

Foundations for Family Relationships

THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE

*“Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.
It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.
Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth.
Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!
He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.”*
Psalm 127:1-5

Key Aspects in Counseling Families:

1. **Sovereignty. Key Characteristic—Power (Christ, Word of God, Holy Spirit)**
2. **Authority. Key Principle—Protection (God’s rules in three sphere’s Home, Church, State) Key principle in Spiritual Warfare as well.**
3. **Law. Key Application—Boundaries in relationships, Jurisdiction (Law is King), God’s Created Design.**

I. THE FOUNDATION OF THE FAMILY

Matthew 7:21 *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”*

1. Christ is our Foundation. He must be first in our hearts and at the center of marriage and family relationships.

1 Corinthians 3:11-14 *“For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.”*

- **Christ is Preeminent:** Matthew 10:34-39 *“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not*

worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

- **Living a Life Worthy of the Gospel:** Philippians 1:27 “Only **let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ**, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the **gospel**,”
- **Living Out a Changed Life in Christ: 2 Peter 1:3-10** “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.”

2. The Scriptures Alone are Foundational and Sufficient for Teaching and Counsel in Marriage and Family Relationships and how we are to live.

2 Timothy 3:16,17 “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”

Titus 2:1-5 “But as for you, **teach what accords with sound doctrine**. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.”

II. WAYS WE LABOR IN VAIN

1. **Building my house in my own strength, instead of daily dependence on the grace of God and leading of the Holy Spirit. (Implementing all the right standards, techniques and formulas without God being in it.)**
 - Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:10: “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, ***I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.***”

2. **Leaning on our own understanding, instead of gaining wisdom according to the scriptures.** Proverbs 3:1-8 “My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

3. **Building by ourself (“It’s All Up to Me” mindset), instead of looking to others for accountability, counsel, mentoring from within the church.** Proverbs 18:1, 2 “Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment. A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.” *Sometimes that is all people have experienced in their lives.*
 - Women- Proverbs 14:1 “The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down.”
 - Men- Proverbs 24:3-6 “By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might, for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory.”

4. **Being driven by constant and unconsidered activity (busyness), instead of prioritizing what are the excellent things.** Luke 10:38-42 “Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”

Satan’s Goal: to run you hard and wear you down, making you vulnerable to temptation.

Dangers of Being Too Busy:

- Little or no time for intimacy with God
- Not enough time to nurture heart-to-heart relationships
- Not enough time to address conflicts and problems that impact the heart of those in the family (A GET-OVER-IT mentality, leaving people not being understood.)
- Not enough individual time for children to experience being the “beloved son or daughter”
- Too much multi-tasking (Note: You can only pay attention to one person at a time.)
- Not enough time for Family Worship and prayer times together

There are a lot of good things to be involved in, but we must choose the excellent things, the “good portion”.

III. THREE PILLARS IN BUILDING THE FAMILY

1. Marriage Oneness

- Genesis 2:24, *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”*

Satan’s goal: to destroy your fellowship, friendship and the romance in your marriage.

2. Biblical Headship (father as shepherd and warrior)

- Ephesians 5:23 The husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior”
- Malachi 4:6 A Father’s heart must be turned toward their children. “And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and *strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.*” Dad must refocus his energy and must get real with what is important.

Satan’s goal: to get the husband/father’s heart focused on something else so he will abdicate his responsibilities in the family and marriage.

- *“If a father abdicates his God-given responsibilities as leader of his home, he makes his family vulnerable to ungodly influence and Satan will gain the advantage”*

3. Taking the responsibility for the discipleship of your children

- Deuteronomy 6:1,2,5,6,7 *“Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the rules that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son, You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.... And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. Children are a blessing from the Lord (Psalm 127:5)*
- God has called us to a multi-generational vision for your family.
- To impact your children’s lives, you have to make them part of your world and enter into their world to disciple them.

Satan’s Goal: to cut off heart-to-heart communication with your children.