

# SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

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A ministry division of Christian Fellowship Church

*“Equipping saints to do the work of their ministry”*



Course:

## Constructing a Godly Home

Lessons 7-11

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## Lesson 7

### Genesis 2:18-25 Two Becoming One

#### “And the Lord God . . .”

1. “. . . **said, It is not good that man should be alone.**” It’s not good – in general – for grown adults to be without a marriage partner unless there’s an exception that God alone – not man – adds.

Instill in your children that their single years prior to marriage are for the single purpose of securing an undistracted devotion to the Lord (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:35). It’s the **season of exception**. Don’t buy into the world’s philosophy of “sowing our wild oats”, “getting things out of your system” or “searching for a mate”. God wants single lives honed in on pursuing after Him and then He will add the right mate along the way. Psalm 68:5-6 also says that God will set the solitary in families.

Another reason for *staying* single is a spiritual gifting to stay single. But very few of us have the gift and calling of spiritual celibacy.

2. “. . . **said, I will make him a helper comparable to him.**” A partner fit or suitable – a helpmeet – a helper who can meet the task. The word is not “*identical*” nor “*opposite*”. They are the same but different.

Why do we need a partner in life generally? Because of the great purpose God created for him. Genesis 1:26-28. Humans were created to be stewards of God, accountable to God, and to demonstrate His likeness and His heart one to another. (cf: Colossians 3:9-11; John 15:8)

3. “. . . **caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep . . .**” It was God who caused the sleep, created the woman and gave her, brought her, to Adam. In the prototype of all marriages is that marriage & family is a **story of God at work**, not man’s search for a mate.

God didn’t use dirt in creating Eve like He did when creating Adam. It would seem that God had something more profound in mind. He created the woman right out of man and then man from them on came out of woman. Thereby, the two become one. Further, women are twice refined from dirt. (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:7 – woman is the more delicate instrument) In bringing together different vessels it doesn’t “add” to our possibilities, it “multiplies” them.

God created us in His image. Do not attempt to remake your mate into your image. We have strategic differences in every area of our lives, but they are to complement each other.

Gen. 2:24-25 sets the ongoing partnership pattern: leaving & cleaving; the two become one. God set this pattern in place before it could even be obeyed. There were no human parents at the time for the man to leave; and this was the first marriage to become one. There’s no relationship in human life more important to God than that with our spouse. Never put your other family members (mother, father, children, siblings, etc.) ahead of your spouse. Leave and cleave; cling and hold tightly in every way. Marriage is not two people trying to learn to co-exist under one roof. Marriage is two people learning to live one life together.

## Lesson 8

### Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Family Life

God is speaking in this passage to parents and grandparents with the implication that we need to pass these foundational truths of developing a family God's way on to our children.

#### **WHY must family life be developed God's way?** vs. 1-3 (cf. Isaiah 51:4)

We are to be a light to others around us; a light that gives glory, and points others, to God. Our homes are to be "salt and light". Therefore, family is not here just to serve family, but to be built up in the Lord and then serve the Lord *together*. Our households must be the first training ground for equipping our children for the work of the ministry. The church should come second to the family in spiritually training our children and pointing them towards, and equipping them for, their destiny.

#### **WHAT foundational issues develop family life God's way?** vs. 4-5

1. ". . . *the LORD our God is one . . .*" -- The understanding of WHO the Lord is – He is LORD!  
When you see the word "lord" written in all caps in the Bible it is the name of God Himself and it means the all-encompassing name of who God is, the great I AM, and it is the most important name in the entire O.T. It is the companion name/word to the N.T. name/word "Jesus" or Jesus the Christ. Smaller case letters mean lord, master, sovereign of the universe. But God's name is more significant than His titles.
2. ". . . *you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength . . .*" -- The understanding of how to respond to Him properly – by loving Him with all your being and capacity.

Know who God is and continually grow in a love relationship with Him (responding to Him properly). The #1 factor for a successful marriage and developing a family God's way is **God!** If you take God out of the equation, family cannot be family God's way – we're missing the power, dynamic, vision and the heart of it.

#### **HOW do we pass family life God's way on to our children?** vs. 6

1. Heart commitment (from the parents)  
". . . *these words that I command you today shall be in your heart . . .*" vs. 6  
The Word of God & God Himself has to be real in our hearts.
2. Teaching these things to our kids  
". . . *you shall teach them diligently to your children . . .*"  
The responsibility is placed on the parents to teach our children about God.  
The qualification is not education, not scholarship, but simply a parent falling in love with God and then simply **talking** to his/her children about God diligently, persistently, continuously, consistently. The greatest thing a parent can do for their kids is letting them know that they love God first, and each other second. Ask yourself, "What do I talk about with my family when I'm at home?"
3. Demonstrating this love relationship before our children  
". . . *you shall bind them [God's words] as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*" -- vs. 7-8  
Let your children SEE you being under the authority of God and His Word because you love Him. LIVE what you believe before them. Be careful what you watch, what you say, what you allow through the doors of your home because you love the LORD.

## Lesson 9

### Deuteronomy 6:10-14 Worldly Threats to the Family

*“ . . . then [when? when things are going well] beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out . . . You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you . . . ”*

These threats have to do with idolatry, which is prevalent wherever there are people! We are all vulnerable to idolatry. We're not to take on the values and the lifestyle of the world around us. The world is to be impacted by our lives in the Lord.

Romans 12:2 reads, *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

What are the idols of this age? To find out, ask yourself where are the unsaved putting their devotion, time, resources? That's what they're worshipping. Are you worshipping the same? You can make anything of these things an idol.

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:1-7 lists the idols of these last days: *“But know this, that in the last days perilous times **will** come: For men will be **lovers of themselves, lovers of money**, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, **lovers of pleasure** rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people **turn away!** For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* (Emphasis added.)

1. **Self-esteem is not the remedy for our problems; it's the root of our problems. Every sin is rooted in self exaltation, learning to hold ourselves in high regard.** Jesus' remedy for being “lovers of themselves” and selfishness is found in Luke 9:23: deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Him daily. Die to self and teach your children to do the same. How? Tell them what a blessing God has made them. That changes the focus away from them and back to God while encouraging and exhorting them at the same time.
2. Money is not the root of all evil; but the **love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.** Money is the number one instrument used to bless and worship “self”.
3. Pleasure that is not contrary to the will of God is not evil. However, it is when **pleasure** becomes more important than devotion to God, when pleasure (recreation, possessions, etc.) becomes our source of happiness and contentment, not to mention the devotion of our time and resources. We do not live for pleasure, but to please God.
4. Religion is also an idol. The world is full of “spiritual” emphasis now, but it very self-centeredness. What is the power of Godliness? Word of God, faith, prayer, grace, humility, obedience -- all the foundations of living in and living out a relationship with Christ. Life without those things create form, but no substance.

## Lesson 10

### Ephesians 5-6 Household Relationships

The context of household relationships is set in Ephesians 5:2 wherein we are told to **submit to one another** in love. Submission is required in every relationship from every person, first in our relationship to the Lord and then to others. Submission means to take your time, energy and priorities and place them at the disposal of another person.

In the home we are to be mutually subject to one another. All four roles (wife, husband, child, parent) are to be submitted/servanthood roles. They are worked out in different ways but with the same heart. How?

1. **Wives** (5:22-24) are to follow the headship leadership of the husband – in everything. The husband isn't the tyrant boss, he's the head, just as Christ is his head and example. The husband is the "rescuer", the "savior". (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:1-3)
2. **Husbands** (5:25-33) are to lead by sacrificial love – not wimpy love – but one that considers the needs of others within the home more than the needs and desires of himself. It is also the husband's job to make sure the family is under the headship and leadership of the Word of God.
3. **Children** (6:1-3) are to show submission to their parents through their obedience. Children and parents are to be servants to one another. Children learn servanthood through learning to be obedient. We should anchor our children's obedience by confirming in them that it is God's plan for them, that it is right, that it produces righteousness. Obedience is well-pleasing to the Lord. Once they learn this foundational truth of submission, they grow in servanthood by doing things around the home that are blessings to the family as a whole.
4. **Parents** (6:4) are to bring the children up in the training and admonition of the Lord. Parents are to be servants to the children not by indulging them, but by giving our time and energy to properly bring them up, training them, in the ways of the Lord. Not by exasperating them or driving them to frustration, but by gently and consistently training them, correcting them, instructing them and pointing them in the direction and "bent" that God has ordained for their lives.

## Lesson 11

### Psalm 127:1 The Lord as Home Builder

*“Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it . . .”*

God doesn't hand us the blueprint and ask us to build a perfect home. He also wants to be involved in it. Hammers and saws don't build houses; they're only tools. A carpenter builds a home. God is the carpenter; you and I are the hammer and saw being used in the hand of a skilled craftsman.

What other tools does God use to build our homes?

1. **Obedience to God's Word** (Matthew 7:24-27). The storms of life come to the wise and foolish alike, to both godless homes and God-filled homes. Some storms we stir up. Other storms will just track your trail because that's life. The issue is: How do you lay a foundation so that the household unit weathers the storms? Not just hearing “the Word of God” because even the foolish man in the parable *heard* the word of God, but he did not *do* what he heard. The power is in the proper response to the Word of God. Obedience becomes the solid rock, the foundation, because it's grounded in the Word of God (received, believed, acted upon). You can't be obedient to it if you don't know it, so make the Word of God a priority in your own life.
2. **His church** (Ephesians 1:22-23). We need to bring our children up in that “fullness”, that abundance, of life. Do not “add” church to your schedule. You are the church; live like it. If your body parts were as loosely attached to your body as some church members are to the church, you would be in serious peril. Keep your children connected and aware that they are a vital part to the church body.
3. **His wisdom & guidance** (Proverbs 3:5-6). When you're sorting through a crisis, a dilemma, an opportunity, or a decision to be made that will impact the family, lean on the wisdom and guidance of God and make your children aware that, as a family, you will look to the answers that the Lord gives – not our personal desires or a family vote. God promises to direct our paths. Teach your family to lean on His promises and His direction.
4. **His grace** (Acts 20:32) which
  - a. Builds us up – this is the grace to be transformed and changed; grace for spiritual growth. What is the source of which we are engaging and getting involved in the Christian life? It is God's grace. Exemplify God's grace in your home. How? Through **two relational realities** (i.e, characteristics that we cannot manufacture by ourselves, but are dependent upon God's character flowing through us) that God wants to develop in our lives and homes:
    1. **Humility** (James 4:6) – Realizing that we can do nothing in our own strength, but through his strength and grace
    2. **Faith** (Romans 5:2) – Faith accesses grace. Faith is not quitting when we feel like quitting because we realize that through God's grace, things will change, things are different than they may appear. Faith is what's needed to walk through any trying circumstance.
  - b. Gives us an inheritance – this is the grace offered at redemption/salvation.