

Back to the Basics

Rules for My Home Life

Memory Verse:
Psalms 127:1

To the Husbands . . .

Rule # 1: Every family begins with a man taking a wife in marriage. A marriage begins with a man leaving his father and mother and taking a wife. God commanded: *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”* (Genesis 2:24, NKJV) In all reality, a man cannot take a wife or cleave to his wife if he has not left his father and mother. Too often, a young man will find a high school sweet heart and fall in love. He then proposes to her and she accepts. Then, when the wedding arrives, they both say, “I do,” However, for whatever reason, this young man does not “leave his father and mother.” Every decision in his married life is always influenced by his mother and father. He often will not respect the wishes or desires of his wife, if those wishes or desires are contrary to either his mother or his father. A man who takes a wife without leaving his father and mother will face a life time of troubles within his marriage.

Why should a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife? Let us go back to the Bible to see God’s reasoning. In Matthew 19:4-6, Jesus said, *“Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’ ? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”* (NKJV) God desires the husband to leave his father and mother and to cleave to his wife. This is God’s design for the marriage. There is to be one male and one female. There is not to be one male, one female, and one mother or one father. In the text we also see the male and the female becoming “one flesh.” There is no room in this “one flesh” for the husband’s mother or father. The text also reveals that what God has joined together, no man is to separate. What has God joined together? God has joined together the one male and the one female. God did not join together one male, one female, and the male’s mother or father.

There may be times, especially within the first few years of marriage, when a son leaving his mother and father to be with his wife may be difficult. However, this is a God ordained part of life for the one who chooses to marry. If a man cannot leave his father and mother, then he should not take a wife.

Rule # 2: Husband’s, you bear the responsibility of being the head over your house. This does not mean that you get to dominate the family and be the king and they be the peasants. God is very clear regarding how a husband exercises his rule. Let us first consider 1 Peter 3:7, where Peter writes, *“Husbands, likewise, 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.” (NKJV) As is quite clear, the husband is to dwell with his wife with understanding. Another rendering would be, *“Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.”* (1 Peter 3:7, ESV) This passage leaves no room for a king - peasant relationship. The husband is to treat his wife with honor, respect, and with understanding.

Another passage showing the standard for the husband’s rule is Ephesians 5:25-28. In this passage we can observe the following rules concerning the husband’s relationship towards his wife.

- Q Husbands, you are to love your wives as Christ loved the church. Christ loved the church so much that He gave himself for the church. (v. 25-27) Christ would never do anything to hurt the church. He gave His all so that the church would be found pleasing to God. Likewise, husbands should never do anything that would either hurt or harm their wives. They should put their wives’ well being above their own wants and desires. Spiritually speaking, they should do their best to help their wives to be found pleasing in the sight of God.
- Q Husbands, you are to also love your wives as your own bodies. This type of love will rule out selfishness and competitiveness between the husband and the wife. The husband will do all that he can to provide for his wife and put her first, second only to God. (v. 28)

Rule # 3: Husbands, you bear the responsibility of instructing your family in the way of the Lord. This is part of “ruling well” your own house. (cf. 1 Timothy 3:4-5) You should instruct your family in the way that is right. You should command your family in the way of the Lord. Follow the examples set by Abraham (Genesis 18:19) and Joshua (Joshua 24:15). You can accomplish this goal by teaching your family the word of God. Study with them daily what the Bible has to say. (cf. 2 Timothy 2:15) By teaching your family the word of God, you will be equipping them with everything they need to live a faithful life to the heavenly Father. (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Fathers, God placed upon your shoulders the responsibility of teaching your children about Him. Paul wrote, *“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”* (Ephesians 6:4, NKJV) While your wife may share in this responsibility, remember fathers that God gave this charge to you.

In the process of instructing your family in the way of the Lord, you will have to protect your family from the fiery darts of Satan. (Cf. Ephesians 6:16) One way in which you protect your family is by not allowing any wicked influences into the safe haven of their home. Adopt the same attitude as David towards wicked things. David wrote, *“I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me. A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will not know wickedness.”* (Psalms 101:3-4, NKJV) I am sure that David was fully aware of the principle that says that evil companionship will corrupt good morals. Through inspiration, Paul taught that very point in 1 Corinthians 15:33.

Children will face a great many challenges during their childhood. Some challenges will be easy to overcome while others will be much greater in difficulty. Fathers must never do anything or allow anything in the home that would influence their children in an ungodly fashion. Fathers should consider carefully what movies they take their children to see or bring within their homes.

(How much swearing and coarse language is in the movie? What about sexual innuendos, adult language, sexual content, nude or nearly nude scenes, etc.? It is possible to learn about the content of a movie before ever seeing the movie.) Fathers should pay careful attention to the books read by their children, songs that their children listen to, and television shows which their children watch. A father should never be afraid of saying, “No” to any function or activity which could influence their children in an ungodly fashion.

Sometimes, this instructing process involves physical discipline or punishment. Again fathers, this is your charge. Solomon, on a number of occasions, taught his sons about disciplining their children. {See chart to the left.}

Rule # 4: Fathers are to provide for their families. From the beginning of time, God has commanded the man to work in order to provide for his family. (Genesis 3:17-19) Because of his love for his family, the father should be willing to work nearly any job in order to provide for his family. (cf. Ephesians 5:25-28) The apostle Paul said that a person who is unwilling to provide for his own is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Timothy 5:8)

How We Know Fathers are to Discipline Their Children

Solomon taught his sons:
Proverbs 1:8,10,15; 2:1;
3:1,11,21; 4:10,20; 5:1,20;
6:1,3,20; 7:1; 19:27;
23:15,19,26

Solomon taught his sons to discipline their children:
Proverbs 13:24; 22:15;
23:13,14; 29:15

To the Wives . . .

Rule # 1: Wives are to willingly submit to their husbands. They are to subject themselves to their husband’s leadership and rule. Peter wrote, “*Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, . . .*” (1 Peter 3:1, NKJV) In Ephesians 5:22-24, Paul told the wives to submit to their husbands as the church is submissive to Christ. Paul wrote, “*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. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*” (NKJV) Also, Timothy told Titus that the older women were to teach the younger woman to be “*obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.*” (Titus 2:4-5) A wife’s obedience and submission must come willingly. No husband should ever try to force his wife into submission. She must either submit by her own free will or never get married in the first place. (In Paul’s example of Christ and the church, the church submits to Christ willingly and freely. (cf. Ephesians 5:22-24)

This submission is to be in accordance to God’s word. A wife is under no obligation to submit to her husband in areas or ways that would violate God’s word. At these points, she must choose service to God over service to her husband. Through emotional ties, threats, coercions, or some

other form of manipulation, an ungodly husband may try to force his wife to walk contrary to God's word. However, no matter the cost, the wife must never give in to sinful ideas and practices.

Rule # 2: A wife is to love her husband. Paul taught the older women to teach the younger women to love their husbands. Paul wrote, "*The older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things — that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,*" (Titus 2:3-4, NKJV) This love is to take precedence over all other loves within her life, save for her love for Christ.

A person new to the world of marital love might assume that the love comes naturally. However, that is not always the case. Love is not necessarily a natural response. Generally speaking, the love between a husband and wife begins as a seed. This seed of love between a husband and his wife must be cultivated and grown. It must be nurtured. There are times, however, when the emotional side of a person may want uproot the love. (This may be in response to feelings of hurt, resentment, jealousy, etc.) However, neither spouse should let their love be poisoned and killed.

Rule # 3: Like the husband, the wife is to also leave her father and mother and be joined to her husband. While the Bible does not state this word-for-word as it did in the case of the husband, the Bible does teach it none-the-less. Consider again Ephesians 5:22-24. Paul told the woman to submit to her own husband. Before the woman left home, she was in subjection to her father and mother (cf. Ephesians 6:1-3). Once the woman marries, she is no longer in subjection to her parents. She is now in subjection to her husband. While the level of submission may be different, she is, nevertheless, to submit to her husband in everything.

A husband who does not leave his father and mother can destroy his marriage relationship. Likewise, the wife can also destroy the marriage by not leaving her father and mother. When the wife obeys her father and mother over her husband or lets father and mother control her life and marriage, then she is jeopardizing the marring relationship.

Rule # 4: The wife is to manage the home. Paul wrote to Timothy, "*Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, . . .*" (1 Timothy 5:14, NKJV) The King James Version renders the last phrase as "guide the house." The American Standard Version reads, "rule the household." To his letter to Titus, Paul told the women to be "homemakers. (Titus 2:4-5) (The KJV reads "keepers at home." The ASV reads "workers at home.") As you can clearly see, the woman bears a responsibility towards the operation and functioning of the home. She is to manage or keep the home.

Definitions

"Guide the house" - oikodespoteo

1) to be master (or head) of a house 2) to rule a household, manage family affairs (Enhanced Strong's Lexicon)

to be the head of (i.e. rule) a family: -- guide the house. (Strong's)

"Keepers at home" - oikouros

1) caring for the house, working at home 1a) the (watch or) keeper of the house 1b) keeping at home and taking care of household affairs 1c) a domestic (Enhanced Strong's Lexicon)

a stayer at home, i.e. domestically inclined (a "good housekeeper"): -- keeper at home. (Strong's)

To the Husband and Wife . . .

Rule # 1: Your marriage is to last until “death do you part.” God was very clear regarding His desire that every marriage be a life time commitment. Jesus made this point clear when He taught, “*So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.*” (Matthew 19:6, NKJV) When two people enter into a lawful marriage relationship, they are bound to one another until the unfortunate death of one of the spouses. Paul wrote, “*For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.*” (Romans 7:2-3, NKJV) Once one spouse dies, the other spouse is no longer bound to that marriage relationship. Therefore, as long as both spouses live, they are bound to one another, restrained from marrying another. No two people should ever enter into a marriage relationship unless they are bound and determined to stay married for the remainder of their lives.

Rule # 2: Remain faithful to your marriage. When a man and a woman enter into a lawful marriage, they are no longer two but one flesh. They should live accordingly. No matter what trials and challenges come their way, a husband and wife should always remain faithful and true to each other. One area of faithfulness which is crucial is the area of the marriage bed. The writer of Hebrews wrote, “*Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*” (Hebrews 13:3, NKJV) The only thing beyond choice and control which can sever a marriage is death. However, within all the challenges and problems of life which lie within our choice and control, there is only one cause for ending the marriage relationship. That cause is fornication. Jesus said, “*And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.*” (Matthew 19:9, NKJV)

To the Children . . .

Children’s responsibilities are pretty simple in concept. In Ephesians 6:1-3, the apostle Paul wrote, “*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with promise: ‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.’*” (NKJV) Likewise, in his letter to the church in Colosse, Paul wrote, “*Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.*” (Colossians 3:20, NKJV) God expects children to respect (honor) and obey their father and mother.

Children, listen to your parents when they are trying to teach you in the way of righteousness. Do not ignore the teachings of your parents. You will receive the greatest benefit. Solomon wrote, “*Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.*” (Proverbs 1:8,9, ESV) The child who honors and obeys his parents will, himself, be respected and honored by others. This is God’s command for children.

Ten Questions

1. Who must a man leave if he is to take a wife? _____
2. Who bears the responsibility of being head over the house? _____
3. What example did Paul use to show the extent of the husband's love for his wife? _____

4. Who bears the primary responsibility of instructing the family in the way of the Lord? _____

5. To whom are wives to be submissive? _____
6. What are the limits to a wife obeying her husband? _____

7. To whom did Paul give the charge to teach the younger women to love their husbands? _____

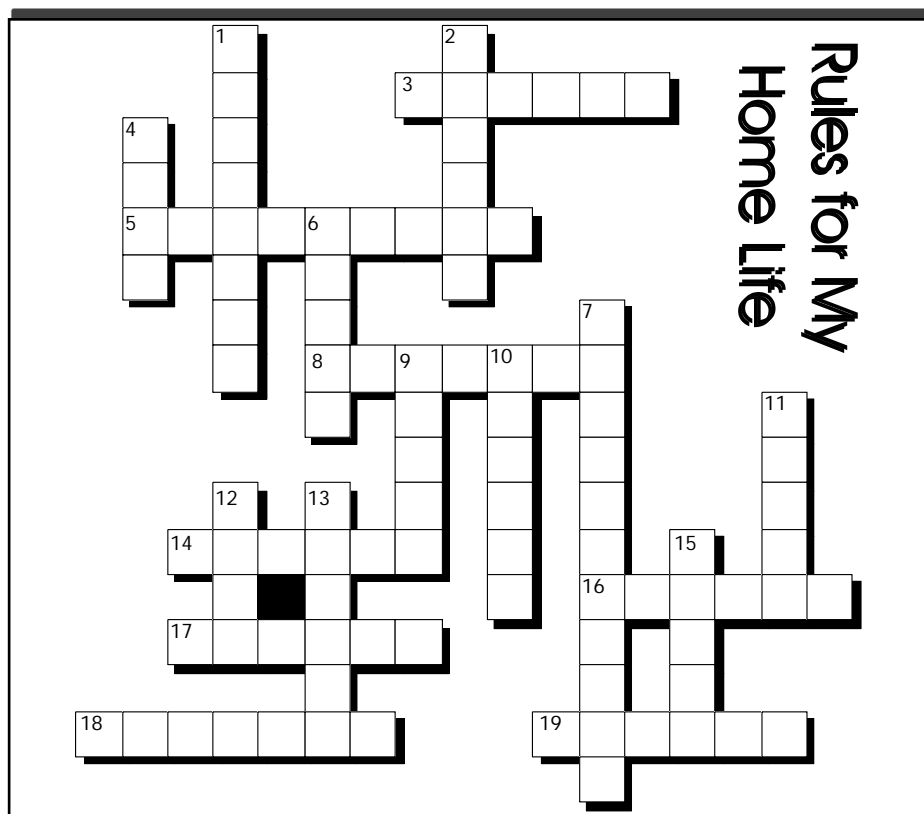
8. To whom did Paul give the charge to manage (guide) the house? _____
9. A man is not to divorce his wife and remarry, except for what cause? _____
10. Paul wrote, "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is _____
_____."

True or False

1. T or F : The wife does not have to leave her father and mother.
2. T or F : The husband does not have to leave his father and mother.
3. T or F : Abraham serves as a good example of a father who commanded his family in the way of the Lord.
4. T or F : David wrote that he would set nothing wicked before his eyes.
5. T or F : The husband has the right to command his wife to do anything he desires.
6. T or F : Love within a marriage must be cultivated and nurtured.
7. T or F : God designed the marriage to last until the death of a spouse.
8. T or F : The Bible teaches that marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled.
9. T or F : A man may put away his wife for any cause and marry another.
10. T or F : The command for children to obey their parents is a command with promise.

A Little Fun

(Use the lesson text to answer these questions.)



Across

3. A man is to leave his father and _____.
5. "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed _____; . . ."
8. This man wrote, "He who spares his rod hates his son, . . ."
14. Husbands are to love their wives as their own _____.
16. Husbands are to love their wives as _____ loved the church.
17. The husband is to give honor to his wife, "as to the _____ vessel."
18. "But if anyone does not _____ for his own, . . . he has denied the faith . . ."
19. This man said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Down

1. "_____, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."
2. "Therefore what God has _____ together, let not man separate."

4. Who wrote, "Evil company corrupts good habits"?
6. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one _____."
7. Solomon wrote, "My son, hear the _____ of your father, . . ."
9. The woman is bound to her husband by law as long as he _____.
10. The wife is commanded to _____ or guide the house.
11. "_____, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord . . ."
12. The older women are to admonish the young women to _____ their husbands.
13. David wrote, "I will set nothing _____ before my eyes; . . ."
15. Fathers are not to provoke their children to _____.

Passages in this Lesson

Genesis 2:24	pg 91	Matthew 19:6	pg 95
Genesis 3:17-19	pg 93	Matthew 19:9	pg 95
Genesis 18:19	pg 92	Romans 7:2-3	pg 95
Joshua 24:15	pg 92	1 Corinthians 15:33	pg 92
Psalms 101:3-4	pg 92	Ephesians 5:22-24	pg 93,94
Proverbs 1:8-9	pg 95	Ephesians 5:25-28	pg 92
Proverbs 1:8,10,15	pg 93	Ephesians 6:1-3	pg 94,95
Proverbs 2:1.....	pg 93	Ephesians 6:4	pg 92
Proverbs 3:1,11,21	pg 93	Ephesians 6:16	pg 92
Proverbs 4:10,20	pg 93	Colossians 3:20	pg 95
Proverbs 5:1,20	pg 93	1 Timothy 3:4-5	pg 92
Proverbs 6:1,3,20	pg 93	1 Timothy 5:8	pg 93
Proverbs 7:1	pg 93	1 Timothy 5:14	pg 94
Proverbs 13:24	pg 93	2 Timothy 2:15	pg 92
Proverbs 19:27	pg 93	2 Timothy 3:16-17	pg 92
Proverbs 22:15	pg 93	Titus 2:3-4	pg 94
Proverbs 23:13,14	pg 93	Titus 2:4-5	pg 93,94
Proverbs 23:15,19,26	pg 93	Hebrews 13:3	pg 95
Proverbs 29:15	pg 93	1 Peter 3:1	pg 93
Matthew 19:4-6	pg 91	1 Peter 3:7	pg 91