

## **BUILDING A GODLY HOME**

### **1. BE FOLLOWERS OF GOD**

### **2. WIVES, SUBMIT YOURSELVES UNTO YOUR OWN HUSBANDS**

#### ***I.***

#### ***Introduction***

The last time I spoke on the subject of home. I said that God has His own recipe for godly home that we need to follow. The ingredients it calls for are:

Eph 5:1 ¶ Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Eph 6:1 ¶ Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Today I would like to continue to speak on the subject of godly home and deal in detail with the first two ingredients:

#### ***II.***

#### ***Building a godly home***

#### **# 1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;**

What does Paul mean by that? Let's start in the beginning to see what God did for us Eph 1:3-9:

v. 3 God blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing (*what are those blessings?:*)

v. 4 chose us in Christ that we should be holy and blameless before him.

v. 5 destined us in love to be his sons through Christ,

v. 6 glorious grace he freely bestowed on us in Christ

v. 7 In Christ we have redemption (*the forgiveness of our sins*)

v. 9 has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ

By doing this for us God followed certain plan and that plan is summed up in v. Eph 1:10: to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

What does God's plan and His blessings mean for every Christian? - Eph 2:1-6:

v. 1-6 We were dead because of our sins that we committed when we followed the example of devil who rebelled against God. We lived in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of body and mind. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, made us alive together with Christ and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

What does it mean that God raised up with Jesus and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus? Eph 2:19-22:

v. 19-22 We are members of the household of God, we are part of the spiritual temple that grows from Christ, God dwells in us in the Spirit.

The conclusion is that Christians are through Christ united with God, the Father.

If we as Christians are united with God, our Father, there must be unity among us, His children. Paul appeals for such unity in Eph 4:1-6:

v. 1 lead a life worthy of the calling

v. 2 ¶ with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love (agape),

v. 3 maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

v. 4 There is one body and one Spirit

v. 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

v. 6 one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.

What do we need to do to have such unity? We need to follow God's example as dear children. What is the example? Let's read Eph 4:32-5:2. God's example is Christ loving us so much that He gave Himself up for us. Because of His sacrifice, God forgave us our sins. By following God's example we need to have same love and forgiveness toward one another.

What all of this has to do with godly home? How can there be a godly home without husband and wife being followers of God's example of love and forgiveness as dear children? It cannot be. If spouses are not followers of God, there will never be unity between each of them and God and between themselves. Why? It is because God created us and He knows the best what we need to do to be united with Him in Christ. God is the one who gave marriage and He knows the best what spouses need to do to have unity between themselves. Marriage is a three party relationship. God is on the top of the triangle and spouses are on bottom corners of the triangle. The closer the spouses draw near to God, the closer they will draw near to each other. In other words, their unity with God in Christ will contribute to their marital unity. Imagine a clock maker who designed a clock to show the proper time. As long as the cogs of the clockwork are in unity with the makers' design, clock shows the proper time. However, if the cogs of the clockwork are not in unity with the makers' design, clock does not show the proper time. It is of no use. Unity between spouses based on their unity with God is the foundation of a goodly and thus happy home. Following of God's example of love and forgiveness is the foundation of the unity. By following God's example of love and forgiveness we demonstrate that we receive God's love to us in Christ (salvation from our sins based on Christ' sacrifice for us on the cross) and are willing to put God's will on the first place in our life.

*There are here young people and children who in future time may consider entering marriage. If you want to have a godly and thus happy home, you better not to choose for your husband or wife a person who is not a follower of God as a dear child. Forget about person from the world. People in the world recognize neither God, nor His will. Marriage or God's moral laws are not absolute values for them. Unless you convert them to God, you will never be able to have a godly home. It may happen that you will never be able to convert them to God. On the other hand, godless influence of the unbelieving spouse on the believing spouse as well as on their children will be great. It may undermine your faith and your efforts to build foundation for faith in your children.*

*It is also not enough to choose a person who lives his life morally, but He has to be a person who puts God on the first place in his life. Let's read the parable of young rich man:*

Mt 19:16 ¶ And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

*The young rich man lived his life morally, but he did not put God on the first place in his life and when Jesus told him what he needed to do, he did not leap with joy that only that little took for him to have eternal life. Instead, he left Jesus sorrowful, because he knew he would not do what Jesus told him. He was not willing to put God on the first place in his life. That is not the kind of person to choose for a husband or wife, even if he/she considers himself to be a Christian. Consider to choose a person who is followers of God as a dear child.*

## **# 2 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.**

Both, husband and wife are equally important builders of a godly home, but God gave them different roles and duties in their marriage. Relationship between husband and wife is compared to relationship between Christ and church:

Eph 5:21 ¶ Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

God made husband the head of his wife and the family. He is responsible to God for spiritual leadership of his family on the first place. In order that there is only one head in the family and home, God gave wife the role to be submitted to leadership of her husband.

Ge 2:18 ¶ And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. {meet...: Heb. as before him}

Wife is a help meet for husband. She is submitted to her husband. Husband is her head and leader. This is what God put in the nature of a husband and wife. In harmony with that is the way how God created them physically. Wife is suited to give birth to her husband's children, while husband to provide for his wife and children.

Ge 3:16 ¶ Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. {to

thy...: or, subject to thy husband}

17 ¶ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; {bring...: Heb. cause to bud}

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

God is the one who gave distinct roles and duties in marriage. These roles and duties are not the matter of choice in the sense that spouses could choose who will have which role and duties in marriage. In case that wife does not respect God given leadership to husband, then there are either two heads, or she acts as the head and her husband resigned on his role. If there are two heads, then there is not much unity at home. Just imagine that a business would have two bosses. If wife acts as a head and her husband resigned on his role, then situation is not any better. The reason is that man is created by God to lead his wife. If he does not fulfill his role, he is not doing what God put in his nature. Will there be unity between such spouses and God? Will there be unity among themselves? No. Will they have a goodly home? No. Will they have a happy home? No. This is what happens when spouses do not respect design (will) of their Maker.

Spiritual leadership of husband does not mean that he is authority at home only in matters of interpretation of difficult passages in the Scriptures. He is responsible for God's will to be taught and applied at home as well as in life of his family in general. That excludes any democracy in the family in matters that matter with God. If it is sunny Sunday, the family members will not get to vote if they as family should go to worship God or go to ZOO. The husband, the father is responsible that the family goes to worship God. This is His decision.

Husband whose leadership is not respected, will not be happy and unhappy husband will hardly contribute to happiness of his wife and family. That does not mean that husband is always a great leader, but he has his wife who is his help meet and she should use her wisdom and ingenuity to help him to become a good leader without having to lead him.

The only time wife should reject submission to her husband is in matters that go against God's will. That is what Sapphira should do instead of consenting with her husband to lie to God.

Ac 5:1 ¶ But a man named Ananias with his wife Sapphira sold a piece of property,

2 and with his wife's knowledge he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land?

4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.

Ac 5:6 The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much."

9 But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Hark, the feet of those that have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."

10 Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

*Back to young ladies here. Consider to choose for your husband such a young man to whose spiritual leadership you would be willing to submit and thus let him to fulfil his God given role and duties while fulfilling your own role and duties. Young men on the other hand should consider choosing a wife that respects different roles of husband and wife and whose ambition will be to fulfil her role and duties in marriage.*

### ***III. Conclusion***

Everybody wants to be happy - to have a happy family and home, but without God in people's lives and homes this is just an illusion. Godly home is what gives stability and security to marriage, spouses, children, family. Godly home is an environment where relationships to God and other members of family can be developed in harmony with will of God. Let's strive to build such godly home. It is worthy of the effort. Let us not forget that it took life of His Son, for our heavenly Father to prepare for us home in heaven where we can all be with Him for eternity.

In Prague, April 10, 2010  
Last revision July 14, 2010

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