

Christian Home

RCC Camp

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1 Introduction

The institution of marriage and family established by God is facing unique challenges these days. To name few:

1. Self-centerdness,

2. No spiritual leadership of man,
3. Breakdown of interpersonal relationships,
4. Impact of social media and personal handsets,
5. Everything a family enjoyed doing together,
6. Growing gap between parents and children, and
7. No discipline of children.

This short study explores few important spiritual principles drawn from two portions from the Bible along with few practical applications. The first refers to husband and wife relationship and the second deals with the parents and children relationship

2 Husband and Wife

Gen 2:20. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

This verse can be considered as the constitution of marriage and contains cardinal principles if followed would make marriage both enjoyable as well God honoring. Four principles drawn from this passage are listed in the following sub-sections.

2.1 Leadership

1. **A man shall:** Man should take the leadership of the family and the wife should support and complement
2. Male headship - Woman submission should be modelled after God the Father and Son Lord Jesus's relationship or Christ and the church relationship.
3. Take decisions and own it, that is take responsibility when things go wrong.

2.2 Loyalty

1. **Leave his father and mother:** Man and woman should terminate all other earthly loyalty for the sake of spouse.
2. The best way to love parents is to love the spouse more than them.
3. Mutual love of spouses should be greater than even the love for children and they should know it.
4. Confidence to share even the most intimate things with spouse.

2.3 Commitment

1. **Join to his wife:** Man and woman should be covenant-ally committed to each other.
2. Join / cleave / hold fast (**dabaq**) means a covenantal commitment.

You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in His name.

No divorce, no matter how great the issue may be.

3. How can I meet my spouses' real need while I meet my need in Christ.

2.4 Unity

1. **Become one flesh:** Man and woman should be united to have single purpose of serving the Lord.
2. One (**echad**):

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one (**echad**) LORD.

Unified purpose of marriage: serve the Lord (one should have a goal outside of his own need).

3 Parents and Children

Duet. 6:7,20-21. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. When your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies, the statutes, and the judgments which the Lord our God has commanded you?’ 21 then you shall say to your son: ‘We were slaves ... and the Lord brought us out of ...

This portion consists of very important commands given to the Jews as they were preparing to enter into the land of Canaan. One of the main concern is preserving the vigour and memory of what God did in their lives. The primary way this is achieved by pass on to the next generation by the parents through their children. Five principles drawn from this passage are listed in the following sub-sections. Understanding and obeying it is crucial for a God-honouring and blessed family life.

3.1 Responsibility

1. **You shall teach ... talk ...:** Parents have the primary responsibility in teaching the children about faith and practical life.
2. Teach children from very young age about God and principles of godly life. This is not the responsibility of the church or Sunday school teacher.
3. Children needs to be disciplined as appropriate to their age.

3.2 Availability

1. **When you sit in your house ... walk ... lie ... raise:** Parents should be available to the children by spending quality time with children.
2. Parents should consciously and creatively use various opportunities arising out of the daily life at home.
3. Do things together - involve children in various works of the family. E.g. Have dinner and family alter together.

4. There should be quality family time with control on digital media.

3.3 Creativity

1. **What is the meaning of ...commandments:** Parents should teach the children **why** behind each commands.
2. Bible gives the reason behind every command and if we understand that then we are able to obey the command in its spirit.
3. Teach children the issues they may face in the world well in advance (prevention is better than cure! e.g. evolution)

3.4 Freedom

1. **When they ask:** Parents should create an atmosphere at home so that children will have the freedom to ask questions.
2. It is not, if they ask, but **when** they ask. This implies, the parents life should be such a way that the children should have questions!
3. The most effective time to teach is when the children ask questions rather than according to our schedule (this does not eliminate the need for systematic teaching).
4. Do not ridicule children when they ask questions. They may ask trivial or naive questions. They may even expose our hypocrisy. Admit and do not take personally.

3.5 Equipment

1. **Then you shall say to your son:** Parents should be equipped to answer the questions the children ask.
2. Parents (Father) should be good Bible teachers. Basic aspects of faith and teachings of the scripture should be taught to the children by parents. It is the responsibility of the Father. Mother, compliments in this responsibility.

3. Mothers should complement in the responsibility. It may be possible that the mother may spent more time with the child. Nevertheless, husbands role is not to be diminished.

4 Conclusion

1. Every husband and father should take initiative, responsibility to establish a godly marriage and godly parenting. While he can take the help of other godly men, this can never be delegated.
2. Every wife and mother should complement her husband in establishing a godly marriage and a godly home.
3. Specific and regular prayer of spouse and each child individually should be practiced.
4. The church and her leaders should ensure that all her members are equipped to have a godly home. It involves frequent counselling, training, and prayer.
5. Regular prayer meetings should be conducted for each couple and each parent and child. Leadership should counsel couples and parents periodically.

Prayer: Father, I worship you for the beautiful institution of marriage and family. Oh my Lord, help me to understand these principles and apply in my life. Lord, I also pray for the couples around me that they would experience the joy of married life. Lord, I pray for all parents and their children that together they would make a godly homes. Amen.