

B. The Bible teaches that the husband and wife relationship should take **precedence over** every other human relationship, if you are married.

1. Genesis 2:24 - *Note three things: **leave, cleave, and one flesh**.

T.P.T. = Temporary, Permanent, Temporary

Marriage is not a place for self-protected living, but for giving.

Marriage is not for individual living, but comprehensively sharing life together. Marriage is not primarily an emotional, romantic relationship, but the greatest covenant commitment on earth.

C. The Bible teaches that the family is a place where people are **honored and respected** : The Golden Rule (Luke 6:31).

“Honor” = “to fix a valuation upon; to revere; to respect”

The height of dishonor is physical abuse.

1. Deuteronomy 5:16; Mark 7:10; Ephesians 6:2; Proverbs 19:26; 20:20; 23:22; 30:17 – *“Honor your father and mother.”*
2. 1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:33 – *“Husbands, honor your wives.”*
“Wives, respect your husbands.”
3. 1 Timothy 3:4 – *“A husband must manage his household and children with dignity.”*
4. Colossians 3:21; Ephesians 6:4 – *“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger.”* *“Fathers, do not exasperate your children, causing them to lose heart.”* **Disrespect promotes anger.** The home should not be a place of constant turmoil, strife, bitterness, and selfishness.
5. 1 Peter 2:17 – *“Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, and honor the king.”*

6. 1 Timothy 5:3 – *“Honor widows who are widows indeed.”*

7. Ephesians 4:32 – *“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ has also forgiven you.”*

8. A Responsibility to Honor from Exodus 20:1-17

- Nine of the Ten Commandments are repeated in the New Testament Epistles for the Church to honor and obey. (minus Sabbath Day)
- The 1st and 10th Commandments deal with what’s in the heart, while the other 8 commandments focus on outward actions that begin in the heart.
- The first 4 commandments are particularly God-ward while the last six are man-ward, thus demonstrating the connection between one’s relationship to God and one’s relationship to others. **How we relate to others depends on how we relate to God. If we love God, we will love and serve others.** If there is something wrong in a relationship, then first examine your relationship with God (your thoughts, ideas, understandings, obedience).
- Outline of the Ten Commandments:
 1. Honoring the One True God in 20:1-3
 2. Honoring Worship of the One True God in 20:4-6
 3. Honoring God’s Name above Every other Name in 20:7
 4. Honoring the Sabbath Rest in 20:8-11
 5. Honoring Parents in 20:12
 6. Honoring Human Life in 20:13
 7. Honoring Marriage in 20:14
 8. Honoring Personal Property in 20:15
 9. Honoring the Truth in 20:16
 10. Honoring Your Neighbor in 20:17

If we love others, we won’t covet what they have, steal from them, lie to or about them, dishonor, disrespect, or abuse them in any way. This is why “love is the fulfillment of the Law” (Romans 13:8-10). God can change our sinful hearts and give us the love we need to obey Him and to care about others more than about ourselves (Hebrews 10:14-18; Romans 5:1-5).

D. The Bible teaches that the family is a _____ in which the most important _____ of _____ are _____ and _____.

a. Illustrated as a _____. Parents pass the baton to the next generation by every child being taught the things of God.

b. **Deuteronomy 4:9-10**; 6:6-25; **Joshua 4:21-24**; **Psalm 78:2-7**; **Joel 1:2-3**; Proverbs 1-31; Romans 15:4; Ephesians 6:4.

The Bible declares that parents should be _____ the education of their children; not doing it all necessarily, but supervising it. Know what your kids are learning at home and outside the home; what they are reading, watching, listening to, who their friends are. **Always emphasize biblical instruction; bring Christ and the Word of God into every situation.**

E. The Bible teaches that the family is a place of _____, a _____ in the time of _____.

a. We will always have some stormy times in our lives; some expected and some unexpected; it's part of life on earth. (John 16:33; **Psalm 90:10**; Genesis 47:8-9; Job 14:1)

b. Various storms in life (family is a place of refuge, comfort, encouragement, AND a place to learn biblical responses to life):

_____ Rejection or Ridicule, Unrealized _____, Unreliable & Unreasonable _____, _____ Setbacks, Physical Illness & Disease, _____ Challenges, Weaknesses, and times when God seems _____. Home must be a place filled with patience, gentleness, and encouragement for the storms of life: A Life Preserver.



- c. The family is a place where God is exalted and members are cared for, according to the Scriptures.

Proverbs 14:26, *“In the reverence of the LORD is strong confidence and His children will have refuge.”*

Psalm 103:13, *“Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who reverence Him.”*

Proverbs 28:13, *“He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.”*

Deuteronomy 24:5, the home is a place of happiness.

Ephesians 5:28-29, the home is a place where men nurture and promote the strengths of others, and help others in their weaknesses. This is not shallow self-esteem, but substantial encouragement and help.

1 Peter 3:7, the home is a place of emotional support.

Colossians 3:12-17, the home is a place of humility, compassion, gentleness, kindness, patience, forgiveness, love, unity, peace, thankfulness, biblical instruction, and worship; all flowing from the Word of God which richly dwells in your home and acts as the standard of family life relationships.

Next Steps in Your Household of Faith

1. Review all the notes in this series and decide which areas of your home need to be strengthened and improved upon.
2. Personally confess your role in any sin or shortcomings in your home.
3. Decide how you will personally serve God by serving your family. What will you practically do to obey God and help others in your family?
4. Pray specifically every day for each family member.
5. Thank God every day for at least one thing about each family member.
6. Find ways to worship and serve God together as a family.