

# DON'T GIVE UP ON THE HOME GOD HASN'T!

## ATTENTION:

The family was designed by God for specific and necessary reasons

- Not limited to the ancient world
- Relevant as the today's headlines and events.

Many have not experienced family positively

- That creating the question if it really works any more.
- Has society outgrown marriage and family?

## Please Don't Give Up On The Home - GOD HASN'T!

Home was designed to be a place of trusted companionship in whatever world it exists!

- Where nurturing of everyone takes place.
- Where children are born and raised.
- Where love is expressed in words, actions, rules, respect, discipline, learning, serving, submitting, sharing, cooperating...

Traveling through the stages of family brings something unique at every turn!

- Begins with the, "I do's" where a unique couple is birthed and "two who have become one."
- Then if God so blesses this family a child is born and "ups the ante" of responsibility and stress while bringing love never known to these two before.
- The children grow up and start school and life becomes more hectic and families can find it hard to settle into a routine which includes family time together.
- Children reach adolescence and life can abruptly change. The family is pulled from within with children becoming adults and adults attempting to release these emergent adults ever so slightly and cautiously.
  - During this time every attempt is to be made to love and live graciously.

- Children leave home and the couple finds themselves a couple again wondering how it all happened so quickly. With the children no longer the focus Mom and Dad reestablish the companionship of sharing life together alone again.
- Then comes Grandchildren. Grandma/Grandpa stand in the background and watch their children walking through the stages of family while enjoying the opportunity to love without all the responsibility.

## ATTUNE:

Let's take a tour of import Biblical thoughts on the things that will build and support a healthy family

## BODY: Things to know and remember:

### I. GOD IS THE MASTER ARCHITECT

*Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children*  
Ephesians 5:1

As those in God's family - be like God in your family

(*Imitators God* - *Not be the God of your family BUT..... ☺*)

- Be like Him in the family = Be like Jesus in the family!
  - Radiates His values, strength, love in all roles of family!
- The Bible speaks of the relationship between faith and marriage.

*<sup>1</sup> Therefore, imitate God like dearly loved children. <sup>2</sup> Live your life with love, following the example of Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us. He was a sacrificial offering that smelled sweet to God.*

*<sup>3</sup> Sexual immorality, and any kind of impurity or greed, shouldn't even be mentioned among you, which is right for holy persons. <sup>4</sup> Obscene language, silly talk, or vulgar jokes aren't acceptable for believers.*

*Instead, there should be thanksgiving*

Ephesians 5:1-4 (Common English Bible)

### II. SUBMISSION IS THE MUTUAL AGREEMENT

*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

Ephesians 5:21

What is the call of this passage?

- Opposite of self-assertion or an independent - overbearing spirit
- The desire to give preference to another

How does this play out in the Christian life?

- [5:22-24](#) Wives submit to husband

- 5:25--33 Husband submit to wife
- 6:1-3 Children submit to parents
- 6:4 Fathers submit to children
- 6:5-8 Slaves submit to masters
- 6:9 Masters submit to slaves

The family is to be a place of seeking the other person's good!

### III. BEST FRIENDS IS THE RELATIONSHIP

*But each one of you must love his wife as he loves himself. And a wife must respect her husband.*

Ephesians 5:33:

Love and respect are ingredients that are essential to genuine relationship/friendship.

- A family that has a mom and dad who love and respect each other make a pretty incredible place to grow up as a child.
- Not easy to live out of love/respect BUT well worth it!
- We can live out of resentment, jealousy, fear, anger, frustration, selfishness, etc. and the results will be devastating to the family.

Where a family lives out of love and respect = a pretty good place to be - grow, learn, etc.

### IV. PARENTING IS THE PROMISE TO CHILDREN

(Speak to the wisdom of this passage as used in family)

*<sup>1</sup> "This is the command—the statutes and ordinances—the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, so that you may follow them in the land you are about to enter and possess. <sup>2</sup> Do this so that you may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life by keeping all his statutes and commands I am giving you, your son, and your grandson, and so that you may have a long life. <sup>3</sup> Listen, Israel, and be careful to follow them, so that you may prosper and multiply greatly, because the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you a land flowing with milk and honey.*

*<sup>4</sup> "Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>5</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. <sup>7</sup> Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.*

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Your spiritual commitment directs the life you live within your family.

- Your faith shapes your family.
  - Teach your kids to love Christ, love God's word, love to pray!
  - Share His story/your story with your kids
  - Unite your family with God's church family.

You're raising of your children is preparing them for God.

### V. COMMUNICATION IS ALWAYS LIFTING OTHERS UP!

*<sup>29</sup> When you talk, don't say anything bad. But say the good things that people need—whatever will help them grow stronger. Then what you say will be a blessing to those who hear you. <sup>30</sup> And don't make the Holy Spirit sad. God gave you his Spirit as proof that you belong to him and that he will keep you safe until the day he makes you free. <sup>31</sup> Never be bitter, angry, or mad. Never shout angrily or say things to hurt others. Never do anything evil. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and loving to each other. Forgive each other the same as God forgave you through Christ.*

Ephesians 4:29-32 (Easy to read version)

- Here family can struggle while continuing to nurture, mature, support.

### PROJECT:

**Please Don't Give Up On The Home - GOD HASN'T!**

Chuck Swindoll said of the family, "Whatever else may be said about the home, it is the bottom line of life, the anvil upon which attitudes and convictions are hammered out. It is the place where life's bills come due, the single most influential force in our earthly existence."

### ACTION:

Does your Christian faith make a difference in your marriage?

- Living out your decision to become a Christian!
- Christ likeness -