

## THE RELIGION OF JESUS AND THE FAMILY

### INTRODUCTION:

1. True wealth of nations is not in weapons, economic stability, political system.
2. The true wealth is found in its homes - the basic cell of society.

### I. THE PURPOSE AND NATURE OF MARRIAGE UNDER GOD'S PLAN:

- A. It is of Divine Origin.
- B. In form it is Monogamic.
- C. In nature it is Indissoluble.
- D. In obligations it is Mutual.
- E. In spirit it is Religious.

### II. WHAT IS THE PLACE THAT MAN IS TO FILL WITHIN THE FAMILY UNIT?

- A. Man is to be the responsible head of the family.
  1. Gen. 3:16: "... Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."
  2. 1 Cor. 11:3: "But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."
  3. Eph. 5:22-23: "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body."
    - a. He cannot rightly shift this responsibility to his wife or others.
- B. He is to love and cherish his wife.
  1. Eph. 5:25, 28, 33: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it. ..."

So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.  
...Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

2. 1 Pet. 3:7: “Likewise you husbands, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”

a. Poem: Prayer of Any Husband:

Lord, may there be no moment in her life  
When she regrets that she became my wife,  
And keep her dear eyes just a trifle blind  
To my defects - and to my failing, kind!  
Help me to do the utmost that I can  
To prove myself, her measure of a man.  
But, if I often fail, as mortals may,  
Grant that she never sees my feet of clay.  
And let her make allowance - now and then  
That we are only grown-up boys, we men,  
So, loving all our children, she will see,  
Sometimes, a remnant of the child in me.  
Since years must bring to all, their load of care  
Let us, together, every burden bear,  
And when Death beckons one its path along-  
May not the two of us be parted long!  
(Mazie V. Carruthers)

C. He is to provide for his household materially.

1. 1 Tim. 5:8: “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”
2. 2 Cor. 12:14: “...For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.”
  - a. He has the responsibility to earn and to share with his family.
    - (I) This would alleviate heavy rolls of aid to dependent children.

D. He is to train his children in the admonition and nurture of the Lord.

1. Prov. 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."
2. Eph. 6:4: "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."
3. Gen. 18:19: God speaking of Abraham said, "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."
4. A good boy is no accident - He needs the example of a Godly father.

#### A FATHER'S PRAYER

Dear God, my little boy of three  
Has said his nightly prayer to Thee;  
Before his eyes were closed in sleep  
He asked that Thou his soul would keep.

And I, still kneeling at his bed,  
My hand upon his tousled head,  
Do ask, with deep humility,  
That Thou, dear Lord, remember me.

Make me, kind Lord, a worthy dad,  
That I may lead this little lad  
In pathways ever fair and bright,  
That I may keep his steps aright.

O God, his trust must never be  
Destroyed, or even marred by me;  
Let Christ in all my actions shine,  
To guide this little lamb of Thine.

So for the simple things he prayed  
With childish voice so unafraid,  
I, trembling, ask the same from Thee;  
Dear Lord, kind Lord, remember me!

--- Anonymous.

### III. WHAT IS THE WOMAN'S PLACE WITHIN THE FAMILY?

#### A. They are to be keepers of the home.

1. 1 Tim. 5:14: "Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully."
2. Titus 2:4-5: "That they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed."
3. This part of woman's work in the family has badly fallen into disrepute.
  - a. Quotation from Alonzo Welch: "By some it is deemed a degrading occupation not becoming to women of culture and sophistication; others look upon it as a chief impediment to their ambition to pursue a career. Hence, we are, to a large extent, rearing a generation of motherless children ... The mother who brings up children is as much a servant of God as the preacher that stands in the pulpit ... Godly women, like all other Christian servants, can become the greatest of all and be crowned in eternal glory as a reward for their faithful service."

#### B. She is to be a companion to her husband.

1. Gen. 2:18,24: "And the Lord God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.' ... Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."
2. Man therefore when alone is incomplete:
  - a. Even in the dismal aftermath of the fall - they had each other.
    - (I) We can imagine Eve saying to Adam:  
"Well, we made a mess of our lives, we lost our home and the curse of God is upon us, but we do have each other."

“The world was all before them, where to choose  
Their place of rest, and Providence their guide:  
They hand in hand with wandering steps and slow,  
Through Eden took their solitary way.”

(Milton: *Paradise Lost*)

C. She is to be a mother to her children.

1. Adam named his wife Eve - Meaning Life. It is only right that the source of life should be entrusted in taking care of that life.
2. No other task has such a profound effect upon society.

(QUOTE WELCH): “The care of life is the greatest occupation in the world. The mothers who administer this care do more to determine the source of civilization than any other influence in society. Children are the plastic clay in their hands whose impressionable minds receive the information and ideals that will shape their adulthood. She must feed, clothe, love, teach, guide, wipe noses, tie shoes and kiss bumped heads in order to fulfill her role. If she lives her child and sympathizes with his problems, he will be loving and compassionate, but if she neglects him, he will become insecure and resentful. If she drinks, swears and disparages religion, she will most likely be the mother of criminals. On the other hand, if she loves God and magnifies the ministry as an honorable calling in spite of its hardships, she will probably be the mother of gospel preachers. A simple wish warmed by a mother’s breath can disband armies, revive dead churches and give new life to a declining civilization.”

3. Mother is the first teacher - impressions she makes last for a lifetime.

D. God’s picture of the kind of mothers this world needs is found in Prov. 31:10-31:

“Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands. She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar. She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants. She considers a field and buys it; from her

profits she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms. She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night. She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle. She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with scarlet. She makes tapestry for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies sashes for the merchants. Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all.'"

#### IV. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE FAMILY AS JESUS WOULD HAVE IT?

- A. Christian homes reproduce themselves in the children who go out from them.
  - 1. One of life's greatest blessings is to see one's own home in their children's home.
- B. It is a bulwark of stability in a world of change.
  - 1. Moored to an unchanging God, Christ Gospel, Hope - its faith will hold.
- C. It gives meaning and purpose to life.
  - 1. Its members consider their relationship to the world and their fellowman.
    - a. Illustration: Two brick masons building a hotel in Cincinnati.
- D. It places the correct emphasis on service.
  - 1. Leopold of Belgium built a castle for wife picked up in Paris (Thousands died).
  - 2. David Livingstone also went to Africa - to serve, not to destroy.

(I) They buried his heart in Africa and his body in Westminster Abbey.

E. Ingratitude sometimes creeps into even Christian homes.

1. Jesus and the Ten Lepers.

2. Parents sacrifice to clothe, provide shelter - need to take aside to say "Thanks."

a. They are neglected and sent off to Old Folks' Homes - "No room for you."

V. **THERE IS A GREAT NECESSITY TO RECOVER THE SOLEMNITY OF FAMILY LIFE AS JESUS TAUGHT IT.**

A. Withering away of family - We accuse Plato, Marx, and Lenin as advocating it.

B. Yet, Americans are unconsciously permitting family life to wither away.

1. When our homes are gone - Then our great nation shall perish.