

# The Character of the Godly Home

## Colossians 3:2

Set your mind on the things above,  
not on the things that are on earth. NASB

What good character should permeate the home of the godly? God's good character! Parents should make every effort to allow the Holy Spirit to dominate and permeate the daily attitude of their home and all that dwell in it. We should strive to let the virtues of God live not only in our hearts but also in our words and actions. Good Christian parent, who rules your life as Lord and Master? What then does His rule look like in your home? What then do these godly virtues look like.....

**Colossians 3:12-15** - 12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, **put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other**, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 And beyond all these things **put on love**, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 And **let the peace of Christ rule** in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. NASB

**Compassion** – We must always seek the joy of others and console them with tender affection. How much more that of our dear family? Parents must endow their children with a heart which reaches out in dear concern for those of us who are in need. We are to pity our family members when they are in need. When they hurt, we hurt. When a child manifests an envy or malice toward a sibling or circumstances, this behavior should be admonished and corrected.

**Compassion** - sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it.

### 1 John 3:17

**Kindness** – We must always seek to serve and benefit one another with kind affection. Parents must teach their children to value being kind to each other. Speak of kindness as something to admire and keep striving to attain with one another. When a child manifests anger and greed with siblings or circumstances, this behavior should be admonished and corrected.

**Kindness** – a disposition of doing good to others, a benevolence focused on others

### 1 Pet 3:8-11

**Humility** – We must always look to the interests of others, not just our own interests. Parents must teach their children to esteem others more highly than themselves, to be lowly and thankful and appreciative of others. Humble people are focused on God and others, not on self. Parents must teach their children to reserve judgment for God. When children manifest pride or selfishness toward siblings or circumstances, this behavior should be admonished and corrected.

**Humility** – Lowliness of mind, a modest disposition toward others

### 1 Pet 5:5-6

**Gentleness** – We must always seek to be tender and gentle in our relations to our children, not harsh. Parents must teach their children to be mild and to receive one another with tender affection. When children manifest aggression or harsh criticism toward siblings or circumstances, this behavior should be admonished and corrected.

**Gentleness** – meek, mild with restraint and self-control

### James 3:17-18

**Patience** – We must always seek to be patient with one another and exercise restraint when provoked or offended. Parents must teach their children to be patient with one another and to bear one another’s grievances without complaining. Patience bears afflictions and wrongs done to us by others. When a child loses their patience and manifests an outburst toward a sibling or circumstances, this behavior should be admonished and corrected.

**Patience** – suffering without complaint, not easily provoked, forbearing

**Eph 4:1-2**

**Bearing with one another** – Here is the call of self-denial. Here is the loving acceptance of those we love, even when we are hurt or offended or troubled by them. Parents must teach their children to bear offenses with the CROSS in view. Humble patient love can endure many afflictions from those it loves. When children are exasperated by siblings or circumstances too quickly, this behavior must be admonished and corrected.

**Forbearance** – exercise of patience, temperate

**Phil 2:1-4**

**Forgiving one another** – We must seek to forgive others even when we are deeply hurt. Offenses are going to come our way, but how will we deal with them? Parents must teach their children to be forgiving, always reminding them the great forgiveness God has granted us in Christ. When a child holds a grudge and is unwilling to forgive, this behavior must be admonished and corrected.

**Forgiving** – willingness to drop an offense suffered, to overlook a wrong suffered

**1 Thess 5:15**

**Put on Love** – We must always seek to view one another with a tender affection. Hatred is a passion full of misery; love an emotion full of joy. Parents must teach their children to seek the joy and benefit of others. When a child manifests hatred or aggravation with a sibling or circumstances, this behavior must be admonished and corrected.

**Love** - commitment of benevolence, a disposition of pre-eminent kindness and affection toward another

**1 Cor 13:4-7**

**Let the peace of Christ rule** – We must always seek to make peace whenever there is conflict. When peace rules there is happiness and contentment, order and loveliness. Parents must teach their children to seek peace and teach them the great value of it. They must speak very highly of peace and seek to preserve it diligently. When a child aggravates or selfishly disturbs others, this behavior must be admonished and corrected.

**Peace** – freedom from conflict or disturbance, calm rest, tranquil harmony

**2 Cor 13:11**

# Keys to a fulfilling and God-glorifying Marriage

## 1. Always possess the benevolent, self-sacrificing attitude of Christ toward your spouse.

**Colossians 3:12-14** - 12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put **on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other**, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. NASB

- Deny yourself. Selfishness and Pride are the enemies of marriage. **Luke 9:23, 1 Cor 13:5**
- Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ - **Eph 5:21, 1 Pet 5:5**
- Prefer one another above yourself - **Phil 2:3-5, Rom 12:10**

## 2. Concentrate on cherishing your spouse and working to meet their needs.

**Ephesians 5:29** - 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, **but nourishes and cherishes it**, just as Christ also does the church, NAS

- Love you spouse with a sincere and genuine love from the heart - **Rom 12:9**
- Ask God for an increasing profound devotion to your spouse - **Matt 7:7-8**

## 3. Serve one another in love.

**Galatians 5:13** - 13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another**. NASB

- Action – Do the work of service – **Prov 31:12, Eph 5:29**
- Sacrifice your own comfort and pleasure for your spouse's benefit – **Phil 2:4**

## 4. Voice your approval, acceptance, and praise of your spouse often.

**Proverbs 31:28-29** - 28 **Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband also, and he praises her**, saying: 29 "Many daughters have done nobly, But you excel them all." NASB

- Communicate your genuine love to your spouse, they need to hear – **Isa 62:4**
- Love cries out to be shared, your spouse desires to possess your love **Song 7:1-10**

## 5. Invest in your marriage

**Romans 12:10-11** - 10 **Be devoted to one another in brotherly love**; give preference to one another in honor; NASB

- It is the most important relationship in your life – **Eph 5:28, Prov 14:1, 24:3-4, Eccl 10:18**
- Time is worth more than “things”, your marriage needs your time – **Prov 17:1**

## 6. Learn to enjoy and delight your spouse. Treasure your spouse.

**Proverbs 5:18-19** - 18 Let your fountain be blessed, And **rejoice in the wife of your youth**. 19 As a loving hind and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; **Be exhilarated always with her love**. NASB

- Be grateful to God and adore your spouse, he/she is a gift from Him - **1 Thes 5:18**
- Thank God continually for your spouse **Prov 31:10**
- Be enjoyable. If you want your spouse to delight in you, be delightful. **Prov 17:17, 27:9** (Is your love exhilarating?)

## 7. Allow Christ's love and grace to transform you. Does your marriage glorify God?

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8** - 4 **Love is patient, love is kind**, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 **bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things**. 8 **Love never fails**; NASB

- Set your minds on being changed into Christ's likeness in your home **Col 3:1-2**
- Is this the kind of love that you have to your spouse? Why not?

# Teach Them Diligently

**Deuteronomy 6:1-3** - 6:1 "Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, 2 so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. 3 O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

A. "Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, -

- God has commanded that we are to learn His commandments
- He is God and we are not
- God has commanded that we would DO them

B. so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. -

- We are to learn and teach the commandments of God to Fear God
- We are to learn and teach the commandments to keep them all the days of our life
- These are for our good and well being

C. O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you -

- We should LISTEN - take heed!
- We should BE CAREFUL to do it, [learn the commandments and DO them]
- This will cause us to be blessed - God will see to it!

**Deuteronomy 6:4-5** - 4 "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! 5 "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

A. "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! -

- HEAR - in Hebrew [Shema] - to hear - this is a priority
- What shall we hear - "The Lord is our God"
- What shall we hear - "The Lord is one"

B. And you shall love the LORD your God -

- We are to LOVE GOD - the is the great commandment of Life

C. with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. -

- We are to LOVE GOD with EVERYTHING that is in us!

- Heart, soul, might - with every part of our being!

**Deuteronomy 6:6-9** - 6 And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; 7 and you shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up. 8 And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. NASB

A. 6 And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; -

- What does “commanding you today” imply
- Shall be on your heart - they shall be your treasure!

B. 7 and you shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up. -

- You shall teach them diligently - How well are you doing parents?
- Talk of them when you SIT, WALK, LIE, RISE - In your house, at work or play, in the beginning and ending of your day, the WORD of GOD is to be your constant meditation

C. And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates -

- Bind them as a sign on your hand - **TO REMEMBER**
- Frontals on your forehead - Always before your **EYES**
- Write them on your doorposts and gates - God’s commandments should be **CONSTANTLY** reminded to you and your family

# A Lesson for Her Children

## Proverbs 31:30

Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,  
But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. NASB

### Let the wife see to it that she respect her husband

One of the chief duties of motherhood is to *teach and instruct her children*. Surely that godly woman who pleases Christ is zealous to teach her children aright and to nurture them with godly instruction.

**Proverbs 31:26** - 26 She opens her mouth in wisdom, And **the teaching of kindness is on her tongue**. NASB

Consider therefore what a woman teaches her children by her behavior toward her husband? Indeed the children are being “*won over without words*” by the way she lives her life in the home. In light of this let us consider God’s word to the wife in the home regarding her behavior toward her husband. The theme of submission is on which is repeated several times in scripture.

**Ephesians 5:22-24** - 22 **Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord**. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But **as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything**. NASB

**1 Peter 3:1-6** - 3:1 In the same way, you wives, **be submissive to your own husbands** so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as **they observe your chaste and respectful behavior**. 3 And let not your adornment be merely external — braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, **with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit**, which is precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, **being submissive to their own husbands**. 6 **Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord**, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear. NASB

It is rather clear that a woman who pleases God will be submissive to her husband “*in everything*” and “*as to the Lord*” and with “*chaste and respectful behavior*.”

### God’s Word Honored in the Home

Consider Paul’s words to Titus about his instruction to the women in the church...

**Titus 2:4-5** - 4 that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, **being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored**. NASB

In what ways will a “*wife’s submission to her husband’s authority*” affect the children’s thinking and actions about submission to authority?

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How will this affect “*honor to the Word of God*” in the home?

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What will this teach the children if she “*gives proper respect*” to her husband? \_\_\_\_\_  
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What will this teach the children if she “*disrespects*” her husband? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If these things be obvious, consider further how obedience to the scripture we saw earlier will affect the mother’s instruction to the children.

**Ephesians 5:22-24 - 22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.** 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But **as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.** NASB

If a wife “*talks back*” and frequently challenges a husband’s direction, what will this teach the children about how to regard God given authority? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Is there ever a proper place for “*aggressive challenging words*” from the wife to husband? Is this how the church is subject to Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**1 Peter 3:1-6 - 3:1** In the same way, you wives, **be submissive to your own husbands** so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as **they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.** 3 And let not your adornment be merely external — braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, **with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit,** which is precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, **being submissive to their own husbands. 6 Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord,** and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear. NASB

If a wife treats her husband with “*chaste and respectful behavior,*” what are the children likely to learn about how to behave toward God given authority? \_\_\_\_\_  
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If a wife possess a “*gentle and quiet spirit*” in the home, what do you suppose will be the affect on the children? Does God value this? \_\_\_\_\_  
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What lesson can be learned from “*Sarah calling Abraham lord?*” Why did she do this and why does the scripture say she “*adorned herself*” in this way?

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# Permit the children to come to Me

## Luke 18:16

But Jesus called for them, saying,  
"Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. NASB

The following has been adapted from the book *Successful Christian Parenting* by John MacArthur.

### Our kids' greatest need

The goal of Christian parenting is to bring the child to a "*saving knowledge*" of Jesus Christ. It is to lead them to Christ where He will save them from their sins. In fact, this is the greatest need of every man and woman. For, if we have not been saved from our sins we will be the hopeless recipients of the eternal wrath God.

In the natural state, as with all mankind, our children are sinners and separated from God. They have a great need to be "*born again*" as Jesus instructed Nicodemus.

**John 3:3** - 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**" NASB

Their minds are set on the flesh, being unregenerate they are "*dead in trespasses and sins.*"

**Romans 8:5-8** - 5 **For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh,** but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because **the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.** NASB

**Ephesians 2:1-4** - 2:1 And **you were dead in your trespasses and sins,** 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath,** even as the rest. NASB

It only stands to reason then that our children have the great need to be saved. Therefore as parents this becomes our aim and our highest goal, to see them come to Christ and be saved.

But how will we parents accomplish such a lofty task? After all, isn't salvation the work of God? Yes of course it is, and it is very likely that because He has put them in your care, He intends to save them! So what shall we do in response to this? We shall evangelize them, we shall teach them the Gospel.

### Teaching them the Gospel

#### Teach them about God's Holiness

(Psalm 111:10, Job 28:28, Proverbs 1:7, 9:10, 15:33, Ecclesiastes 12:13, Micah 6:9)

God is Holy and His law therefore demands perfect holiness

(Leviticus 11:44-45, Joshua 24:19, 1 Sam 2:2, Psalm 11:4-7, Hebrews 12:14)

Because He is holy, God hates sin.

(Exodus 20:5-7, Psalm 5:4, 7:11, Habakkuk 1:13)

Sinners cannot stand before Him.

(Psalm 1:5, 5:5, 15:1-5, 24:3-4)

### **Show them their sin**

Be sure to teach your kids from the youngest age that misbehavior is not just an offense against mom and dad, but a sin against a Holy God who demands that children obey their parents. (Ex 20:12, Eph 6:1) This needs to be done in a spirit of gentleness with love and compassion.

Sin is a violation of God's law.

(1 John 3:4, 5:17, Romans 3:19, 7:7)

Sin is what makes true peace impossible for unbelievers.

(Job 15:20-24, Prov 4:16-17, Isa 57:20-21)

All have sinned.

(Rom 3:9-19, 23)

Sin makes the sinner worthy of death.

(Ezekiel 18:4, James 1:15, Rom 6:23)

Sinners can do nothing to earn salvation.

(Job 25:4-6, Isaiah 64:6, Romans 3:20, Gal 2:16)

Sinners cannot change their own sin nature.

(Jeremiah 2:22, 13:23, Rom 8:7-8)

Sinners are therefore in a helpless state.

(Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, Luke 12:2-3, Romans 2:16, Hebrews 9:27, Revelation 21:8)

### **Instruct them about Christ and what He has done**

It is important for our kids to have a good understanding of the person and work of Christ. This we should be teaching them always and continually. We should be looking for opportunities throughout the day to teach them of His excellencies.

He is eternally God.

(John 1:1-3, 14, Colossians 1:15-17, 2:9, Hebrews 1:1-3)

He is Lord of all.

(Revelation 17:14, Ephesians 1:19-22, Philippians 2:9-11, Acts 10:36)

He became a man.

(Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7, Matthew 1:23, Philippians 2:6-7, 1 Timothy 3:16)

He is utterly pure and sinless.

(Hebrews 4:15, 1 Peter 2:22-23, 1 John 3:5)

The sinless One became a sacrifice for our sin.

(2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Timothy 2:5-6, Titus 2:14, 1 John 4:10)

He shed His own blood as an atonement for sin.

(Ephesians 1:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19, 3:18, Revelation 1:5, 5:9)

He died on the cross to provide a way of salvation for sinners.

(John 1:29, 3:16-17, 1 Peter 2:24, Colossians 1:20)

He rose triumphantly from the dead.

(Romans 1:4, 4:25, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

His righteousness is imputed to those who trust Him.

(1 Corinthians 1:30, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 4:5-6, Philippians 3:8-9)

He freely justifies all who trust in Him.

(John 5:24, Romans 3:24, 5:1-2, 9, Galatians 2:16)

### **Tell them what God demands of sinners**

God calls sinners to repentance. (Acts 17:30) Genuine repentance is not self-reformation, but a turning of the heart to God from all that is evil.

Repent.

(Ezekiel 18:32, Matt 3:2,7-8, 4:17, Mark 1:15, Acts 3:19-20, 17:30-31, 26:20)

Turn your heart from all that dishonors God.

(Isaiah 55:7, Ezekiel 14:6, 18:30-32, 1 Thes 1:9-10, Romans 6:12-14, 2 Corinthians 7:1)

Follow Jesus.

(Matt 4:19-20, Luke 9:23, 9:57-62, John 10:27-29, 12:26, 15:14, Ephesians 5:1-2)

Trust Him as Lord and Savior.

(Proverbs 3:5-6, Acts 16:31, Romans 10:9,

### **Advise them to count the cost thoughtfully**

Don't downplay the hard demands of Christ. Don't portray the Christian life as a life of ease, free from difficulties and dilemmas. Keep reminding your kids that the true price of following Christ always involves sacrifice, and the prelude to glory is suffering. It is true that Christ offers the water of life freely to all who will take it, (Rev 22:17). But those who do are making an unconditional commitment to follow Him that may cost them their very lives. In fact it will cost them their life to follow Christ.

Take up your cross.

(Matt 10:34-39, Mark 8:34-37, 10:21)

Be prepared to follow Christ even to death.

(Luke 14:26-33, John 12:24-25, Revelation 12:10-11)

### **Urge them to trust Christ as you teach them diligently the Scriptures**

We need to always be sensitive to what the Lord may be doing in their hearts and be careful to minister in a way that edifies and builds them up. We must teach them the basic principle that if they follow Christ things will go well for them, but if they reject Him, life will be miserable and then end in death.

(Isaiah 55:6-7, 1 Chron 28:9-10, Matt 10:32-33, 25:1-13)

# Correction, Repentance and Forgiveness

Parents must *correct* their children. By what means?

1. By means of **verbal correction**. You must tell them what they have done *wrong*.  
**Proverbs 27:5 - 5 Better is open rebuke** Than love that is concealed. NASB
2. By means of **reproof**. You must tell them what the *right* thing IS.  
**Proverbs 29:17 - 17** Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul. NASB
3. By means of **discipline**. You must *enforce* directives when a child persists in disobedience.  
**Proverbs 29:15 - 15** The **rod and reproof give wisdom**. But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother. NASB

Parents must teach their children to *repent*. By what means?

1. Teach them to **admit/confess** when they have sinned.  
**1 John 1:8-10 - 8** If we say that we have no sin, **we are deceiving ourselves**, and the truth is not in us. **9 If we confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, **we make Him a liar**, and His word is not in us. NASB
2. Teach them that the only thing left to do is to **not sin again**.  
**John 8:11 - 11** And she said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go your way. **From now on sin no more.**" NASB  
**John 5:14-15 - 14** Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; **do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse may befall you.**" NASB
3. Teach them that repentance is a **matter of the heart**. Teach them that God knows the thoughts of their heart and they need to right before Him.  
**Luke 5:32 - 32** "I have not come to call the righteous **but sinners to repentance** ." NASB  
**Hebrews 4:12-13 - 12** For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, **and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart**. **13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but **all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him** with whom we have to do. NASB

Parents must teach their children to *forgive*. By what means?

1. By forgiving them when they repent.  
**Luke 17:3-4 - 3** "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and **if he repents, forgive him**. **4** "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him." NASB
2. By teaching them to forgive others from their heart when they have conflicts.  
**Matthew 18:35 - 35** "So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, **if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.**" NASB

Parents must relate all these matters to Christ to have a *God Centered home*.

Discuss.

## In the Fear and Instruction of the Lord

**Ephesians 6:1-4** - 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. 4 And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. NASB

**Ephesians 6:1** - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. –

- What does “obey your parents” imply? – There is an authority/submission principle at work. Parents are to implement directives and children are to obey them.
- How will they learn this? – You **MUST** teach them.
- How can we teach them obedience? – You must command them and cause them to follow through. You must assert your authority.
- What is meant by “in the Lord for this is right?” – For the Lord’s sake, this is the commandment of God, the 5<sup>th</sup>, “honor your father and mother” – There is a right and a wrong. In the case of children, “right” is obedience.  
**Exodus 20:12** - 12 "**Honor your father and your mother**, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you. NASB
- Are there exceptions? as far as their commandments agree with those of God, and no farther. No parent can have a right to require a child to steal, or lie, or cheat, or assist him in committing murder, or in doing any other wrong thing. No parent has a right to forbid a child to pray, to read the Bible, to worship God,

**Ephesians 6:2** - Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise) -

- What relation do you suppose “honor” has to do with authority? – Children must respect and submit (verse 5:21) to the authority of their parents. Parents must assert and enforce their authority and bring the child to obedience.
- By what means do we cause and teach them to honor us? –
  - By means of gracious love and care for them,
  - By means of instruction, reproof, correction and training  
**2 Timothy 3:16** - 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness**; NASB
  - By means of discipline. Dictionary – “Control obtained by enforcing compliance or order”

**Ephesians 6:3** - that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth -

- What is meant by “*that it may be well with you?*” – That you may prosper in life and be blessed. It is *implied* that if there is disobedience, things will NOT be well with you and you will NOT live long.  
**Deuteronomy 30:19-20** - 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that **I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse**. So choose life in order that you

may live, you and your descendants, 20 by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days NASB

- We must teach them that God is **providentially involved** in their lives either rewarding or disciplining for obedience. God sees to it that we are blessed for obedience and cursed for disobedience. Deuteronomy chapters 28-29
  - God is the rewarder of those who obey Him –  
**Luke 11:28** - 8 But He said, "On the contrary, **blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it.**" NASB
  - God is the avenger of sin –  
**Psalms 99:8** - 8 O LORD our God, Thou didst answer them; Thou wast a forgiving God to them, And yet **an avenger of their evil deeds.** NASB
- Proper parental training affords the child great blessing in life – **What are they?**
  - To fear God keeps from all the vices of sin
  - It protects and guides to save from wicked men and wicked ways  
**Hebrews 12:11** - 11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet **to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.** NASB

**What is this fruit of righteousness?**

**Ephesians 6:4** - And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord -

- In what ways may a father provoke his children to anger? –
  - By unreasonable commands;
  - By needless severity;
  - By the manifestation of anger.
  - So govern them, and so punish them that if punishment is necessary, that they shall not lose their confidence in you, but shall love you.
  - By disciplining out of **ANGER** - Do not discipline a child in the heat of the moment, but wait until your temperament has cooled
- What does it mean to “bring them up in the discipline of the Lord?”
  - To establish proper authority and use it wisely and with loving guidance
  - To so govern them as to always do what is in their **BEST** interest, not yours
  - To see to it that they follow through in obedience  
**Proverbs 22:15** - 15 **Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;** The rod of discipline will remove it far from him. NASB
  - To make sure they obey God, it is God’s will(not yours) that they must **ultimately** obey  
**Proverbs 19:18** - 18 Discipline your son while there is hope, And **do not desire his death.** NASB
- What does it mean to “bring them up in the instruction of the Lord?”
  - To understand and apply the didactic(teaching) nature of parenting
  - To make sure they learn to discern good and evil
  - To convict, correct, and to train

# The Greatest of these is Love

## 1 Corinthians 13:13

But now abide faith, hope, love, these three;  
but the greatest of these is love. NASB

### His love in our life

Here there is a Christian virtue by which to season our homes, it is love. In fact, this could be said to be the most important of all matters in Christian living. We are called to love God and His Word, to love our spouse and our children, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Consider then, what the nature of this love is and how it should permeate our homes, our marriages, our relationships and everything we do. Husbands and fathers have a responsibility to see to it that our homes are filled with the love of God, this is the foremost commandment.

**1 John 4:7-12** - 7 Beloved, **let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.** 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has beheld God at any time; **if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.** NASB

### The Nature of His Love

Consider then, what is the love of God like and how can we implement it into our homes? As we look at the Corinthians passage let your heart long for and desire this love to be that which guides and sustains our lives.

**1 Corinthians 13:1-3** - 13:1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. NASB

Here Paul speaks of the great importance of love. He makes it evident that love is to be the overarching motivation that characterizes everything we do. He gives several examples of this truth. He says that unless we have love motivating our life many things which may otherwise be great attainments in Christian , lose there significance.....

- More important than religious achievement – v-1
- More important than religious knowledge or great faith – v-2
- More important than religious sacrifices and endeavors – v-3

**1 Corinthians 13:4** - 4 Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant NASB

Now he will tell what love truly is by nature. **It is patient. It is kind.** Here then is a rule by which we must live, we must be patient and kind. As parents we must see to it that we treat our children with patience and kindness and hold them also to this standard of behavior with others.

**Colossians 3:12-14** - 12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.** 14 And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. NASB

Then Paul tells us what love is NOT. *It is not jealous, boasting or arrogant.* This is to say that love is NOT proud. It does not think more highly of itself than it ought.

**Romans 12:9-10** - 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 **Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;** NASB

**1 Corinthians 13:5** - 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered NASB

Here Paul continues to tell us about the nature of love. He further discussed what love is NOT. Let's see how God's Word would affirm these things.

- It does not misbehave. (Jam 1:21-22, Col 3:5-8, 1 Pet 2:1)
- It is not selfish. (Phil 2:4-5, 1 Cor 10:24, Rom 15:2)
- It is not provoked, that is easily angered. (Matt 5:22, Jam 1:19-20, Prov 14:16-17)
- It does not keep a record of wrongs.(Mark 11:25-26, Col 3:13, Eph 4:32)

**1 Corinthians 13:6** - 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth NASB

Here Paul talks about love's relationship to righteousness and truth. He talks about the delight of love. Love delights in the truth, but does NOT delight in evil. True love hates evil and rejoices when righteousness is fulfilled. Love delights in justice. Love is dishonored by wickedness and evil.

**Romans 12:9** - 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. **Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.** NASB

**Psalms 97:10** - 10 **Hate evil, you who love the LORD,** Who preserves the souls of His godly ones; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked. NASB

**Psalms 101:3-4** - 3 I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not fasten its grip on me. 4 A perverse heart shall depart from me; **I will know no evil.** NASB

**Psalms 119:104** - 104 From Thy precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. NASB

**Amos 5:14-15** - 14 Seek good and not evil, that you may live; And thus may the LORD God of hosts be with you, Just as you have said! 15 **Hate evil, love good, And establish justice in the gate!** Perhaps the LORD God of hosts May be gracious to the remnant of Joseph. NASB

**1 Corinthians 13:7** - 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things NASB

And finally Paul speaks of the persevering character of love. Love perseveres, it hangs in there till the end. Love is forbearing and always hopes for the best. Love is willing to endure the difficulties of relationships and persevere through them.

- Love bears all things (1 Pet 4:8, Rom 15:1)
- Love believes all things, it trusts(Prov 14:9, Rom 14:19)
- Love hopes all things ( Rom 8:24-25, Psalm 130:7)
- Love endures all things (Job 13:15,Matt 10:22, Jam 1:12, Heb 10:36)



# Pride and Humility

## Zephaniah 2:3

Seek the LORD, All you humble of the earth  
Who have carried out His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility .  
Perhaps you will be hidden In the day of the LORD'S anger. NASB

**Humility** – We must always look to the interests of others, not just our own interests. We must learn to esteem others more highly than themselves, to be lowly and thankful and appreciative of others. Humble people are focused on God and others, not on self. We must learn to reserve judgment for God.

**Humility** – Lowliness of mind, a modest disposition toward God and others, a low estimate of self

### **Humility is the well spring of virtue!**

Without humility, we cannot possess any good virtue from God. Humility is the one disposition that will enable us to be all that Christ wants us to be! Without humility, we cannot relate to God and others properly. In order to live a godly life and have a godly home, we must be **HUMBLE** people.

### **We cannot come to God without it –**

**Luke 18:9-14** - 9 And He also told this parable to certain ones who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax-gatherer. 11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying thus to himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gatherer. 12'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' 13 "But the tax-gatherer, standing some distance away, **was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'** 14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted." NASB

### **We cannot love and serve others without it –**

**Philippians 2:3-4** - 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but **with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;** 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. NASB

### **God gives grace to the humble –**

**1 Peter 5:5-6** - 5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for **God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.** 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, NASB

### **We cannot resist sin without it – Pride** Read pg 2(except the last paragraph)

**Proverbs 16:5** - 5 **Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD;** Assuredly, he will not be unpunished. NASB

**Proverbs 26:12** - 12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? **There is more hope for a fool than for him.** NASB

**What relation do you suppose pride has to sin?**

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**Isaiah 14:12-15** - 12 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! 13 "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' 15 "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit. NASB

## **A few characteristics of Humility - Discuss**

### **To esteem others more highly than ourselves –**

**Romans 12:10** - 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; **give preference to one another in honor**; NASB

### **Showing patience and forbearance**

**Ephesians 4:1-4** - 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 **with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love**, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. NASB

### **Gentleness**

**James 3:17-18** - 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, **gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits**, unwavering, without hypocrisy. 18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. NASB

### **Gratefulness/Thankfulness**

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** - 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. NASB

Parents, we must teach our kids to be humble!

## **Pride and Humility**

### **Zephaniah 2:3**

Seek the LORD, All you humble of the earth  
Who have carried out His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility .  
Perhaps you will be hidden In the day of the LORD'S anger. NASB

## **A few characteristics of Pride -**

**Pride** – to esteem oneself more highly than others, a high estimate of self, a focus on self and the service of self, a pursuit of self-recognition and self exaltation, and a desire to control others and circumstances for selfish purposes

**Self-Exaltation** – To lift oneself up, to estimate oneself higher than others, to be conceited, to scoff at others, to be haughty

**Luke 18:14** - "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for **everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled**, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted." NASB

**Proverbs 16:18** - 18 **Pride goes before destruction**, And a haughty spirit before stumbling. NASB

**Proverbs 18:12** - 12 **Before destruction the heart of man is haughty**, But humility goes before honor. NASB

**Proverbs 29:23** - 23 A **man's pride will bring him low**, But a humble spirit will obtain honor.  
NASB

**Isaiah 2:11-12** - 11 The proud look of man will be abased, **And the loftiness of man will be humbled**, And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day. 12 For the LORD of hosts will have a **day of reckoning Against everyone who is proud and lofty, And against everyone who is lifted up, That he may be abased.** NASB

**Self-will** – to live by the dictates of your own will, to do what you want apart from God's will, to oppose God and His commandments

**Isaiah 14:12-14** - 2 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! 13 "But you said in your heart, **I will** ascend to heaven; **I will** raise my throne above the stars of God, And **I will** sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14 **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** make myself like the Most High.' NASB

**2 Chronicles 26:16-21** - 16 But when he became strong, **his heart was so proud that he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the LORD his God, for he entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.** 17 Then Azariah the priest entered after him and with him eighty priests of the LORD, valiant men. 18 And they opposed Uzziah the king and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful, and will have no honor from the LORD God." 19 **But Uzziah, with a censer in his hand for burning incense, was enraged; and while he was enraged with the priests, the leprosy broke out on his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the altar of incense.** 20 And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he was leprous on his forehead; and they hurried him out of there, and he himself also hastened to get out because the LORD had smitten him. 21 And King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death; and he lived in a separate house, being a leper, for he was cut off from the house of the LORD. NASB

**Self-righteousness** – to consider oneself righteous in God's sight because of your own good works, to consider oneself as better than others, to view others with contempt

**Luke 18:9-14** - 9 And He also told this parable to certain ones who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax-gatherer. 11 **"The Pharisee stood and was praying thus to himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gatherer. 12'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'**" 13 "But the tax-gatherer, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' 14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted." NASB

**Isaiah 65:5** - 5 "Who say, 'Keep to yourself, **do not come near me, For I am holier than you!**" These are smoke in My nostrils, A fire that burns all the day. NASB

**James 2:1-4** - 2:1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. 2 For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, 3 **and you pay special attention** to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," 4 **have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?** NASB

**Self-reliance** – to rely on oneself, to live by your own strength, to face trials and temptations without trust in God and His sovereignty,

**Deuteronomy 1:32-36** - 32 "But for all this, **you did not trust the LORD your God**, 33 who goes before you on your way, to seek out a place for you to encamp, in fire by night and cloud by

day, to show you the way in which you should go. 34 "Then the LORD heard the sound of your words, and He was angry and took an oath, saying, 35'Not one of these men, this evil generation, shall see the good land which I swore to give your fathers, NASB

**Psalms 78:21-22** - 21 Therefore the LORD heard and was full of wrath, And a fire was kindled against Jacob, And anger also mounted against Israel; 22 Because they did not believe in God, And did not trust in His salvation. NASB

**Isaiah 30:33** - Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And rely on horses, And trust in chariots because they are many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the LORD! NASB

**Psalms 33:16-17** - 16 The king is not saved by a mighty army; A warrior is not delivered by great strength. 17 A horse is a false hope for victory; Nor does it deliver anyone by its great strength. NASB

## Pride and Humility

### James 4:6

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says,  
"God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." NASB

**God opposes the proud** - The proud are those who have an improper self-esteem; who have a high and unreasonable conceit of their own excellence or importance. Here are a few things we can become proud about:

**beauty – strength – attainments – family – country – possessions – rank – religion**

**Proverbs 8:13** - 13 "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; **Pride and arrogance and the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate.** NASB

Some biblical examples of God's opposition to the pride of man.

**Daniel 4:1-37** - 37 "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and **He is able to humble those who walk in pride.**" NASB

**Daniel 5:1-31** - 30 That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. 31 So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two. NASB

**Acts 12:21-23** - 1 And on an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them. 22 And the people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" 23 And **immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.** NASB

**God Gives Grace to the Humble** - In order to live a godly life and have a godly home, we must be **HUMBLE** people. We must learn to esteem others more highly than themselves, to be lowly and thankful and appreciative of others. We must always look to the interests of others, not just our own interests. Humble people are focused on God and others, not on self. Without humility, we cannot relate to God and others properly. Humility is the one disposition that will enable us to be all that Christ wants us to be!

**Humility** – Lowliness of mind, a modest disposition toward God and others, a low estimate of self

**Isaiah 57:15** - 15 For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also **with the contrite and lowly of spirit** In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite. NASB

**To esteem others more highly than ourselves –**

**Romans 12:10** - 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; **give preference to one another in honor**; NASB

### **Showing patience and forbearance**

**Ephesians 4:1-4** - 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 **with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love**, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. NASB

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