

**Scriptural
Help for
OUR FAMILY**

"If you want to improve it
HE wants to help!"

SCRIPTURAL HELP FOR OUR FAMILY

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Thomas Schattke

FORWARD

We offer this booklet with the assurance that readers can build stronger, more enjoyable and more fruitful families by using the help offered by our loving heavenly Father. Your comments and questions are welcome.

In applying the lessons contained in this booklet you will find it most useful to study it carefully on the first reading and then re-read it periodically or when a problem seems to be starting. If your family is important to you then you will spend time together on some of the projects suggested. Since the text is mostly free of stories and repetition it may be less fun and require more exertion from the reader than otherwise; but this makes it easier to re-read.

In the text and in scripture quotations you will find the personal name of the Creator, *Yahweh*, and the given name of His son, our savior, *Yahshua* (similar to Joshua). His name, 'Yahshua' means 'Yahweh saves'. These names are used in several editions of the Scriptures and are coming into more common usage generally. The Hebrew term *elohim* will also be seen; it means 'mighty being' and has most often been translated 'god' or 'God' in English Bibles.

For more information about the correct names or a list of other free literature you are invited to call or write:

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Chapter 1
GETTING THE HELP WE NEED

**Look at how good and how pleasant it is for
brothers to live together in unity!**

Psalms 133:1

**If it seems evil to you to serve Yahweh, then you
choose this day whom you will serve; whether the
elohim which your fathers served that were on the
other side of the flood, or the elohim of the
Amorites, in whose land you dwell: but AS FOR
ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE YAHWEH.**

Joshua 24:15

Over the centuries there has been a *good* trend towards equality among people. In ancient times there were men who ruled with a great deal of power, even to the point of having power of life and death. The pendulum has now swung past the point of a correct balance of authority, to the point where *any* authority of one person over another is looked upon with suspicion, mistrust or hatred.

The very institution of marriage has suffered attack from the forces of 'equality' and 'liberation'. In many cases the attack has been justified; Yahweh never intended a man or woman to be oppressed by their spouse. He holds men and women in equally high regard and intends for us to do the same. In other cases, misguided people are attacking the very institution which could produce the things they desperately need and long for.

Whatever the reasons may be, there has been a great change in our society which affects the family. A recent report from the Heritage Foundation of Washington, D. C. reveals that in the United States:

- 13% of American children rely on AFDC.
- 1 of every 200 children are arrested each year for violent crimes.
- 1 of every ten teenage girls become pregnant each year.
- Over 1.5 million children are aborted each year.
- Over 40% of children are not living with both biological parents.
- The average family watches television 50 hours per week.

Everyone has a family; and the success of each family is very important. When the family is working well it yields a blessing which reaches out to many people who do not even live in the same home. When the family fails in some way it is always bad and it can lead to pain and tragedy for many innocent people.

Just what does it mean for a family to fail or to succeed? How can a family move from failure toward success?

Yahweh wants our families to be good for each of us. How we conduct our families is very important to Yahweh. He once based the greatest physical blessing ever given on this factor: He blessed the descendants of Abraham, saying, **"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of Yahweh, to do justice and judgment; that Yahweh may bring upon Abraham that which He has spoken about him," Genesis 18:19.**

In the scriptures He has given a great many commandments, principles and examples to help us receive the blessings He wants us to enjoy. Yahweh has particular love and concern for small children. He has given us many ways to make their young lives better, more enjoyable and a better basis for their adult lives. And when children have true, lasting, properly-based happiness their parents will always benefit as well.

Yahweh has particular love and concern for small children.

If you will commit yourself to following the ways Yahweh has given for your family He promises to bless *you* for it. On the other hand, the way of the world leads only to tragedy.

Look! Today I have set before you life and good, and death and evil; in that I command you to love Yahweh your Elohim, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His ordinances so that you may live and multiply and that Yahweh your Elohim may bless you. . . . Deuteronomy 30:15.

(Read the entire, wonderful chapter.) Put yourself and your family into Yahweh's gentle, wise and loving hands; Yahweh's ways are good for your family. Thousands of families have walked Yahweh's way and been richly blessed for it. Add your family to their number, learn all you can from your Creator and put it into practice for those you love most.

At this point some readers are telling themselves that they will look this over and see if there are some few ideas in the rest of the booklet they can use. That's fine - you will be blessed for following whatever portion of Yahweh's path you are ready to follow. I would urge you and caution you to keep track of the results; and when the blessings are proven, then accept the rest of what you have been given and reap *all* the blessings Yahweh wants you to have. We should be very careful about rejecting a gift from Yahweh.

But let every man prove his own work, and then he shall have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden. Let him that is taught in the word communicate to him that teaches, in all good things.

Do not be deceived; Elohim is not mocked: for whatever a man sows, that he shall also reap. For he that sows to his flesh shall, of the flesh, reap corruption; but he that sows to the Spirit shall reap life everlasting of the Spirit. And let us not become weary of doing good: for in due season we shall reap if we do not faint. Therefore, as we have opportunities, let us do good to all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith, Galatians 6:4-10.

DIRECTION FOR THE FAMILY

A family begins when **a man leaves his father and his mother and stays with his wife and they become one flesh, Genesis 2:24.** This does *not* mean to say that the couple moves in with *her* parents! Married couples should have their own home. It is good for a couple to have family support near by; but it is important for a new family to 'forsake all others' and 'grow in it's own soil'.

When a couple get married they usually have some idea of the kind of home they wish to have. It is good if they do have such dreams. They may not only have a vision of the house, but they may also visualize what their children will be like and what it will be like to have dinner in that house, even down to what will be talked about at the table.

Too often, as the years pass, the vision becomes just a dim memory as the children grow up and become distant and the once-loving young couple grows apart.

It does not have to be that way.

Children *can* stay close to their parents, even through the difficult teen years and into the times of raising their own families. Couples

can grow closer and closer, with more love, understanding and appreciation for each other as the years pass.

Like any group, a family needs to have a clear idea of why it exists and the direction it is trying to go. Family members should discuss what the family should give to each member and what each should contribute back to the family. These types of goals are not just to be established and forgotten. They are used every day to guide decisions and actions and should be added to and modified as things change with time. We will learn more about family goal-setting in our last chapter. When you observe an

Everyone asks for help when they need it and offers assistance when they can give it.

established family doing something which seems desirable, make a note of it and talk with them about how that happened. Dream a hundred dreams and write down at least one hundred goals for your family before you get married. What a way to get to know your fiancé!

Today only a few individuals seem to place a high value on keeping their promises. Most families are not held together by the parents' sense of honor toward the commitments they made to one another nor by the children's feelings of loyalty. Family members stay together only because of what each family member *gets* from being in the family. If a member is dissatisfied with the family he may continue to appear to be a family member but actually he withdraws from being a real, emotional part of family life.

Yahweh commands us to keep our vows (**Numbers 30**); but there is nothing wrong (and everything good) about having a family where each member would be happy to stay even if he were morally free to change his situation.

There actually are *tons* of books, articles, and audio programs on how to have a happy family. Even a small public library may have a few hundred pounds of them. Some are valuable - use them as you

have need; but be careful to judge them against the Scriptures before taking their advice. Even those with a stamp of some religion on them must be examined closely. This booklet will let you know much of what The Scriptures say about the family. That should be considered to be the foundation for relations within your home. Yahweh knows best.

The Scripture quotations here are in **bold-face** type. They are taken from the King James Version with sacred names restored and the language changed to reflect current usage and to give clear meaning. Rest assured that we are not twisting the scriptures; but please also read them from your own edition of the Scriptures. They may not have exactly the same words but you will see the same message there. We don't select single unsupported references, cut verses in pieces to make a different point, or use a translation which gives an unusual or incorrect reading.

If you wanted to just read those bold-face references it should be all you need to do. If you don't read any more of this book, at least read those scriptures. Comment has been included with the prayer that it will aid in your understanding, stimulate your thinking and studying and provide what we feel is appropriate emphasis. We encourage you to adhere to the Scriptures above these comments or anything else you may read or hear.

May Yahweh bless your study into this vital topic!

Chapter 2 HUSBANDS

The core of the family is the husband, the wife and their relationship. We shall look at the husbands first.

Men - study this section carefully with prayer. We all need it.

Wives - read this section so that you can help teach your sons the right ways.

Young women - read this section so you know what you're looking for in a husband.

We can look to Yahweh as an example of a good husband. In Old Testament times, Yahweh is shown as a husband to the nation of Israel; **"And I will betroth you to me forever; yes, I will betroth you to me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving kindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth you to me in faithfulness: and you shall know Yahweh," Hosea 2:19-20**; and to those who should follow His ways, **Yahweh says, "Turn, O backsliding children, for I am married to you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion," Jeremiah 3:14.**

Isaiah says, **"For your Maker is your husband; Yahweh of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer, the *Kodesh* One of Israel; He shall be called the Elohim of the whole earth. For 'Yahweh has called you as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when you had been refused,' says your Elohim," Isaiah 54:5-6.**

The full meaning of Elohim being the husband of the people is made clear in the New Testament. Paul writes:

Husbands, love your wives, just as The Messiah also loved the assembly, and gave Himself for it, that He might set it apart and make it clean with the washing of water according to the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious assembly, without spot, or wrinkle, or anything like that; but that it should be set apart and without blemish.

That is how men ought to love their wives; as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever yet hated his own body; but he nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Messiah does the assembly: For we are members of His body: of His flesh, and of His bones. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife, and those two shall become one flesh.

This is very hard to understand: but I am telling you about The Messiah and the assembly. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband, Ephesians 5:25-33.

How rich this scripture is in help for the husband! Did you notice that Paul shows that love is not just a feeling a man has about his wife but is rather the constant series of acts by which he takes special care of her. He "nourishes and cherishes her" in the same way he takes care of his own body.

Love is not just a feeling a person has about their spouse, but is rather a constant series of acts.

If a man is trying to be a successful husband he can make use of all the material available about our perfect example - the Messiah. Yahshua gave up everything for the assembly. He began by giving up his place in heaven

with the Father to be born as a baby human being. Next, he devoted His life to preparing for and carrying out a ministry of love, teaching and healing for the people of His time and ours. Finally, He suffered on the tree and gave up His life so that those people who accept and

obey Him, could be saved from death and join Him in eternal life. A husband who devotes himself to his family in that way will certainly enjoy the fruits of a happy home.

Meditate on that.

Husbands will also find help in other scriptures:

When a man has taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife whom he has taken, Deuteronomy 24:5. Don't take on any more responsibility than you need to during your first year of marriage. Devote yourself to establishing a close, dependable, loving relationship with your bride. The command to 'cheer up his wife' could be read as a directive to a man to laugh, romp and giggle with his wife too.

If you are a boss; don't give a newly married man too much to do and be sure he takes some time off with his bride. Laying the foundation for a good marriage is more important *to the business* than any other activity the man may be assigned.

Near the end of the year he should gradually move back into more aggressive pursuit of his full responsibilities, but he should never stop caring for his wife in a special way so as to continue to build that relationship.

If you muffed that first year of taking special care to make your wife happy then make it a point to set time aside during the next several months. Court her again, listen to her, spend time as she pleases and tell her your inner thoughts. This relationship is built by many hours of talking with and *listening to* each other. A little giggling would also be appropriate. Let all those activities be directed toward establishing the unique relationship between the two of you.

Even if you used that first year properly for bonding, be sure to 'review' frequently. Keep

The husband should never stop caring for his wife in a special way so as to continue to build that relationship.

that bond strong and fresh by doing the things you did when you were courting and honeymooning. Do you remember those days? Keep your marriage special!

Bear in mind that, at any time, Yahweh will gladly hear your prayer for His help in loving, understanding and communicating with your mate. Ask today for His help.

Drink waters out of your own cistern, and running waters out of your own well. Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets? Let them be only for your own, and not strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of your youth. Let her be as the loving doe and pleasant deer; let her breasts please you at all times; and always be ravished with her love, Proverbs 5:15-19.

You shall not commit adultery, Exodus 20:14. Take your Creator's word for it - it works much better that way. Many people don't know it; but marriages between people who have had no other sexual partners in their lives are *much more* likely to succeed and be happy. Our children need to know that fact because it greatly affects their future.

He does not regard your offering any more. Yet you say, 'Why?'

Because Yahweh has seen what happens between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously. Yet she is your companion, and the wife with whom you made a covenant. Has He not joined them? (Yet he had the residue of the spirit.) And why did He join them? Because he looked for righteous children. Because of this [being observed by Yahweh] be careful about your spirit, and let no man deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. For Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel, says, "I hate divorce: for a man throws a cloak over his violence." Because of this [attitude of Yahweh's] be careful about your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously, Malachi 2:13b-16.

Since divorce displeases Yahweh, helps lawyers get rich, and hurts children for life it should be avoided at almost any cost. As Paul said, do everything within your power to live at peace with your spouse.

If any man does not provide for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever, 1 Timothy 5:8. Is Paul saying there is something wrong with a man who does not pay his bills and provide a decent home for his family? He certainly is, and we should know that without reading the Scripture.

Likewise, you husbands, live with your wife intelligently, giving honor to her as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered, 1 Peter 3:7. Don't be foolish - respect your wife as you ought to respect her since she is also a child of Yahweh. If you fail to love, care for, and respect your wife then Yahweh will not listen to your prayers. There may be a prayer some day which you desperately want Him to answer.

Concentrate on giving your wife plenty of affection, real two-way conversation, openness in your communication, steady (not necessarily lavish) financial support, and let her know by your words *and* actions that you have a strong commitment to your family.

There is more to say about the husband's role in the family but we will see it in the sections on Husband-wife relationships and on children.

Chapter 3 WIVES

Whoever finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains the favor of Yahweh, Proverbs 18:22.

The reason a man was given a wife is found in the familiar words of the One who created both of them, **And Yahweh Elohim said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will create a suitable helper for him," Genesis 2:18.** There are clearly some ways in which a man can not be fully effective by himself. Even if men could somehow have had sons by themselves, there would still have been a great lack in that arrangement. Yahweh knew the characteristics of the man when He made him and saved a group of features for inclusion in a splendid later model - the woman. She was based on the earlier, larger, more powerful model (**Genesis 2:23**) but had smoother lines (physically and emotionally) and a different purpose, complimentary to that of the man. Only together can they form a complete unit.

These verses from **Genesis** tell the reasons and purposes Yahweh had in mind when men and women were created. If we can all keep this original relationship in mind it will help our families a great deal.

One of the best ways to learn what a scripturally ideal wife should be is to study the word picture painted in **Proverbs 31:10-31**. Read the scripture carefully. Below is a paraphrase which may give a sense of the meaning for today's woman and her family.

THE SUPERWIFE

If a man finds a really good wife she is much more valuable to him than a very expensive piece of jewelry. There is a deep, personal, growing trust between her and her husband and she is also a benefit to him financially. For their entire life together she is a real blessing to him and never causes him harm.

She looks for ways she can keep busy and she is happy doing her work. She checks things out and she's not afraid to travel a few miles to save a lot on something she needs. Early in the morning you'll find her making breakfast and lunches for the family, getting things ready for an active day.

She plans for the food needs of the family and if she is given a plot to plant she works in it until it's a worthwhile garden.

She takes care of her own health and all that activity makes her physically strong; her teen-age sons find her a good match in arm-wrestling.

If she is selling, she knows the value of what she has produced; she has worked on it long into the night, perhaps sewing, typing, cooking, knitting, or even weaving something very special.

The poor among her acquaintances know that she often comes to visit, bringing something good to eat or something for one of the young children. She goes out of her way to help any needy people.

Several children will begin to call her 'Grandma' even before she has many grey hairs.

When autumn comes she rests secure in the knowledge that her family has the right winter clothing. Her own clothing is of the best quality. She may even have made it herself; something special that you just can't buy in the stores.

Her husband is an important man and his friends and business associates are the leaders from all around. She has her own successful little business at home.

Strength and dignity are the noticeable qualities of this woman; she anticipates the future with a happy confidence. She knows all of Yahweh's laws, but seems most familiar with those dealing with kindness and love.

She works hard to take good care of her family. Her children will stand up anywhere and tell people what a wonderful mother she is, and her husband always seems to be bragging about her, "There are many fine young women but my wife is the best of all! Clever and beautiful women are sometimes a problem; but the woman who fears Yahweh -that's the kind of woman to find! She should enjoy the nice home she has created and she should hear often, how very much we appreciate her!"

It almost seems as if we need say no more. But there are several scriptures which further define the role of a wife. Yahweh has several other ideas which wise women find to be keys to happy living:

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as it is appropriate for those in the Master's fellowship. Colossians 3:18

Even so their wives must be serious, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. 1 Timothy 3:11

We can also learn how a woman ought to conduct herself from the directions Paul gave concerning widows:

Do not let anyone who is under sixty years old be enrolled as a widow, having been the wife of one man, well spoken of because of her good works; if she has brought up children, if she has been hospitable to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has helped the needy, if she has diligently followed every good work.

But do not enroll younger widows; for when their attitude toward the Messiah changes, they desire to marry again and bring themselves condemnation for rejecting their earlier commitment. Besides that, such women tend to become idle, going from house to house telling tales and causing trouble with their loose tongues. Therefore I want the younger women to marry, bear children and guide their houses, so as to give no occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully for some have already been turned aside after the adversary. If any believing woman has a widow in her family she should take care of her rather than burdening the assembly, so that it may care for those who are indeed desolate, 1 Timothy 5:9-16.

Dedicated women of old clothed themselves beautifully by being in subjection to their own husbands.

[Tell] the older women likewise [as well as the older men], that they must behave appropriately for a dedicated person, not being false accusers, nor given to much wine, but teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands and their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good and obedient to their own husbands, so that the word of Yahweh may not be blasphemed, Titus 2:3-5. If you need instruction or explanation of any of these things don't talk it over with your young friends. Ask a dedicated older person, they have been appointed to teach and help in that way.

Likewise, you wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; so that even if any husband does not obey the word, they may also be won, not with a word, but by their wives' behavior; while they see your chaste conduct coupled with great respect. You, whose adorning should not be that outward adorning of plaiting

the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the inner person in your heart, that which can not be corrupted, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is of great value in the sight of Yahweh. For in this way also in the old time the dedicated women, who trusted in Yahweh, clothed themselves beautifully by being in subjection to their own husbands. Just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him 'master': whose daughters you are, as long as you are righteous and not fearful. Likewise, you husbands, deal intelligently with your wife, giving honor to her as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers may not be hindered, 1 Peter 3:1-7.

VOWS OF WIVES

When a woman makes a commitment or vow it is often subject to ratification by the man who is her protector. Notice that her husband (or her father if she is un-married) does not make a vow *for* her but only has the authority for one day to release her from a vow she has made without consulting him.

And if she had a husband when she vowed, or uttered anything out of her lips, whereby she bound herself and her husband heard it and held his peace concerning her in the day that he heard it: then her vows shall stand, and her bonds whereby she bound herself shall stand. But if her husband disallowed her on the day that he heard it; then he shall make her vow which she vowed, and that which she uttered with her lips, whereby she bound herself, of no effect: and Yahweh shall forgive her. . . . Every vow, and every binding oath to afflict the soul [fast], her husband may establish it, or her husband may make it void. But if her husband says nothing to her about it every day, then he establishes all her vows, or all her bonds, which are upon her: he confirms them, because he held his peace at her in the day that he heard them. But if he shall in any

way make them void after he has heard them; then he shall bear her iniquity [the fault shall be his]. These are the statutes, which Yahweh commanded Moses, between a man and his wife. . . Numbers 30:6-8, 13-16

Other scriptures with guidance for wives:

To the woman he said, I will greatly multiply your pain in your child bearing; in pain you shall bring forth children; and your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you, Genesis 3:16.

But [the woman] shall be saved through her childbearing if she continues in faith and love and sanctification with sobriety, 1 Timothy 2:15.

A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she who makes him ashamed is as rottenness in his bones, Proverbs 12:4.

It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house, Proverbs 21:9 and 25:24.

It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman, Proverbs 21:19. Does this mean that when you are fighting with your husband you can expect him to find something to do in the attic or go out for a long walk? The Scripture is not completely clear.

Every wise woman builds her house: but the foolish one plucks it down with her hands [or her tongue], Proverbs 14:1.

A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are like a continual dropping.

House and riches are the inheritance from fathers: but a prudent wife is from Yahweh, Proverbs 19:13-14.

Let the women among you keep silence in the assemblies: for it is not permitted to them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as the law also says. And if they want to learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a

shame for women to speak in the assembly, 1 Corinthians 14:34-35.

Wives, remember that in general, your husbands need:
sexual fulfillment,
companionship,
a wife of whose appearance and demeanor they can be proud,
support at home for their work or business activities and
the admiration of their wife and children.

Chapter 4

THE HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP

In some ways this connection is like any good relationship between two people: built on respect, courtesy and friendliness. With those elements in it, your marriage may not be exciting but it will certainly be acceptable. However, if you can find it together, there is nothing else in our human experience that matches a good relationship with our spouse.

Let's go back to **Genesis 2:23-24**, **And Adam said, "Now this is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his**

wife: and they shall be one flesh. In **Matthew 19:5** we read that Yahshua the Messiah quoted this concept. It had not become obsolete in those first four thousand years. The concept of the two becoming one flesh is still worth thinking about. . . .

There is nothing else in our human experience that matches a good relationship with our spouse.

If you make a mistake by which you hurt yourself, what action do you take? Do you call yourself names, get into a big depression, deny yourself all pleasures or even hit yourself? Usually not. Rational people will shrug their shoulders, learn what they can from the experience and continue their lives as happily as the circumstances permit. When a married person makes a mistake which causes hurt to their mate, the mate should choose to

react in that same rational way. The main difference is that, early in the marriage one may have to tell the other that he/she has been hurt. One might say, "I know you didn't mean to hurt me, but I felt kind of hurt and 'alone' when you made that remark."

After some years pass they just know what would hurt; they *do* become more nearly one flesh. Usually people marry someone of about the same I.Q. as their own. They can say "I make mistakes like that too." They react to an undesirable action of their mate as a sensible person would react to a mistake of their own.

When you look at marriage in this way, with the two being so emotionally and spiritually close, divorce is somewhat like suicide isn't it?

'**Cleave to your wife**' means 'get and stay very close' to her. Work on your relationship with that in mind. While both partners must be involved in the project, it seems to be more of a challenge to a man. Perhaps that is why the command is directed primarily towards 'a man'.

Keeping in mind this close, one flesh, relationship of a married couple we can now approach **1 Corinthians 11. I want you to know that the head of every man is The Messiah; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of The Messiah is Yahweh. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head [the Messiah]. But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head [her husband]: for that is even all the same as if her head were shaved. For if the woman is not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it is a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered. For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of Elohim: but the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not derived from the woman; but the woman from the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman was created for the man. This is the reason the woman ought to have a covering on her head; because of the angels. Nevertheless neither is the man without**

the woman, nor the woman without the man, in Yahweh. For, as the woman is derived from the man, even so the man is also born of a woman; but all things are created by Elohim, 1 Corinthians 11:3-12.

This scripture describes an ideal world in which the wife happily accepts the husband's final decision and the husband is striving to be yielded to The Messiah in every way. As a marriage matures properly the question hardly comes up. How can one 'lord it

Let the husband give the wife the love to which she is entitled and likewise also the wife to the husband.
1 Corinthians 7:3

over' another if they are one flesh? They communicate with each other so closely that the husband's decision is shared, understood, grasped, appreciated and agreed to by the wife in most cases. The wise and loving husband makes sure that it is.

The command for a wife to be submissive to her husband *does not mean the man is better* than the woman. It simply sets out a working order that is in harmony with the way Yahweh created them and the rest of creation. That command is also found in **Genesis 3:16, Titus 2:5, 1 Timothy 2:12, Colossians 3:18, Ephesians 5:22 and 1 Peter 3:1 & 1 Peter 3:6.**

How beautiful it is to see a wife who obeys, supports and encourages her beloved husband. How pleased her parents are at her resulting joy, peace and security!

The Corinthians had written to Paul asking some questions about marriage and about relationships between unmarried people. They may have asked if it was bad for people to get married or to have marital relations. Paul answered in **1 Corinthians 7:1-4 Now, concerning the things of which you wrote: it is good for a [single] man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid**

fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband give the wife the love to which she is entitled and likewise also the wife to the husband. The wife does not have control of her own body, but her husband has it: and likewise also the husband does not have power of his own body, but the wife. Every marriage ceremony includes the promise to love your spouse. That is why Paul talks about married people being *entitled* to love. Notice that he includes physical love as expressed with their bodies.

Not always, but generally, the husband has a greater need for physical relations than the wife. Many wives do not appreciate their husband's deep need for physical love. Many husbands do not get the physical love they would like because they do not appreciate or fulfill their wives' deep need for affection. Ask your mate if he or she is pleased with your most intimate activities together and how you could do better.

Paul continues in verse 5: **Do not deprive one another [of marital relations], except by agreement for a period of time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer; and then come together again, so that Satan can not use any lack of self-control to tempt you. But I speak this by permission, and not by commandment.** Write for the free article, [Cleanness before Yahweh](#) to understand more about the effect of marital relations on your prayer.

It seems that there should be more in the Scripture about sex; but this is the bottom line - each has the rule over the other's body. One person described marriage as a community of two loving masters and two obedient slaves, making in all - two.

And to the married I command, yet not I, but Yahweh, Let the wife not depart from her husband: But if she does depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife, (verses 10-11). Paul is explaining what should be obvious -two true believers can not be divorced, although they may live apart for a time.

But to the rest I, not Yahweh, speak: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman who has a husband who does not believe, and if he is pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is set apart by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is set apart by the husband: otherwise your children would have been unclean; but now they are set apart, (verses 12-14).

How to Have a Family Argument

Discuss, listen, use logic and bring in appropriate facts but don't shout, try to hurt or dredge up the long past.

The booklet, Scriptural Help for Anger is free, write for it.

16 For what do you know, O wife, whether you shall be an instrument of your husband's salvation? or how do you know, O man, whether you shall be an instrument of your wife's salvation? Paul explains further that even if your spouse does not yet believe, you must continue in the marriage as long as he/she wishes. [If the unbelieving spouse insists on being very abusive then he/she does not actually want to live properly with the believer.

No one must take constant abuse from an unbelieving mate.] Furthermore the believer is to be a loving example of a good spouse to their mate.

Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be freed. Are you free of a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Nevertheless they [who marry] shall have physical troubles, which I would like to spare you. But I would have you free from cares.

He who is unmarried is concerned about the things of Yahweh, how he may please Yahweh: But he who is married is concerned about the things that are of the world and how he

may please his wife. There is a similar difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman is concerned about the things of Yahweh, that she may be dedicated [to Him] both in body and in spirit: but she who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband, 1 Corinthians 7:27-28, 32-34.

The scriptures are silent about the mechanics of sexuality because we can discover what we need to by ourselves. Often you can learn all you need to know by asking your spouse what he or she would like. If you need guidance in this area ask a knowledgeable professional to recommend a good book or audio program. Get what you need from it but keep in mind that Yahweh's principles of love, fidelity, respect and fulfillment of the proper roles are the basis of a happy family.

HEIRS TOGETHER OF THE GRACE OF LIFE

Let your relationship with Yahweh be one of the things you share. Come before Yahweh's throne hand-in-hand together regularly.

If therefore, you are offering your gift [prayer] on the altar and there remember that your [spouse] has anything against you, leave your gift right there before the altar and take the path required of you. First be reconciled with your [spouse] and then come and offer your gift, Matthew 5:23-24.

Sometimes a couple will have an argument just before leaving for Sabbath services. If that happens, the Messiah's words here mean that you must put off going to services and be reconciled with each other before you may begin to worship. Resolve the problem, drop it forever, and then go together in peace to worship the Prince of Peace.

Married people should remember that Yahweh made men different from women.

Just as they have different styles, talents and abilities they also have different needs. In general men need sexual fulfillment, companionship, an attractive wife, support at home and the admiration of their wife. Women need affection, conversation, openness, financial support, and a strong commitment to the family from their husband.

We have devoted a lot of space to the husband-wife relationship; but every couple must understand that this is the basis for a happy and successful family, good children, and even for happy grandchildren. It often takes effort, patience and subordinating your self to the other but there is no better reward on earth than a good marriage and family.

A few other topics from scriptures can help your family:

TV

He who works deceit shall not dwell in my house: he that tells lies shall not remain in my sight, Psalms 101:7.

Look at this scripture! Does that sound like television, or what?

Don't get me started. Some day I'll write a book about how to protect your family from being harmed by TV. In the meantime, check it out for yourself and think about the many ways TV hurts your family and especially your children.

Keep this principle in mind if you do have a television set:

People are much more important than anything on TV.

If you have a chance to spend time with a family member instead of watching TV, DO IT. If a family member wants to say something to you while you are watching TV, give them your undivided attention rather than continuing to watch TV. That's why you have the MUTE button.

REJOICE TOGETHER BEFORE YAHWEH

Every family is commanded to attend Sabbath services each week and the annual feasts of Yahweh as described in **Leviticus 23**. This is so important that we are instructed to devote a tithe of our produce to keeping the festivals, **Deuteronomy 14**. The joyous feast is described in verses 22-25, then in verse 26 we read, **And you shall bestow that money for whatever you lust after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatever you desire: and you shall eat there before Yahweh your Elohim, and you shall rejoice, YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD.**

Chapter 5 CHILDREN

**Lo, children are a gift of Yahweh:
and the fruit of the womb is his reward.**

Psalms 127:3

**I have no greater joy than to hear that my children
walk in the truth. 3 John:4**

A family really starts when the children appear. The couple is the enduring core and leadership of the family but the presence of children is what gives the family meaning and purpose. We will now explore what children should bring to the family and how the parents and children should interact.

The relationship of the father and mother becomes even more important when a child is present. In so many ways the welfare of a child depends upon the love and respect his or her parents have FOR EACH OTHER. Do not forget that every child has a Friend in high places looking out for her welfare. **Be careful that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels are constantly before the face of my Father which is in heaven, Matthew 18:10.**

As many parents have come to know; our children are like a second chance. Some may make that into a travesty of trying to make the son play great football or whatever it was that the father could not quite master. That's certainly not what I mean.

Our children can get the fine start for their life that we may not have had. We may have had a poor home environment, no encouragement, or no one who told us what was right and why. Our children need suffer none of that. We may do a barely adequate job

Humorous remarks, family jokes and a playful attitude are characteristics of a strong family. Sharing laughter creates an atmosphere of warmth, openness and ease. Sharing a funny story or experience when the family is together should be encouraged. Remember to keep the humor of the non-destructive type.

of parenting at times but our children should at least be prepared to be excellent parents. We may not have been very astute when we chose our mate but our children should have the benefit of the very best preparation and counsel for making that decision.

If our own children have not had the very wisest parents at all times, we should resolve that at least our grandchildren shall have the great benefit of wise parents.

CHILDREN SHARE COVENANTS WITH PARENTS

When a couple has children they accept an important responsibility. In almost every covenant in the scriptures (those special agreements made between Yahweh and men) the benefits and responsibilities accrue to the descendants as well as the covenantors themselves. A good example is the covenant with Abraham where Yahweh says, **"And I will establish my covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be an Elohim to you, and to your descendants after you. And I will give to you, and to your descendants after you, the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for**

an everlasting possession; and I will be their Elohim," Genesis 17:7-8. Other examples may be found in **Genesis 6:18, Genesis 12:7, Genesis 13:15, Genesis 19:12, Genesis 21:13, Genesis 26:3, Genesis 26:24-45, 2 Samuel 7:8-16, Isaiah 65:23** and **1 Corinthians 7:14**. Naturally, if the parents fail to establish a relationship with Yahweh, the children can derive no benefit. Secure blessings for your children in this way!

Of course the children are bound by covenants of their parents. Jewish people still circumcise their boys in obedience to a covenant made almost 4000 years ago (**Genesis 17:9-14**).

One of the first things you will want to do for your children is to have the elders of the congregation ask Yahweh's protection and blessing on your children.

And they brought young children to him, so that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Yahshua saw it, he was very displeased, and said to them, "Allow the little children to come unto me, and do not forbid them: for of such is the kingdom of Elohim. I tell you that surely, whoever shall not receive the kingdom of Elohim as a little child, he shall not enter into it. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them, Mark 10:13-16.

This is one of the few occasions where we can be sure that a prayer for our children will have a good effect. The Messiah set an example of having children blessed by the spiritual leader and told His disciples to do as he did, **John 13:15** and **Matthew 28:20**. In many other cases the prayers of parents for their children were not effective. When the children were unrighteous they suffered for their sins regardless of the prayers of their righteous parents. This was true of Job's children (**Job 1:5, 13-15**) and of David's son born of Uriah's wife (**2 Samuel 12:14-23**). The surest way to secure the blessings of Yahweh upon your children is to teach them to obey Him in sincerity and in truth. Yes, pray for your children; but pray mostly that they will

have parents wise enough to teach them to walk in the ways of righteousness. That is the only thing that will bring them life, joy, peace and safety.

THE FAMILY SHOULD BE TAUGHT YAHWEH'S WORD

One ancient scripture sums up the atmosphere in a home dedicated to Yahweh. The words of the Master of the house, Yahweh, are everywhere: **And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk about them when you sit in your house, when walk by the way, when you lie down and when you arise. And you shall bind them for a sign on your hand and they shall be frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, Deuteronomy 6:6-9.**

You may notice that the words of Yahweh are founded in each home in the parent's heart, in his inner being. He gives them gladly to his family at every opportunity; sitting at home, driving in the car, when it's time to go to bed and when they get up in the morning. He has Yahweh's laws in his mind and in all he does and he has even written them in places around the house. He makes especially sure they are near the door so that those who leave will be reminded to keep the laws when they are out of the house for their guidance and protection and those who enter when they are at home for peace at home. [Many Jewish people have the custom of touching the law which is near the door each time they enter or leave their home.] How these parents love their family - they give them the words of life!

Is that 'too much religion'?

Is it more than the amount of secular education preparing the children for their life's occupation? Is it more than the amount of popular magazines? Is it more than the amount of television viewing?

Considering the importance of the subject it ought to be more than all these put together (but it doesn't need to be in order to be effective). Let's keep things in perspective, giving the appropriate value to every thing.

"Let little children come to me, and do not forbid them: for to such belongs the kingdom of Elohim." And He took them in his arms, put His hands on them and blessed them.

Mark 10:14-16

Also, while it may seem to indicate a large percentage of time devoted to talking about Yahweh and His ways, it really is not. It only takes a few minutes to discuss the error of something our children have seen or heard and the consequences of that error compared to the benefits of following Yahweh's way.

Read The One Minute

Mother by Ken Blanchard for a good lesson on how to make the most of short time periods spent with your children.

CHILDREN SHOULD BE PROPERLY GOVERNED

All your children shall be taught of Yahweh; and great shall be the peace of your children, Isaiah 54:13.

Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath (lest they be discouraged, Colossians 3:21): but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of Yahweh, Ephesians 6:4.

Children under five may need an occasional loving spanking to establish the parent's authority and communicate clearly what is expected and what is not allowed. If babies are not gently but firmly disciplined they will grow into young people who lack self-discipline.

Such people are *always* unhappy. Some other Scriptures which show the value of loving discipline for a child are:

He who spares his rod hates his son: but he who loves him chastens him at times, Proverbs 13:24.

Correct your son while there is hope, and do not let your soul despair for his crying, Proverbs 19:18.

Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him, Proverbs 22:15.

The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother, Proverbs 29:15.

As a child gets older, physical discipline becomes less desirable and less effective, although it may still be called for occasionally. How much, will vary depending on the personality of the child. When a parent has to spank an older child he should look upon the

They find ways of improving behavior which *enhance* the bond of love between the parents and the child.

occasion as a compromise to the best child-rearing; but still **DO IT** with love when required. There are ways of dealing with behavior problems in children over two or three without corporal punishment - ways which teach good behavior and other lessons. Good parents don't give up until they have found ways of improving behavior which *enhance* the bond of love between the parents and the child. These parents discuss it together, pray together and separately for help in this area, research the subject, talk to more experienced parents and try different approaches until they reach that goal. A good mother looks upon this as her crucially important life's work. **She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness, Proverbs 31:27.**

The Bishop must be a man who rules his own house well, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man

does not know how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the assembly of Yahweh?) 1 Timothy 3:4-5.

Let the deacons be the husband of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well, 1 Timothy 3:12.

Whenever a parent corrects their child it must be done very carefully. This is an important opportunity for the child.

Wise parents never correct a child when they are angry. The cost of making a serious mistake is not worth the risk. Cool down, get the facts, and discipline your children with love in your heart. Punishment of a child is only to help, improve and benefit the child; never so that an angry parent can 'let off some steam.'

Before a child is punished the child must know that he or she has done something wrong. The rules of your house must be clear, fair and well-known to the children.

When a child needs discipline the parent may want to take the child to a private place and have a talk with him or her something like this:

"Jacob, do you know why I asked you to come and talk with me?"

"No, Daddy."

"I think you do know. You know that you just took Esau's toy car away from him?"

"Yes, Daddy. But he took my dinosaur book yesterday."

"Well, that may be something for Esau and I to talk about; but does that make it all right to take something from Esau?"

"No."

"What is the rule?"

"I can't take somebody else's things."

"You broke the rule, didn't you?"

"Yes, I guess so."

"Do you remember why we have that rule?"

"It's one of the commandments."

"Yes, Jacob, that's right. Yahweh gave it to us for our good. It's one of the ways He helps us to be happy. Why did you break that rule?"

". . . ."

"You didn't remember *why* we have the rule, did you?"

"No, I guess not."

"Jacob, you also did this a few days ago. I guess you didn't learn from sitting on a chair for ten minutes. What do you think it will take to help you remember to be generous and not to take other people's things."

"I don't know."

"Well, there are three things we could try. I'll let you choose. Sitting in a chair for thirty minutes, three spanks with the paddle or no treats for two days. Which do you think will work the best?"

"I don't know."

"Well, which do you think is the worst?"

"No treats for two days."

"Okay, then we won't do that. I don't like the paddle very much so let's try sitting in the chair for thirty minutes. You can stay right here in my room. When the clock says 3:14 you come and see me. I'll write it down for you on this paper."

. . . "Daddy, the time is up."

"Well, how did it go? Do you think you learned what you needed to learn? Will you remember not to take things from people?"

"Yes, I think so."

"Good. Now go tell Esau you're sorry and then come back to me."

. . . .

"I told Esau I'm sorry. He said, 'OK'"

"That's good! I love you Jacob, and it makes me happy when you are generous and kind. I'm glad you are going to do right after this. Come give me a hug."

"I love you, Daddy." (Daddy gets a kiss, too.)

"I love you too. Now you can go play."

"OK."

"Yahweh bless you, Jacob."

"Thank you, Daddy."

While little Jacob and his Dad are somewhat idealized for the purposes of this illustration we can see the elements of good discipline.

1. Review the rule. Be sure the child understands well. If he didn't, then explain it so he does understand and let him off this time. (Be alert for selective stupidity in your children. A normal child does not 'forget' or 'not hear' very often.)
2. Review how the child broke the rule. Tip: Focus on attitude.
3. Agree on a punishment or other activity which will prevent another infraction.
4. Carry out the punishment or activity.
5. Repair or forgive any damage caused by the disobedience.
6. Have the child promise not to do it again.
7. That infraction is now COMPLETELY ERASED.

Never skip the last step.

8. Happily welcome the child back into the love of the parent.

Parents must keep in mind the vast difference between this goal-directed, loving discipline and hitting the kid when he makes you mad enough.

As children grow older they take a greater part in correcting their own behavior. When our children become adults they have to be entirely self-disciplined. They do not suddenly wake up with this ability on the morning of their eighteenth birthday. The purposes of discipline are to help the child enjoy a better future, to help him grow closer to those who teach him right ways, and finally to make it easier for him to obey Yahweh and to therefore enter His kingdom. Discipline is truly an act of love as the Scripture says:

I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commits iniquity I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men, 2 Samuel 7:14.

Blessed is the man whom You chasten, O Yahweh, and teach him out of your law, Psalms 94:12.

You shall also consider in your heart, that, as a man chastens his son, so Yahweh your Elohim chastens you, Deuteronomy 8:5.

You have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to children. 'My son, do not despise the chastening of Yahweh, nor faint when you are rebuked by him,' For Yahweh chastens those whom he loves and scourges every son whom he receives. If you endure chastening, Yahweh deals with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father does not chasten? But if you are without chastisement, of which all are partakers, then you are bastards, and not sons.

Furthermore, we have had fathers of our flesh who corrected us, and we gave them respect: shall we not much rather be in subjection to the spiritual Father, and live? For they truly chastened us for a few days at their own pleasure; but He for our profit, so that we might be partakers of his righteousness. Now, no chastening seems to be joyous for the present, but grievous. Nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who are exercised by it, Hebrews 12:5-11.

Do not withhold correction from the child: for if you beat him with the rod, he shall not die [it will extend his life].

You shall beat him with the rod, and shall SAVE HIM from death, Proverbs 23:13-14.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten, Revelations 3:19.

Attitude should certainly be the focus for parents in training their children. If a child has an attitude of arrogance, anger, or selfishness

then he knows he is doing wrong. An attitude of this type without any physical action is much worse than a seriously destructive physical action which is due to an accident. For instance a boy trying to hit his brother and missing him is definitely a more serious problem than a child giving his brother a bloody nose accidentally because he gestured while he was talking. The latter may need some small correction for carelessness while the former is a problem requiring the closest loving attention from both parents.

Rules can certainly be made about attitude. Perhaps those would be the only rules we would need if we were wise enough. If we had the right attitude we would obey all Yahweh's commandments, statutes and judgements.

An emphasis on attitude is important for our children for another reason. If we insist that they are responsible not only for their actions but also for their attitudes then they will come to know that they can control their attitude at any time. What a great gift that is! Help the child to know they have the ability to control how they feel no matter what happens to them or around them!

Any parents who take their task seriously will want to praise their child lavishly. It is a principle of human behavior that 'You will get more of the behavior you reward.' It's a good idea to pick out a good characteristic of each child and make sure he always knows that he excels and is wonderful in that one way.

What behavior do you want to reward? Not good grades - but studying diligently and learning how and why. Not getting a high-paying job - but working hard and with striving for quality and serving others. Not having a lot of rich friends - but choosing friends wisely and interacting properly with them. Not winning - but helping others to win. Praise goodness to others, respect, wisdom and diligent effort, not just results.

If effort is the criteria and love in accordance with Yahweh's perfect law is the standard, then every child (or adult) has an equal chance to excel and gain rewards and praise.

The following good counsel is given by Elder Voy Wilks. He writes:

Assure your children that you are *not* going to treat them all alike. Because of circumstances it is impossible to do so, even if you try. Also, every child is different so you should not treat them all alike. This is not to say that you are to make one feel wanted and another unwanted. No. Do *different things* for different children. Teach your children to *rejoice* when a brother, a sister, or a friend receives a treasured gift or a blessing. Start this when your children are young and you and your children will receive the rewards for many years to come. To rejoice with others brings added happiness to ourselves as well as to others.

But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, . . . this . . . is not such as comes down from above, . . . For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist there will be disorder and every vile practice, James 3:14-16.

Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right, Proverbs 20:11.

In addition to praise for their child's good efforts, good parents want to shower their children with so much love and care that they will never doubt that they personally are loved. This may be almost the only thing we need to know about raising children.

Good parents lavishly praise goodness to others, wisdom and effort.

Make sure that you, as parents, have rules which *you* follow in your family. Once again - let the focus be on attitude.

One illustration of exemplary child-rearing is shown in **Job 31:16-18 (NKJV)** **If I have kept the poor from their desire, or caused the eyes of the widow to fail, or eaten my morsel by myself, so that the fatherless could not eat of it (but from my youth I cared for him like a father, and from my mother's womb I guided the widow);** Seeing how Job's parents raised him to show love and

compassion we can understand why Yahweh was able to hold him up as an example of a perfect and upright man.

Parents should be consistent with their children. If you make a rule, then enforce it swiftly and consistently. If you can't enforce it, then change the rule to one which you can and will enforce. It is much better for the child not to have a rule than to be allowed to break rules without penalty.

No child was ever spoiled by being loved too much or being given too much. What spoils children is the lack of strictly enforced adherence to high standards. When you see a parent who says for the third time, "I'm not going to tell you again, Johnny!" you are seeing a child being spoiled. Such a parent is actually training their child to disobey!

Elder Voy Wilks also says "Teach your children that we, as saints, are **supposed to be different** from other people. This will help them to overcome any uneasiness about observing the Sabbath and the feast days, and their disappointment at missing out on school sports, trips, etc., which are usually planned for weekends.

Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of Yahweh, James 4:4."

THE NEXT GENERATION

Grandchildren are the crown of the aged.... Proverbs 17:6

This is the section where you get to chose your future in-laws and your grandchildren.

While the time has mostly passed when parents picked their children's mates; one of the most critical parts of bringing up a child is still making sure that they get married to the right person. This is not to say that there is only *one* right person for each of us. Actually, we could have a successful and rewarding marriage with any one of

many people; but we can not have such a marriage with just anyone who looks good. We must be careful.

Several Scriptures speak about whom we may not marry. **Deuteronomy 7:3-4** explains that the heathen people of the land of Canaan are not suitable mates for the children of Israel. **"For they will turn away your son from following Me that they may serve other elohim: so will the anger of Yahweh be kindled against you and He will destroy you quickly."** The same idea is expressed in **Genesis 24:3, 28:1, Joshua 23:12-13, Ezra 9:12** and in **Nehemiah 13:25. 2 Corinthians 6:14** warns us, **"Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers; for what fellowship have righteousness with iniquity? Or what communion has light with darkness?"**

As important as similar beliefs is to a marriage, it is not the only thing to consider. A good marriage includes a match of intelligence, family background, sense of humor and many other characteristics. It does not generally include physical appearance; remember 'You marry a mind.' In order to keep your children from entering a union with their eyes closed, have them use the compatibility exercise on the next page. Photocopy it for your use as often as necessary. In some of the characteristics the couple should be matched, while in others you should obviously be looking for a maximum or a minimum. Generally the most desirable is toward the left side of the sheet. Mark the sheet in one color for the young man and in another color for the young woman. This makes it easy to compare the two people's personalities.

When a young person is dreaming about the future 'love of their life' they should be encouraged to use this type of material as a basis for useful, intelligent, and productive dreaming. They should form a clear picture of their ideal mate except for the name and face. It's a good idea to have the characteristics down on paper. Of course in this case you may not be marking a value but rather a range of acceptable values.

PROFILE OF _____

EACH PERSON SHOULD MARK THIS CHART WITH TWO COLORS - ONE FOR HIMSELF OR HERSELF AND ANOTHER FOR THEIR PERSPECTIVE MATE. THEN COMPARE AND EVALUATE.

RACE: ___ CAUCASIAN ___ ORIENTAL ___ BLACK ___ NATIONALITY _____

AGE: 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80

I.Q.: 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140

PHYSICAL CONDITION: PERFECT SPECIMEN GOOD HEALTH RARELY ILL WELL GROUNDED OR MILD HANDICAP FREQUENT ILLNESS OR HANDICAPPED CONSTANTLY ILL SEVERELY HANDICAPPED

EDUCATION: A PHILOSOPHER IN MANY FIELDS VERY LEARNED WELL GROUNDED WELL READ A GOOD FOUNDATION A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE BARELY LITERATE IGNORANT IN MOST AREAS

ORIENTATIONS: ___ OPTIMIST ___ REALIST ___ PESSIMIST ___ GIVE ___ GET

FAVORITE SENSE: ___ SIGHT ___ HEARING ___ TOUCH

MAIN INTEREST: ___ IDEAS ___ PEOPLE ___ THINGS ___ SELF

SELF-IMAGE: (ATTITUDE) SURE OF SELF-WORTH AND CAPABILITY FEELS ABOUT LIKE MOST PEOPLE FEELS SOMEWHAT INADEQUATE SURE HE IS WORTHLESS

HONESTY: BRUTALLY HONEST NEVER LIES BUT EVADES LIES ONLY WHEN NECESSARY LIES WHEN CONVENIENT LIES FOR FUN LIES FREQUENTLY NO CONCEPT OF TRUTH

TAKES RESPONSIBILITY: EVERYTHING GOES WRONG BECAUSE OF ME I'VE GOT THINGS TO WORK ON I CAN SOLVE MOST OF MY PROBLEMS I MAY BE ABLE TO SOLVE SOME PROBLEMS THINGS ARE ALL OUT OF MY CONTROL NOTHING IS MY FAULT

WISDOM: ALWAYS GOOD DECISIONS ABLE TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT GETS BY CAUSES SOME EXTRA WORK OFTEN CAUSES PROBLEMS 'TROUBLE ON WHEELS'

TEMPERAMENT: CANNOT BE ANGERED FEELS ANGER AT INJUSTICE SLOW TO ANGER MOSTLY STEADY MOODY EASILY ANGERED 'ALWAYS MAD' UNPREDICTABLY VIOLENT

FRIENDLINESS: MANY CLOSE FRIENDS ENTERTAINS A LOT FRIENDLY WARM TO ALL MANY FRIENDS FEW FRIENDS FEW ACQUAINTANCES COLD RUDE LONER

SENSE OF HUMOR: COMEDIAN NEVER SERIOUS OFTEN LAUGHS AND JOKES SOMETIMES LAUGHS RARELY LAUGHS NEVER SMILES DEPRESSED

FAVORITE TYPE OF HUMOR: _____ (PUN, STORY, PRANK, DIG, ETC.)

NEATNESS: COMPULSIVE MOSTLY NEAT ALLOWS SOME CLUTTER SOMEWHAT MESSY VERY MESSY

MANNERS: ALWAYS CORRECT GOOD MANNERS CASUAL WARMTH CRUDE WARMTH OFTEN INCONSIDERATE RUDE - SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE

FAMILY BACKGROUND: WARM & HAPPY HOME PLEASANT HOME HOME LIFE UP & DOWN UNHAPPY HOME

___ PARENTS DIVORCED _____ FAMILY LEADER (DAD, MOM, KIDS, GRANDMA?)

___ NO. CHILDREN DESIRED ___ FAMILY SIZE ___ FAMILY WEALTH (EST.)

RELIGION: CENTER OF LIFE VERY INVOLVED ATTENDS REGULARLY BASICALLY A BELIEVER NEUTRAL SKEPTIC AGNOSTIC

PREVIOUS SEXUAL PARTNERS 0 1 2 3 4-10 11-25 26+

SEXUAL ORIENTATION ___ HETEROSEXUAL ___ OTHER

There are several advantages of forming this vivid picture of your future mate:

- You can decide what is the right combination for you in the cool light of day. Our minds work much better then than they do on a romantic moonlit night.
- The preparation for marrying a very special person is hard work. After all, no one would expect a wonderful person to marry a crude, uncouth jerk. Knowing early in life the type of person you will marry is a great encouragement as you prepare yourself to meet and marry them.
- When someone appears who conforms to most of the image; you will know that person because you have been looking for him or her. Having a goal makes the search easier and faster.
- Parents who know their children's goals can better guide and assist them in reaching them.

Pray with your children that the heavenly Father will lead them to a mate who will be good for them and for their children, your grandchildren. Make sure your children keep praying for their mate *after* they are married too. You may end up with in-laws and grandchildren you can easily love.

Be careful about your children's choice of friends. Your daughter could end up marrying one of your son's friends or someone like that.

Review chapter 7, Goal-setting for the Family, in this connection also.

Chapter 6 COMMANDMENTS TO CHILDREN

**Come, you children, hearken unto me: I will teach
you the fear of Yahweh, Psalms 34:11.**

Besides the many commandments, statutes and judgements which we all must do or refrain from doing, there are quite a few rules especially for us in our role as children:

I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him that is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father, 1 John 2:12-13.

Honor your father and your mother, as Yahweh your Elohim has commanded you; that your days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with you in the land which Yahweh your Elohim gives you. Deuteronomy 5:16.

Every man shall respect his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am Yahweh your Elohim, Leviticus 19:3.

You shall rise up before the grey head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear your Elohim: I am Yahweh, Leviticus 19:32.

How shall a young man cleanse his way? By paying attention to it according to your word, Psalms 119:9.

My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto your head, and chains about your neck, Proverbs 1:8-9.

You children, hear the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, do not forsake my law. For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my

mother. He also taught me and said to me, "Let your heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live," Proverbs 4:1-4.

Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of your life shall be many. I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths, Proverbs 4:10-11.

My son, attend to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them at the center of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh, Proverbs 4:20-22.

My son, attend to my wisdom, and bow your ear to my understanding: that you may regard discretion, and that your lips may keep knowledge, Proverbs 5:1-2.

My son, keep your father's commandment, and do not forsake the law of your mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about your neck. When you go, it shall lead you; when you sleep, it shall keep you; and when you awake, it shall talk with you.

For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: To keep you from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. Lust not after her beauty in your heart; neither let her trap you with her eyelids, Proverbs 6:20-25.

Now, therefore, pay attention to me, O you children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. Listen to instruction, and be wise, and do not refuse it, Proverbs 8:32-33.

Hearken unto your father that begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old, Proverbs 23:22.

My son, do not forget my law; but let your heart keep my commandments: For they shall add length of days, and long life, and peace to you. Do not let mercy and truth forsake you: bind them about your neck; write them upon the table of your heart, Proverbs 3:1-3.

My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways, Proverbs 23:26.

My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, so that I may answer him that reproaches me, Proverbs 27:11.

Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, while the evil days do not come, nor the years draw near, when you shall say, "I have no pleasure in them," Ecclesiastes 12:1.

It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth, Lamentations 3:27.

For Yahweh commanded, saying, "Honor your father and mother: and, He that curses father or mother, let him die the death," Matthew 15:4.

Honor your father and your mother: and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, Matthew 19:19.

You know the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honor your father and mother, Mark 10:19. = Luke 18:20.

Children, obey your parents in the Master: 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, Ephesians 6:1.

Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing to Yahweh, Colossians 3:20.

For somewhat older young people

Let no man despise your youth; but be an example of the believers, in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith and in purity, 1 Timothy 4:12.

Run away from youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on Yahweh out of a pure heart, 2 Timothy 2:22.

Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded, Titus 2:6.

The Counsel of king David To his son Solomon:

Now the days of David drew near that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, "I am going the way of all the earth: you be strong therefore, and act like a man; And keep the charge of

Yahweh your Elohim, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all that you do, and whichever way you turn yourself so that Yahweh may continue his word which he spoke concerning me, saying, "If your children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail you (said he) a man on the throne of Israel," 1 Kings 2:1-4.

And you, Solomon my son, know the Elohim of your father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for Yahweh searches all hearts, and understands all the imaginations of the thoughts: if you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will cast you off for ever, 1 Chronicles 28:9.

Chapter 7 GOAL SETTING FOR THE FAMILY

Serendipity is when we find something good which we weren't even looking for. It is wonderful when that happens but it doesn't happen often enough to be counted upon. You shouldn't bet your future on it.

The Scripture does not contain much detailed information about goal setting and goal reaching except for that one great, all-important goal. This is a subject man can discover for himself without too much controversy. Experts generally agree that goal setting is the most powerful force for consistent human motivation.

While much of it does come from sources other than Scripture, this chapter is based on principles in accord with scripture. Applying it's lessons can have a profound impact on the happiness of you, your children and their children. This information can set your family apart as one that is almost uniquely happy and successful!

BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND

Would you board a plane without knowing where it was headed, when it would arrive, or how much the trip would cost you? Of course not. But most people set out on their lives with exactly those kinds of uncertainties. As might be expected, many end up where they didn't want to be, and pay a price which they can't afford for the trip. As the proverb says: **Where there is no vision, the people perish: Proverbs 29:18a.**

Yahweh set a goal and put a plan into effect over a period of years. Yahshua knew the plan and spoke about it when Pilate was examining Him.

Pilate therefore asked him, "Are you a king then?"

Yahshua answered, "You say that I am a king: to this end was I born; and for this cause I came into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Every one that is of the truth hears my voice," John 18:37.

Paul also spoke of this great plan in Romans 14:9. For to this end the Messiah both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be master of both the dead and the living.

On a more temporal plane, people who are the most successful are the ones who make the longest range plans. The least successful are thinking of how they can achieve the next drug or alcohol high that will last for only a few minutes. Some few have their life's goals clearly in mind over a period of many decades. One of the most successful companies in the world has a plan for it's future which extends out for 500 YEARS! (They may be surprised at events long before then, but that's another story.)

Setting goals as families means we will have a standard against which to judge our actions. We can ask, "Will this move us toward our goals or away from them." If we have no well-defined goals then our decisions will be plagued by uncertainty, delay, and failure.

How to set goals

The procedure for setting goals is the same for an individual, a family, or a large corporation. If you are in a position where you cannot set goals in a family context because your family is not yet united enough or you are not yet married then set goals by yourself for yourself or for your family. You can certainly set goals for your family which is yet to come.

Here are the steps for goal setting:

- Ask for guidance
- Establish your foundation principles.
- Set long-term goals
- Set short-term goals
- Develop a plan of action for each
- Count the cost
- Develop desire and confidence
- Work the plan

Each of these steps requires some explanation. We will assume a harmonious family setting but the procedure is similar for individuals or if conditions in the family are not ideal.

► Ask for guidance

This is a most important activity! You need the best counsel you can get. Ask your Heavenly Father.

Thank Yahweh for the family members, the energy He gives, His past guidance and His guiding spirit. Put your family into His hands for guidance, protection and support. Ask Him to keep all your goals in accordance with His righteous ways.

Yahweh wants to hear His children asking for help in walking in the right way. He wants to give favorable answers to those prayers.

Consider also asking for counsel from older married people whom you respect. **Without counsel plans go wrong, but with many advisors they succeed, Proverbs 15:22.**

Be sure to ask and include in the entire process all those who are involved and affected. Children may surprise you with their good contributions if you listen.

► Establish your foundation principles

Get a sturdy notebook. Write down all the things you agree that you believe in your hearts. These are the things which make up the personality of your family. You should have statements about your beliefs which are related to:

- Spiritual
- Financial
- Health
- Home and family
- Social and emotional
- Mental and educational

To stimulate thinking, ask yourselves questions like: What is important in this area? What is the key? Why is this area of interest to us? What do

we know about it? What do most people believe? Is that right? What would Yahshua say? How does this relate to other areas? You will also want to review the scriptures above in this connection.

For each area, build a list of statements similar to this one from the Spiritual area:

Yahweh's ways are good for our family.

This statement is derived from a belief in our Creator and in His goodness. You may want to write those 'parent beliefs' down or they may be so basic that you don't bother.

Don't feel that the list must be 'frozen' at any time. As you grow in knowledge and as your family grows and changes, different beliefs will become important to you. When something becomes important which used to be taken for granted then be sure to write it down.

Once the lists are made, put a number in front of each item in pencil showing how important that belief is compared to the others.

► **Set long-term goals**

Turning Principles into long-term Goals is a task which can be real fun because you get to dream together. Anything suggested by one of your beliefs or in accordance with those beliefs can become a long-term goal. These are statements which outline the essential mission and basic, long-term directions for the family. Long-term goals will be general statements similar to:

We will study Yahweh's ways and apply them to our daily life.

► **Set short-term goals**

Developing short-term goals from your long-term goals is a little more like work. Each long-term goal should be represented by goals which are smaller in scope, more specific and which will move the family toward the long-term goal. Consider setting goals which are tangible and goals which are intangible (which just means it is something you can't touch, like love). Some of your goals will be for things to have while other goals will be for

things for the family to be or to become. One of the short-term goals might be:

Before next spring we will read the books of Yahweh's law together and list those laws which apply to us.

Each long-term goal will be represented by one or more short-term goals; whatever it takes to accomplish the long-term goal.

► **Develop a plan of action for each**

A plan of action for a goal means you must break the short-term goals into the tasks needed to get them accomplished. This is usually straightforward. For the goal above it may be as simple as:

Read two chapters each evening plus four each Sabbath of Exodus thru Deuteronomy. All will discuss and Terry will keep the notes. Time required - 1 hour per day.

A family could also divide up the work for each member to do a part. Consider possibilities like that.

HINT: Achievement of a goal to *have* something may require a task of *becoming* something different than you now are. A goal to *become* something usually means taking concrete, physical actions. For instance, on a personal level, if your goal was to feel closer to Yahweh you could take the concrete steps of studying how Yahshua stayed close to him, allowing a certain time each day for prayer and meditation, and spending time with people whom you know are close to Him. On the other hand, if your goal is to drive a new Mercedes in five years, you may need to learn how to earn more money, handle it better, and how to buy or lease cars more intelligently.

► **Count the cost**

To decide if the goal is 'worth it' you must weigh the cost (the time and effort it will take to accomplish it) against the rewards (what are the benefits for our family and others if we accomplish this goal). You must also weigh the cost against the resources you have or can get, **Luke 14:28-30**.

In the case of the task of reading Yahweh's law the analysis might include:

Cost:

One-fourth of all our evenings

Some missed school work

Some missed 'favorite' TV shows

Benefits:

Increased knowledge of the law

Increased knowledge of Scripture

Being together as a family and discussing something

At this point you must weigh the cost against the benefits and decide if this goal is right for your family. You can decide it is, it isn't, it needs restructuring, or maybe later. You may even want to decide that part of the family will work toward this goal and part of the family won't. The choice is yours. If the goal is related to one of your most important beliefs then that should somehow appear in the benefits list.

► **Develop desire and confidence**

Actually this is almost done when you make that intelligent decision that the reward *is* worth the cost to the family. You may wish to find pictures of a family enjoying similar rewards or make small signs with sayings to keep your enthusiasm up. You could make a sign which says:

The truth shall make you free

► **Work the plan**

When all of your short-term goals have been set, you can schedule the tasks from the various goals into your daily or weekly routine. Don't schedule yourself out of ordinary life. Do schedule yourself out of time-wasters [TV, mostly.]

Schedule the things which will move the family toward the *most important* goals and leave the work on the other goals until something from the first batch gets done or until priorities or schedules change.

Remember, you have a lifetime to achieve your goals. In fact it would not be bad to set goals to be achieved by the family in the years after some

members could no longer expect to be with your family. A magnificent goal may require fifty or one hundred years into the future for its fulfillment. In one hundred years your family could establish a fine university, a loving orphanage, or a great zoo.

Part of achieving goals is recording the accomplishments and accepting the rewards. Make a big thing of it. Give a special prayer of thanks to the Father above. Acknowledge the work of each individual who helped move you all toward the family goal. If it is a goal which benefits others primarily, be sure there is also 'something in it' for those who did the work.

FOR YOUR DAILY ATTENTION

Every good craftsman knows that his tools are the key to his success. He sharpens his tools *every day*.

What are your tools for a good family? There are several areas which seem to require daily attention:

- Physical - each family member's body, its basic health and condition.
- Mental - the development together and honing of your knowledge and attitudes.
- Emotional / Social - building worthwhile relationships inside and outside the family. Show your love every day to each one.
- Spiritual - the most important relationship.

Strive for continuous improvement of your family. Make it better each year than it was the previous year.

In your family. . .

Let your love be sincere. Abhor that which is evil; cling to that which is good. Have kindly affection to one another with brotherly love; each one preferring the other in honor. Do not be lacking in zeal; but be fervent in spirit; serving Yahweh; Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, continue in ready prayer, distribute to the needs of saints and pursue hospitality. Bless those who persecute you: bless, and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not concentrate on high things, but bring yourselves down to people of low estate. Do not consider yourself wise. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Do whatever is necessary for people to consider you honest. If it is possible, do everything in your power to live peacefully with all men.

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

-- Romans 12:9-18, 21

Blessing

Finally, be you all of one mind, having compassion for one another, love as brethren, have pity, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but on the contrary, blessing; knowing that that is your calling, so that you may inherit a blessing.

For he that will love life, and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil, and his lips that they do not speak guile: Let him shun evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and pursue it. For the eyes of Yahweh are upon the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers: but the face of Yahweh is against those who do evil.

1 Peter 3:8-12

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