

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Psalm 127:1-5.**
- B. When I think of the home and stewardship--I think of 3 basic things to be taken care of: spouse, children, and the material things.
- C. This morning, taking care (as a steward) of your spouse and your children.

## I. ADVICE FOR HUSBANDS.

- A. God has given husbands (and fathers) the responsibility in the home (Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:19, 21).  
(**Eph 6:1-4**) 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.  
(**Col 3:19**) Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them.  
(**Col 3:21**) Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart.
- B. Here are some helpful hints in being a good steward to your wife:
  - 1. **Romance her** (Prov. 18:22; 31:10). Treat her as you did when you were dating. That which you did to win her, will be what you need to do to keep her.  
(**Prov 18:22**) He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD.  
(**Prov 31:10**) An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels.
  - 2. **Nurture her** (remember her needs are different than yours), see Eph. 5:25-27. Your wife's emotional state is built on relationships. She doesn't always want the problem solved she just wants to feel justified in feeling the way she feels about a situation.  
Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; **26** that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27** that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.
  - 3. **Communicate with her** which means being a good listener. God is a great communicator through the Scripture and a perfect listener in prayer!).
  - 4. **Do not discourage her.** Learn to handle your house/yard, money, car, etc., and do so as to not discourage your wife.
- C. Realize that if the woman is the weaker vessel the man is the weak vessel (1Pet. 3:7).  
You husbands likewise, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

## II. ADVICE FOR WIVES.

- A. Women become one flesh with their husbands. They are to do things that will build up their marriage.
- B. Some helpful hints:
  - 1. **Build him up** (esp. after paying bills).  
Men have an ego that needs to be stroked and built up. The difficulties of paying bills, and struggles of life itself tears down the ego--you build it back up.
  - 2. **Believe in him** (trust him and pray for him).  
Always have something positive to say to him and to others about your husband. Make sure that he knows that you trust him and believe in him as the head of your household.
  - 3. **Nurture him with your life.**  
Kindness can be a killer towards a husband's roughness and insensitivity. There are lessons about relationships and handling emotions that women can teach men. You can have a profound effect on your husband by living a life that helps take off the rough edges.
  - 4. Carl Breechen has said, "Wives please your man sexually and worship the ground he walks on and he will eat right out of your hand."

### III. ADVICE FOR PARENTS.

- A. No better passage than Psalm 127:1-5.
- B. Four very important concepts here:
  - 1. **Jehovah God must be in our homes** for them to be successful (Psa. 127:1).  
*Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain.*
  - 2. It is **vain to rise early work hard and late to try and make up the difference God makes.**  
God will cause good to happen even while we sleep if we shall put Him first (Psa. 127:2).  
*It is vain for you to rise up early, To retire late, To eat the bread of painful labors; For He gives to His beloved *even in his sleep.**
  - 3. We **must remember our children are not ours**, but given us by God to take care of while we have them (Psa. 127:3). They came from God, and you will raise them and give them back to God.  
*Behold, children are a gift of the LORD; The fruit of the womb is a reward.*
  - 4. **A great household is one blessed with children** for they will give honor to the parents in the city (Psa. 127:4-5).  
*Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. 5 How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They shall not be ashamed, When they speak with their enemies in the gate.*
- C. Children need three things:
  - 1. **Time...** with Dad especially.
  - 2. **Teaching...** listen and teach especially when they're ready to learn (Prov. 22:6).  
*Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.*
  - 3. **Training...** discipline by your example and rod (Prov. 23:13).  
*Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you beat him with the rod, he will not die.*

### IV. EVALUATE OFTEN.

- A. Taking inventory and evaluation should be done periodically.
- B. Is your marriage better now than a year ago? Five years ago?
- C. Are you more sensitive to your spouse's needs? A better or worse communicator?
- D. How are your children growing up? (Lk. 2:52):  
*And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*  
Are they growing physically, educationally, spiritually, and socially.

### CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Stewardship in the home is very important.
- B. Husbands have much to be responsible for.
- C. Wives need to be supportive.
- D. Parents need to be doing the 3 Ts: time, teaching, and training.
- E. Plan of salvation for non- Xians, erring Xians.