

## Week 8 – The Family: A Godly Marriage

### Introduction:

The family, as God designed it, has faced brutal attacks for generations. The world has dissected the home and redefined its roles and relationships. Is it any wonder we stand on the verge of cultural-chaos? We have ditched *The Manual* (the Bible) for marriage. Today's thought-leaders in universities and government agencies trip over themselves to define words like "family," "marriage," "man," or "woman." What culture has complicated, the Bible makes plain. Victory for daily Christian living will come from a biblical understanding of the identities, roles and responsibilities of the home and family.

### VICTORY PLAN:

#1 - TRUTH TO YOUTH

#2 - KNOW GOD

#3 - GET WISDOM

#4 - DON'T BE A FOOL

#5 - BE & MAKE FRIENDS

#6 - USE WISE WORDS

#7- BE DILIGENT

#8 - HAVE A GODLY HOME

- Select some shifts you have seen take place in what people believe about the family in the following paragraph. According to the Oxford Handbook of Family Policy Over The Life Course, the boundaries of what God calls a home are blurred. Can you spot where unbelievers get it wrong? Underline descriptions of family that are not consistent with God's plan for the home.

"As family arrangements have become increasingly diverse, the definition of "family" is more challenging to specify. There are families composed of married and unmarried couples; heterosexual, homosexual, and transgender couples, with and without children; single-parent families; polygamous [multi-spouse] families; and multiple biological-parentage families made possible by modern technology . . . All of this is to say that the definition of family is often highly contested."

The Bible explains that God established three human institutions: marriage and the home (Genesis 2:18–25), human government (Genesis 9:1–6; Rom. 13), and the local church (Acts 2). Our basic institution is the home. “As goes the home, so go the church and the nation.”

- The book of Proverbs has much to say about family life, but some could suggest we should not listen to someone like Solomon. Why? (1 Kings 11:3–4, 9)

- What are some reasons we should listen to Solomon’s advice for the home even though he was not a super example?

I. **A Godly Marriage will practice Fidelity (faithfulness)** — Proverbs praises the kind of marriage that God first established in the Garden of Eden (one man married to one woman for one lifetime). A husband is to love his wife and be faithful to her. A wife is not to forsake her husband and seek love anywhere else. Both are to enjoy one another and grow in their love for each other and for the Lord.

- Where do the steps of an adulteress lead? (5:5)
- What thought does an adulteress give to the long-term consequences of her way of life? (5:6)

- What did Solomon encourage us to do regarding someone who tempts us to sexual sin? Why? (5:7–10; 6:32–35)
  
- Give one word that describes what happens to the person who does not stay away from the adulteress? (5:11–14)
  
- Where should a person seek sexual fulfillment? (5:15–20)
  
- What is a reason one should stay faithful to his or her spouse? (5:21)

II. **A Godly Marriage will exhibit Integrity (character)** — While Proverbs 31 is directed to the woman, someone suggested that Proverbs 1–30 are primarily for the man. Both husbands and wives are given instruction in the book. Let's look over the shoulder of the woman described in Proverbs 31. What character qualities are present?

- A. She is not afraid to work. What are some of her jobs?  
(Prov 31:13–22, 24)
  
- B. How is she generous? (Prov 31:20)
  
- C. She “makes it easy for her husband to do his work (v. 23). The city gate was the place where civic business was transacted, so her husband was one of the elders in the community (As in Ruth 4).
  
- D. Why is she confident about the future? (Prov 31:25)

E. What does she teach? (Prov 31:26)

F. She is an attentive overseer of the household (Prov 31:27). “She isn’t idle, and nothing in the household escapes her notice, whether it’s food, finances, clothing, or school lessons. Managing the household is an exacting job, and she does her work faithfully day and night. Any husband and father who thinks that his wife ‘has it easy’ should take her responsibilities for a week or two and discover how wrong he is!” -ww

G. How should she be encouraged? (Prov 31:28-29,31)

H. What is her secret? (Prov 31:30)

It’s wonderful if a wife has charm and beauty; the possession of these qualities is not a sin. But the woman who walks with the Lord and seeks to please Him has a beauty that never fades (1 Peter 3:1–6).” -Wiersbe

III. **A Godly Marriage will enjoy Bounty (blessing)** — A Christian marriage is a wonderful opportunity for mutual-discipleship. God doesn’t intend for marriage partners to *compete* with each other but to *complete* each other.

- In what ways does God bless marriage? (Prov 18:22; 19:14)
- With such blessing comes responsibility. Describe what is being contrasted in Proverbs 12:4 and 14:1.

### **Conclusion:**

A godly marriage portrays heaven on earth. Not everyone is called to remain single. Some will receive the responsibilities and blessings of marriage. God gives grace for our place. Marriages should be helped by every member of the body of Christ. A godly home brings victory.