

Building a Home According to God's Word

by Sam Hollis

- I. **Be Spirit-Filled**
And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18
- II. **Be Spiritual-Minded**
*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.
Ephesians 5:19*
- III. **Be Thankful**
Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:20
- IV. **Be Submissive**
But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things. Ephesians 5:21
- V. **Be Surrendered** to your God-given role
 - A. The wife -- Be submissive. Ephesians 5:22-24
 1. It is a command.
 2. It is considered unto God and an evidence of obedience to God.
 3. It is the order of God. Christ is subject to the Father God. The husband is subject to Christ. The wife is subject to the husband. Children are subject to parents. It is not a matter of inferiority, superiority, or intelligence.
 4. It is the acceptance of the place God has assigned in His divine economy of things.
 5. It is for effectiveness in the leadership of the home.

6. Its value and necessity are confirmed in daily life. For example: principal, teachers, students; plant manager, foremen, factory laborers; head coach, assistant coaches, players; Governor, Lt. Governor, senators, representatives. Leadership and follow-ship are absolutely essential.

B. The husband -- Love as Christ. Ephesians 5:25-33

1. Jesus was willing to give Himself to the point of death for His church. He bled for His church. He sacrificed for His church.

A wife needs to know she is loved, valued, treasured, prized by her husband. This is communicated to her by words, deeds and attitude.

2. Jesus is a friend to His church. He is her companion. He lives for her.

3. Jesus gives to His church time, attention, encouragement, instruction, love, Himself.

To a wife, little things mean a lot. A hug, a kiss, a meal eaten at a restaurant, a card, a bud vase are all appreciated by a wife.

4. Jesus is true to His church. She is secure in their relationship. A wife wants to be secure in her relationship with her husband. She wants to know that he will not leave her and that he will love her when she is old.

5. Jesus understands His church. According to Hebrews 4:14-16 He is touched with the feelings of her infirmities.

The Bible says in I Peter 3:7, "Likewise, ye husbands dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life that your prayers be not hindered."

God's Word tells the husband to dwell with his wife according to knowledge and understanding, to honor her that his prayers would not be hindered.

Man's ignorance about women is so prevalent that it is a standing joke. You may have heard the adage, "Be careful of a man who claims to understand women -- He is apt to lie about other things as well." Dr. James Dobson tells of a gynecologist who took his wife to the doctor because of abdominal pain only to discover that she was five months pregnant. A wife needs acceptance, reassurance, compliments, forgiveness, and security.

- C. Six tips for making and keeping your mate your best friend.
 - 1. Express love to your mate in a way that it can be received.
 - 2. Increase the number of things you enjoy doing together.
 - 3. Make your marital relationship second only in importance to your relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - 4. Make it a life-long project to grow in your understanding of each other. You are each a complex individual with changing needs.
 - 5. Be unselfish. Be more concerned about meeting your mate's needs than having your own needs met. Don't just marry the right person. Be the right person.
 - 6. Cultivate your relationship with God. The closer each of you grow to God, the closer you will grow to each other.
- D. The role of children, Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20, 21
These scriptures give two responsibilities to children. Those responsibilities are to obey and to honor their parents.
 - 1. To obey -- Ephesians 6:1 means to hearken to a command, to be obedient, to submit to, a habitual, constant obedience.

Colossians 3:20 tells that obedience is commendable, well-pleasing to the Lord.

2. To honor -- Ephesians 6:1 means to estimate, to fix the value of. The practical operation is to treat your parents with the love, respect, kindness, and courtesy, and obedience which you estimate their contribution to your life demands. The word to honor implies preciousness, something of great value and worth.

E. The role of parents, Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21
Parents are not to provoke their children to wrath, but to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

1. Ephesians 6:4 -- "Provoke not" -- means to rouse to wrath, to anger, to be unjust with the result that the child will not obey in honor.

Colossians 3:21 -- "Provoke not" --(different word from Ephesians 6:4) means to irritate, is the consequence of being too exact with children.

Colossians 3:21 -- "Lest they be discouraged" -- means to be disheartened, broken in spirit, to lose heart because of unnecessary rules and endless petty correction.

2. Ephesians 6:4 -- "Nurture" -- means discipline. It is the same word that is used in Hebrews 12 to describe the chastening and correcting of God's children. It is the concept taught in Proverbs 13:24, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son, but he that loveth his son chasteneth him early."

Proverbs 23:13 -- "Withhold not correction from the child, for if thou beatest him with the rod he shall not die."

3. Ephesians 6:4 -- "admonition" --exhortation or training by word. This principle is beautifully illustrated in the life of Timothy. See II Timothy 3:14-15. It is also encouraged in

Deuteronomy 6:6-9, when we are told that God's Word is to be in our heart, our home, and a habit in our life.

4. Discipline

- a. Discipline is teaching, instruction, training, guidance, correction, constraint, control, and punishment.
- b. Discipline should be taught to teach authority, to teach right from wrong, to protect from danger, to give security, to teach values, morals, and a way of life, and to prepare for maximum accomplishment.
- c. Discipline should be administered according to a thought-out, agreed-on guideline, giving a reason, instruction, and training, communicating love and acceptance, consistently and not in anger.