

What lesson was Jesus teaching his disciples about authority?

Compare **John 13:1-17**.

FOR SELF EXAMINATION: Men, do you consider it SIN to use your authority in a prideful way and without consideration of your mate?

11. 1Kings 12:6-20

- What wise counsel did the older men give the new king?
- What counsel did the young give?
- What were the results?

Eze 34:1-4...11-22 - “Shepherds” have authority over a flock—note the contrast in how the “shepherds” (rulers) of Israel misused their authority with what *good* shepherds do.

FOR SELF-EXAMINATION: Men, is it possible for inconsideration and selfishness in your decisions and actions to be the CAUSE of discontent and rebellion in your family?

12. Eph. 5:22-33

What is the wife commanded to do? (The answer is NOT simply, “submit.” Read again.)

What is the husband commanded to do? (The answer is NOT simply, “rule.” Read again.)

If a wife is ever commanded to make her husband love her, put the scripture _____.

If a husband is ever commanded to make his wife submit, put the scripture _____.

FOR THOUGHT: Wives, do you complain because your husband doesn't love you as he should? Does your husband feel you are contentious and stubborn? WHICH QUESTION SHOULD GIVE YOU MORE CONCERN?

FOR THOUGHT: Husbands, are you often irritated, angry, and maybe vindictive because you feel your wife doesn't comply with your wishes? Does your wife repeatedly remark that you do not understand her or consider her in your decisions and actions? WHICH QUESTION SHOULD GIVE YOU MORE CONCERN?

13. Pro. 19:13; 21:9

What attitude and action of a wife is a source of irritation to her husband and promotes his withdrawal?

14. Gen. 13:1-13; 19:1-26; 2 Pt. 2:6-7

- a. What decision did Lot make that greatly affected his family?
- b. Why did he make that decision?
- c. What losses did he suffer as a result of it?
- d. Do the scriptures describe Lot as a godly or ungodly man?

FOR SELF-EXAMINATION: Men, do you consider your family when you

- Take a job?
- Take a second job?
- Move to another location?
- Agree to social or civil pursuits?
- Get involved in a hobby?

FOR SELF-EXAMINATION: Wives, when your husband makes what you believe to be a bad decision, do you

- Treat him as an ungodly man because of it?
- Throw it up in his face and use it as a reason not to submit to him in the future?

15. 1Pet. 3:1-7

What is a woman exhorted to do that will endow her with a never-fading beauty, both to her husband and to God?

FOR SELF-EXAMINATION: Women, do you believe God expects you to respect your husband's authority even if he makes a decision you strongly disagree with?

What two things must a husband be cognizant of in all his actions toward his wife?

FOR SELF-EXAMINATION: Men, do you believe your wife is your equal in the eyes of God and that He expects you to treat her as such?

A godly woman *respect* her husband, **vv. 2,6**. A godly man *respect* his wife, **v. 7**. Is this respect dependent on the other person's character, goodness, or loveliness? Base your answer on the text. See also **2:17,18...3:1**.

How important is this to

- the wife? **v. 4**
- the husband? **v. 7**

16. 1Tim. 5:14

Over whom does woman have authority in the family?

How can her husband reinforce her authoritative role?

How can her husband subvert her authoritative role?

SUGGESTION: If there are problems in this area, why not sit down and discuss it ... *with Scripture?*

17. 2Sam. 11

Here is a tragic and shameful event in the life of a great man. What word recurs in vv. 4, 6, 14, and 27 that indicates the use - or, better, MISuse - of his authority?

Give some examples how authority can be misused in the family today.

18. 1Sam. 25

Discuss: Should one in authority ever “listen”? If he concedes to his wife, does it mean he is weak?

FOR HUSBAND-WIFE DISCUSSION: Men, do you *consider* what your wife has to say? *Ask her* if she feels you do.

19. Judges 17:6...21:25

What phrases recur in these verses? (Note also 18:1; 19:1.)

Read chapters 17-21 for a historical commentary on anarchy. The family is not immune...!

Applications

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

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

Nature of caring love

1. Mt. 5:43-46

Jesus commands, not a *feeling*, but a *way of treating others*. When you love one who has ridiculed you for your faith, how do you treat him? Compare also **Lk. 6:27f**.

To be “sons of our Father” we must *act* like our Father, imitating that “perfect” love He has. *Who* does our Father love?

How does He love them?

FOR THOUGHT: This is how we must treat our *enemies*. Do we treat our mates *worse*? How do we react when they say or do something that hurts us? Note: “If you love those who love you, what reward have you?” Do we think like this: “IF my mate will treat me with kindness and consideration, I will treat him/her with care, consideration, and kindness”? - i.e., do you only feel obligated to love one who loves you?

2. Rom. 13:8-10

Specifically, list what love will keep one from doing to a neighbor.

FOR THOUGHT: Love will keep one from “bearing false witness” against a “neighbor.” What if that “neighbor” is your *spouse*? Also, is it okay to misrepresent a spouse if only to family and close friends?

3. 1Jn. 3:16-18

How do you *know* God loves you?

How do you *know* a brother loves you?

FOR THOUGHT: Does your *conduct* give unmistakable evidence of your care for the welfare and honor of your mate? Or, do our neglect and thoughtlessness reflect that we have “closed our hearts against” some of the “needs” of our mate, e.g, attention ... encouragement ... companionship ... affection ...?

4. Jn. 15:12-13

What is the greatest measure of care one can have for another’s welfare?

FOR THOUGHT: What if caring for mate’s welfare necessitated giving up a favorite pastime, e.g. golf, hunting, TV shows, bowling league? Or suppose it called for changing friendships, giving up pursuit of wealth (extra jobs, changing jobs, careers), or changing SELF...? Just how good a “friend” are you?

5. Rom. 5:6-8

For whom did Christ die?

FOR THOUGHT: Are you ever tempted to excuse your failures to love as you ought saying, “You don’t know my mate...!” (i.e. how unlovely he/she is)

Caring love in the husband/wife relationship**6. Eph. 5:22-33**

“As,” “just as,” “even as” = adverbs of manner. How is a husband to love his wife? See vv. 25,28,33.

Suppose a man “just don’t have” this love for his wife. What should he do?

Should this love grow deeper with maturity? Explain.

Does the man who has a deep feeling and attraction for his wife thereby meet the requirements of his responsibility here enjoined? Explain.

7. Tit. 2:4-5

How can these obligations be summed up? (Compare **Rom. 13:9-10.**)

Does this love come naturally? Confirm your answer from the text.

Does the woman who has a deep feeling and attraction for her husband thereby meet the requirements of his responsibility here enjoined? Explain.

FOR SELF EXAMINATION: Mothers: Are you training your own daughters to have that love for a husband that seeks his well-being and honor in the way you speak, dress, spend money, keep house, respect his authority...?

8. Pro. 31:10-31

Note v. 12. Compare it with the definition of “caring love.” Would this be true physically...? morally...? spiritually...? socially...? financially...? How could a woman fail to “do him good and not evil” in these areas?

Considerations in interpreting this acrostic poem:

- “Proverbs” contains “figures” or “riddles”, **1:6.**
- Literally taken, this is a picture of a rich woman.
- This woman is pictured as always busy with material and financial pursuits. Nothing is said of time and efforts directed toward affection for her husband and children (When would she have time?). Nothing is said of subjection to her husband. Will her husband and children praise her (v. 28) for what is literally said about her in this poem?

Contrast:

- The Lord's clear indication of what is more valuable in a woman, **Lk. 10:38-42**.
- The things to be taught young women, as well as the approved conduct of older women, **Tit. 2:3-5**.
- A woman entitled to being "enrolled" or "put on the list" by the church, **1Tim. 5:10**.
- The commendation given Eunice and Lois, **2 Tim. 1:5, 3:15**.
- The natural tendencies of men and women spoken of throughout the Bible indicating the desire and need for companionship, affection, and conjugal privileges.
- She is pictured as making clothes for the poor, her household, herself, her husband, and for sale, **vv. 19-24**....then, **v. 25**. "Strength and dignity are her clothing...." Consider **vv. 25b** through **v. 27** in the light of **v. 25a**.

9. **1Cor. 13:4-7**

Observe the character traits of love ("charity" KJV) listed here (NAS95 unless otherwise noted) and consider their practical application in the husband-wife relationship!

- Patient ("suffers long" NKJV)
- Kind
- Not jealous ("does not envy" NKJV)
- Not brag ("not parade itself")
- Not arrogant ("not puffed up" NKJV)
- Not act unbecomingly (not behave rudely" NKJV; "not behave itself unseemly" KJV)
- Not seek its own
- Not provoked ("not easily provoked" NKJV)
- Not keep an account of a wrong suffered (NAS20) ("thinks no evil" NKJV)
- Not rejoice in unrighteousness ("iniquity" NKJV), but rejoices with the truth
- Bears all things
- Believes all things
- Hopes all things
- Endures all things

10. Read **Pro. 10:12; 15:17**.

Applications

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

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

Nature of affectionate love

1. Gen. 29:1-35; 30:1-21

Why did Jacob “love” Rachel? **29:16-18**

Because of Jacob’s love for Rachel, how did the seven years he served for her seem to him? **29:20**

Leah coveted the love Jacob had for Rachel. See **29:32-34; 30:14-16, 19-20**. What did she think would gain Jacob’s love and why might she think that it would? (On the last part of this question, compare **Gen. 33:5, 1 Chron. 28:5, Ps. 127:4,5, Eccl. 6:3**)

Why did Leah give her sons these names? (note the meaning of the names) **29:31-35; 30:19-20**

- Reuben
- Simeon
- Levi
- Zebulun

What was the nature of Leah’s “affliction”? Compare **1Sam. 1:5-6; Deu. 24:5**.

Did Leah have Jacob’s sexual love? Did she have his affectionate love? Are these the same?

How can a woman gain and maintain her husband’s affection?

FOR THOUGHT: Wives, if you would like to rekindle, enhance, or insure your husband’s affection for you, what can YOU do? What does YOUR husband delight in...?

FOR THOUGHT: Husbands, does your wife feel loved? Do you feel that since you provide for her she ought to be satisfied? Have you thought that about the fact that though you feel your wife “has everything she needs,” she may need most the one thing she doesn’t have...YOU, your TIME, your TENDERNESS, and YOUR AFFECTION? Maybe you ought to discuss it with her...

Abuse of affectionate love

2. Judges 16:1-31

Either Samson did not see what Delilah was up to, or, he did what she wanted anyway. What does this reveal about this kind of “love”?

What argument did she use to accomplish her selfish ends? (**vv. 15-16**)

What consequences did Samson suffer?

Give some examples how such love might affect one’s morals today? one’s spirituality? one’s health?

Forbidden affectionate love**3. 1Kings 11:1-8**

Did Solomon have caring love for these women? Explain.

Contrast the current music that implies that “luv” makes it “right.” (If you can think of a couple of titles of songs or phrases from songs along this line, jot them down.)

4. Ezra 10:1-17, 44

Do you think these men loved their wives and children? Explain.

What motivated and strengthened them to deny sinful entanglements of love? vv. **3, 8, 9, 11-14.**

Affectionate love without caring love**5. 2Sam. 13:1-19**

How did Amnon feel toward Tamar *before* he raped her?

After he raped her?

Why the difference?

Mark it: anyone who sacrifices the purity of another, even if by consent, practices a SELFISH love.

FOR THOUGHT: There is nothing in the text to indicate Tamar was anything but innocent in this entire matter. In fact, Amnon found it difficult to find opportunity to carry out his purposes, v2. A woman who has been raped, though feeling shamed and humiliated, may be completely without guilt. However, in view of the fact that, as our text shows, certain situations are more conducive to it, would it not be wise to avoid, if possible, such circumstances? Young people, if you have parents who want to know where you go, how late you will be out and impose curfews, will not allow you to be at home alone with your date...maybe, instead of parents who “don’t understand,” they understand a whole lot more than you think, or are capable of realizing at this point in your life, and impose such rules and restraints out of a wise and caring love for you. And as for those who are no longer under parents’ rule, can any lesson be learned from this text about the danger of vulnerable situations? Mark the rise, or the awareness, of “date rape” in one or the other’s house, apartment, or dorm.

Song extolling wholesome affectionate love

6. The Song of Solomon is a eulogy to wholesome affectionate love. Solomon attempts to woo her. But she loves a shepherd lad. She must choose between all the “things” and prestige Solomon can offer, and a common life with her “friend” (5:16) whom she loves. True and mature love wins out in the end. Read 2:7; 3:5; 5:8; 8:4 and 8:6-8 in this light.

Read 2:3-6 —it is a beautiful poetic picture of *affectionate* love.

Summarize the adjuration (“charge” NKJV) the Shulammitte makes to the daughters of Jerusalem in your own words. (v. 7)

Note: Affectionate love is based on pleasure in the person loved. Solomon’s description of the Shulammitte maiden reveals his infatuation with her *physical* beauty, 4:1-6. But, note in the shepherd’s description, 4:7-15, he is delighted not only in her physical attractiveness, but her *inward, moral* beauty, 4:12-15. Observe, then, that while the physical is not to be ignored, there are other areas also that cause “delight” and thus stir affection in right thinking people.

In women: devotion to wifehood, motherhood, chastity, sensibleness, godliness, responsibility - **Tit. 2:4,5**.

In men: kindness, **Col. 3:9**, consideration, **1Pt 3:7**, appreciation, **SS 4:7** (though this the Shulammitte’s vision, it is the vision of her *shepherd’s* beckon, i.e. he appreciates her physical and moral beauty and this is one reason she dreams about him), praise, **Pro. 31:28**.

When one is beautiful outside, but ugly inside, think of the effect on affectionate love ...

Applications

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

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

Origin

1. Gen. 1:26-28; 2:22-24

How did the sexual drive in man and woman, along with the provision for its fulfillment, come to be?

FOR THOUGHT: Sexual love between a lawful husband and wife is pure and holy. Do your actions and speech treat it as such ... when with your mate? in front of your children? when with others? How does your speech and actions make your MATE feel? How do YOU feel about it?

Relationship begets responsibility

2. 1Cor. 7:1-5

What is one legitimate reason for marriage, v. 2?

In the *New American Standard* version, what word did the Holy Spirit use to refer to conjugal responsibilities, v. 3? Define this word. (NKJV uses a similar word before the word, “her”)

Note: In the KJV, it is the word *before* “benevolence. In the NKJV, it is the word *before* “her.” In the ESV, it is the word *after* “conjugal” (there is no word in the MSS for “conjugal”).

KJV “benevolence” and NKJV “affection” is based on the *Textus Receptus* MSS that includes the word *euonia*, good-will. Whether the word was in the original or not, it is a fact that this ought to be rendered in “good-will” or “affection.”

The husband or wife does not have authority to do what with their own body, vv. 4-5?

A discontinuance of these conjugal duties is allowed on two conditions, v. 5. What are they?

When husbands and wives are deprived of intimate love between themselves for too long for whatever reason - too busy with social, civic, religious, or economic affairs, sapping time and energy; extended absence due to jobs, vacations, separations; indifference; etc. - to what do they expose themselves and their mate, v. 5?

FOR THOUGHT: Husbands and wives have a divine obligation to be alert and sensitive to their mate’s feelings and needs in this vital area of their relationship. Are your thoughts and actions motivated and determined only by your own personal desires and feelings? Does your mate feel like you do about this? Husbands and wives need to discuss these matters honestly and lovingly. And...husbands and wives need to LISTEN.

God intended pleasure**3. Pro. 5:15-23**

Read to get the imagery clear in your mind.

v. 15 Drink water from your own cistern

v. 15 (Drink).....fresh water from your own well

v. 16your springs

v. 16streams of water

v. 17 Let...be.....them..yours alone

v. 18 Let..be blessed.....your fountain

v. 18 Rejoice in.....THE WIFE OF YOUR YOUTH

v. 19 Let satisfy you.....her breasts

v. 19 BE EXHILARATED WITH..LOVE.....her

versus

v. 20 Be exhilarated with.....an adulteress

v. 20 Embracethe bosom of a foreigner

Summarize (sentence or two) the attitude a man is encouraged to have toward his wife in this section (vv. 15-19).

Give two reasons why he should have such an attitude (v. 20; vv. 21-23).

What would you think of a person who held up a cold glass of cool water to a thirsty man on a hot day, maybe even let him get just a sip, then refuse to let him slake his thirst, becoming insulted and angry if he tried?

Construct an analogy to woman's dress and conduct and their effect upon man. (Note the imagery in Proverbs.) Note **2Sam. 11:2-4; Mark 6:21-22**.

FOR THOUGHT AND FAMILY DISCUSSION: Are women affected by the appearance of man's body? Note **Gen. 39:6b-7**. So what?

Lessons from the competitor**4. Pro. 7:6-27**

What in the text evidences that the "love" of v. 18 is not "caring love"?

What does the woman use to entice this man? (list three things - vv. 10, 13, 13b...21)

FOR THOUGHT: The love this woman desired was unlawful and impure. However, she knew how to acquire what she wanted. Be warned! - Read **Pro. 5:1-8**. The God-approved love husbands and wives desire from one another is pure. While this woman's love was unclean, her methods were successful. Can husbands and wives learn anything from her in the exercise of pure love? Discuss with your mate the four points above relative to your relationship.

Applications

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

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 1 Co. 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 1 Co. 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

Money

1. 1Tim. 6:9-10

Who stands in danger of being snared by temptation?

What is a root of all sorts of evil?

2. Dt. 8:10-17

What is Moses warning the people against?

Why might they do this?

3. Mk. 4:19

What three things will “choke the word”?

How will these choke the word? Draw from experience and personal judgment to answer.

FOR DISCUSSION: How is the cycle (letting work be a priority, making obligations upon you that sap your time and energy) broken?

4. Mt. 6:19-24

Is the Lord forbidding “laying up treasures upon earth,” and if you answer “no,” what IS he teaching?

Why did the Lord say this is so important (How will it affect us)?

5. Eccl. 5:10-20

List effects of a wrong attitude toward money (list three things - vv. 10-11; v. 12; vv. 13-17)

What is the proper way to spend life and use one’s possessions? vv. 18-20

6. Pro. 15:17; 17:1

Memorize

Religion

7. Dt. 7:1-4

What was Israel forbidden to do?

Why?

8. 1Kings 4:29-34

What was Solomon known for?

Observe what happened to him, **1Kings 11:1-13**.

9. 1Cor. 7:26, 32-35

Why did the apostle say it was better for the Corinthians to remain single?

10. 1Pet. 3:1-2

What kind of husband is discussed here?

What is the wife's responsibility to him?

11. Mt. 10:34-39

The Lord must take precedence over who?

What might result in the family when the Lord is given precedence?

In-laws

12. 1Tim. 5:1-2

In what manner was Timothy instructed to rebuke people of various ages?

13. Job 32:4-10

Elihu first decided on one course of action, but later changes. He was right *both* times. Explain why.

14. 1Tim. 5:8

How and why can a believer be worse than an infidel?

15. Gen. 2:24; Dt. 7:3; Gen. 24:57-58

What is the groom's responsibility?

What should the bride understand?

What will understanding, spiritually mature parents do?

Flirtatiousness

16. Mal. 2:14

What did God witness you vow to your mate relative to moral loyalty? If you can remember, write it here:

17. Gen. 20:6; 1Cor. 7:1

In these verses, what word is used in the NASB, NKJV, to connote conjugal relations?

18. Pro. 7:10,13,21

What did this woman do to “stir up” her victim?

Suspiciousness**19. Ex. 23:1-3,7**

Here are a number of “thou shalt not’s.” Sum these up in one positive statement.

20. Pro. 12:18

What is one way a person can speak “rashly”? Note vv. 17,19.

What is the effect of such rash statements?

21. Pro. 17:4; 21:28

What is one reason some bear false witness?

Laziness**22. Pro. 12:27**

Might it take work and diligence to acquire a “prey”? If so, why is this man called “slothful”?

FOR THOUGHT: Can one be diligent in pursuit of some things while at the same time lazy in regard to others?

FOR THOUGHT: A fellow works hard to court and win his bride. They get married - he catches his “prey.” But, now what does he do with his possession? Is he “eager or willing to exert himself” to properly treat his wife? Or does he feel the work was over when he “caught” her? Does he work to learn to “honor” her (**1Pe 3:7**), to “sanctify” her (**Eph 5:26**), and to “nourish” her, physically and emotionally (**Eph 5:29**)? Is this man LAZY? Objection: He still works hard - to earn a living. True, he may not be lazy relative to working for a living, but, wouldn’t this be like the hunter diligently skinning and gutting his prey, hanging it up, and then leaving it there.....to rot! Is skinning, gutting, and hanging ALL that is needed to properly care for his prey??

A woman works hard to win her man. Now what? “After autumn” (**Pro. 20:4**) all is not so easy. It is not easy to learn to be share his interests, to keep herself attractive, to learn her role as a submissive, supportive, and loving companion. In fact there may be some things that are downright UNPLEASANT. Now if she only does those things that she LIKES to do but is not “eager and willing to exert herself” to clothe herself with “strength and dignity” of character - never “grows up” morally and spiritually (**Pro 31:25**), does not apply herself to learn how to conduct herself and manage her house in such a way that she is a “crown” to her husband (**Pro 12:4**), e.g. her dress, personal hygiene, demeanor, her home, - this woman may be “busy” with many things (secular work, the yard, personal pursuits), but as it relates to her responsibilities as a wife, is she not LAZY?!

23. Pro. 24:30-34

What is the result of laziness?

Do you think this is limited to vineyards? Explain.

24. Pro. 15:19

Why does the lazy person make no progress?

25. Pro. 18:9

How can laziness destroy a marriage?

Additional suggestions

26. Cultivate communication. See lesson [three](#).

27. Eph. 6:18

We are in a life and death struggle, **vv. 10f**. In **v. 18**, what are we urged to do to be able to stand in this battle against the evil one?

FOR THOUGHT: Do you sincerely, humbly, and thoughtfully express your heart to God, or do you quickly and superficially utter cliches so you can say you “prayed”? Do you pray daily? Do you pray to be a better husband, a better wife? Do you ever pray together? Do you pray for one another? Do you pray to glorify God in the way you think about one another, talk to one another, treat one another? Do you pray to be an example of faith to your mate, an encouragement to godly living rather than a discouragement? Think: If Satan is successful in undermining the family (and note there are instructions about the family in this very letter, **5:22-6:4**), how much harder will this battle be?

Spiritual maturity’s impact on marital difficulties

28. Heb. 5:12-14; 1Cor. 14:20; 16:13

What are three characteristics of spiritual maturity (one from each verse)?

Applications

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

Children's responsibility

1. Ex. 20:1-17

The foundation for the authority and wisdom of the fifth through tenth commandments is laid in the first four. What is that foundation?

What is the fifth commandment?

If instilled (*whose responsibility is that?*) and practiced, the fifth commandment can serve as a training ground in the home for the last five commandments. Consider the following.

- “You shall not murder” - Respect for *human life*
Trained to *honor* their parents person and position (authority). Not allowed to let passions smolder and then vent in rage. See **Ex. 21:15,17; Mt. 5:21,22**.
- “You shall not commit adultery” - Respect for *human morality*
Children expected to *honor* the purity and loyalty of their parents relationship. Not exposed to poor examples (remarks, movies, disreputable magazines), nor allowed to bring such into their home.
- “You shall not steal” - Respect for *human property*
Taught to *honor* parents’ possessions. Not allowed to use, or abuse, at will - just because they want it or want to so use it.
- “You shall not bear false witness” - Respect for *human justice*
Not allowed to *dishonor* parents by charging them harshly in vengeance or anger, e.g., “You don’t love me”; “You’re mean.” Expected to honor parents’ innocence. Note **Ex. 23:7**.
- “You shall not covet” - Respect for *human individuality*
Taught to *honor* the difference in and accomplishments due to parents’ ages, abilities, and labors. Children not trained to think they ought to have now, or maybe ever, everything parents have.

2. Lev. 19:32; Pro. 23:22-23; Eph. 6:1; Rom. 1:30-32; Col. 3:20

Why should children respect their parents? (One reason from each passage)

3. Ex. 21:15, 17; Lev. 19:32; Pro. 23:22-25; 30:17; Eph. 6:1; Mt. 15:4-6

How can this respect be shown? (One manner from each passage)

4. Eph. 6:1-3

According to this text, what must children do to “honor” their parents?

5. 1Kings 15:3a; 22:43a

What did Abijam do?

What did Jehoshaphat do?

Who did the wrong thing? Explain.

6. Lk. 14:26-27

What does the Lord *say* about discipleship?

What does he *mean*?

7. Mk. 7:9-13

According to Jesus, what responsibility is implied in “honor your father and mother”?

8. 1Tim. 5:8

Why is failure to provide for one’s own be “worse than an unbeliever”?

Parents responsibility - in love**9. Rom. 1:31,32**

NASB, “unloving”; KJV, “without natural affection”; NIV, NRSV, ESV, “heartless”
a, negative; *storgE*, love of kindred (RWP) “special Gk word for family love” Barclay

What is God’s judgment concerning those who lack this love?

10. Psa. 103:13 (note “just as a father”); 1Th. 2:7-8 (note “as a nursing mother” NASB, NKJV)

What attitudes and conduct do these scriptures indicate are understood to be inherent in family love of children?

11. 2Co. 12:14,15

What natural parental responsibility is alluded to?

12. Gen. 25:28...27:5-17...41-46...28:8-9

What domestic problems arose due to partiality in family love?

13. 2Sam. 18:33; Pro. 13:24

Will “loving” a child secure his good character? Explain.

Parents responsibility - in training**14. Eph 6:4**

Who is addressed in this scripture?

What two things are they to be active in as they train their children?

15. Compare Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21

What two things must fathers be on guard against in training their children?

16. Pro. 14:1

What does a wise woman do? A foolish woman?

What is her “house”?

Be prepared to discuss how each does this? Scriptures to consider: **1Tim. 5:14; Pro. 1:8; 23:22-25; 24:3-4; 29:15; 31:26-27; Tit. 2:4**

17. Acts 16:1-3; 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15

Who had a great and good influence on Timothy?

What do we know about Timothy’s father?

FOR THOUGHT AND SELF-EXAMINATION ...***Questions for mothers***

- Time

Do you give your children the time needed to assure them security and counseling? Is “home” a place of warmth they can look forward to at the end of the school day because “mom” is there, or just an empty “house”? Do you have time to lend the listening ear to your child’s joys and sorrows, which, though maybe insignificant, are important to him or her?
- Quality

Are your children getting only your “left-overs”? Is your “best” given to the a job, to civic and social activities, or to other pursuits, only to come home tired and mentally exhausted at the end of the day? Does an atmosphere of tenseness instead of peace pervade your home? Are you irritable and impatient?
- Priorities

What do you consider the greatest work you can do? Does any job, or any social or civil pursuit have more far-reaching and lasting consequences or greater rewards than raising well-balanced and godly children?

Note: While these are questions for mothers, sometimes it is the *fathers*—because of their desire for and emphasis on *material things* (**Lk. 12:13-21**) and *lack of trust in God to provide* (**Mt. 6:33**)—that put mothers in the position of having to sacrifice time and energy that should be invested in being a mother!

Question for fathers & mothers

If jobs, pleasures, hobbies, social or civil pursuits would deprive your children of material provisions....? If they are robbing them of the spiritual, mental, and emotional provisions God intended for them to receive from godly, loving, and devoted parents...???

18. Heb. 12:9-11

What is the purpose of discipline?

19. Pro. 13:24

What kind of “love” is under consideration? Explain.

Discipline in the manner described in the second line of the verse demands what of the parent?

20. Pro. 22:15

List some examples of “foolishness” alluded to in these scriptures: **Pro. 10:18; 10:23; 12:15; 15:5,20; 18:6; 20:3; 26:11; 26:12; 29:11.**

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21. Pro. 23:13-14

What is implied about the severity of discipline in this scripture?

22. Pro. 29:15,17

What is the result of a lack of discipline? of proper discipline?

23. 1Sam. 2:23-25...3:13

What else could Eli have done?

24. Dt. 11:18-20

When, where, about what, and why was the Jewish father to instruct his son?

25. Rom. 2:17-24

Why did the Gentiles speak evil of the Jews’ God and religion?

What does your example teach...?

- about respect for social, civil, and religious authority?
- about absolute honesty in all affairs?
- about life’s priorities? about the practical value of God’s Word?
- about family life?

Applications

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

The following checklist is to spur thought and application.

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 LAW OF THE LORD IS PERFECT**, restoring the soul; **THE TESTIMONY OF THE LORD IS SURE**, making wise the simple. **THE PRECEPTS OF THE LORD ARE RIGHT**, rejoicing the heart; **THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD IS PURE**, enlightening the eyes. **THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS CLEAN**, enduring forever; **THE JUDGMENTS OF THE LORD ARE TRUE**; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them thy servant is warned; **IN KEEPING THEM THERE IS GREAT REWARD.**” Psa. 19:7-11, NASB

Lesson 11: Brother-Sister Relationship

1. Gen. 13:8

What reason did Abraham give for seeking peace with Lot?

- 2.** In the following verses, a brother or sister was jealous of the other. First, find the specific thing they were jealous about. Then, suggest something similar brothers and sisters get jealous over today. The first one is completed for an example of what to do.

	SPECIFICALLY, IN CONTEXT	APPLICATIONS TODAY
Gen. 4:4-5	God's acceptance of Abel's sacrifice	Dad's acceptance of one brother's good job, but not the other's sloppy job.
Gen. 25:31-34		
Gen. 27:18-45		
Gen. 30:1-2		
Gen. 37:2-4		
1Sam. 17:26-30		
1Kings 1:1 - 2:25		

3. Gal. 5:19-21

What will happen to the person who dies guilty of jealousy?

4. Eph. 4:31

What feelings and practices should be "put away" by Christians? List them. Do you know the meaning of each one?

5. Gen. 4:7

Instead of being jealous of Abel because God accepted Abel's offering and not his, what did God encourage Cain to do?

6. Dt. 21:15-17

What was the right of the firstborn? How could a recognition of this help in overcoming conflict and bitterness between siblings?

7. Gen. 37:3

According to this verse, why was Joseph favored by his father? (Note: We can find ourselves having hard feelings toward a brother or sister over something that is not their fault.)

8. Num. 12:1-8

Why did Moses have the authority and role of a special prophet? Aaron and Miriam did not like the fact Moses married a Cushite woman (v. 1), possibly took advantage of his humility (v. 3), and attacked him as if he had exalted himself to the role he exercised.

9. 1Sam. 17:48-54

How would David's success impact his brothers? See **vv. 4-13, 24**. Now, instead of bitterness due to jealousy, should they not rejoice in his faith and success? But, would they...?

If we can realize that our brother or sister's successes may be a benefit to us, it may help us overcome the hostile feelings born in jealousy.

10. Ex. 2:7-8

Indications are that Moses was known to be a special child from birth (**v. 2; Acts 7:20-25**). Instead of being jealous and rejoicing in the danger of death that Moses faced, what did Miriam attempt to do? Compare **2Cor. 11:2-3**.

11. Proverbs to avoid strife

Following are some proverbs that can help brothers and sisters live in peace and avoid strife. Read each proverb and make brief notes about the meaning of the proverb and its application to harmonious relationships. (When several proverbs are grouped together below, they point to the same idea. Make notes on that main idea.)

10:12

13:10

15:1

15:18; 29:22

11:13; 17:9; 16:28; 26:20

17:14

18:6; 21:23

22:10

23:29-35

26:17

28:25

30:32-33

23:22-25

12. 2Sam. 2:26; Gen. 13:8

What was Abner's piercing question in the first part of the verse?

What was Abram's plea?