



**Married or Single  
Reflecting Christ  
in my position**

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## LESSON ONE: THE WIFE AND CHRIST

We start with the wife today because it pertains to every saved person whether they are single, male, female, husband, wife, or widowed. This is a result of the teaching of "saved people are the bride of Christ." In Rev 19:7-9 we read: **Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.**

The Marriage supper shows Jesus Christ's, wedding feast. Notice in Eph 5:25 - 27 **Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.** Jesus Christ does all to present HIS bride to HIMSELF: *sanctified, cleansed, washed, glorious, no spot, wrinkle, or any such thing, holy and without blemish.* We see that goal accomplished in Revelation 19. The Lord said HE would build HIS Church in Matthew 16. The word **Church** in its Greek form is feminine. There is do doubt that the Lord gives a saved person the position of the feminine in relationship to **HIM**, meaning HE is head and we are subjected. But don't forget v25 above. Christ loves us and gave HIS life for us. **Submission is a love issue, not a slavery issue.** The Bible tells children to obey. Wives submit. They are pretty close to the same, except the child is born into their position. The wife is there

by choice. It is a decision of love.

In Eph 5:22-24 we read: **Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.** Many who are nominal Christians, and the unsaved, find these verses offensive. There are those who think that the Scriptures **must** change to fit today's culture. There are others who will not use this passage or they will not teach its true meaning in regard to marriage. Actually, these verses are for those who are serious about their relationship with Christ. You see, it is exactly as God ordained it. Christ is the head. Notice v32; **This is a great mystery: but I speak concern-ing Christ and the church.** A quick lesson in Biblical interpretation is necessary here. You have heard of *types* in Scriptures. Many preachers have preached a sermon showing men as Joseph as a type of Christ. A type is the shadow, but not the substance. A rightly placed light can cast a shadow of my image on the wall, but it is only an image, not the substance, and not an exact image. The substance is the anti type Joseph is a type of Christ. Christ is not a type, HE is the substance. Jesus is called Emanuel, which being interpreted is **God with us**. Jesus is not a type of God, HE is God. HE is the Word made flesh, which John 1:1 tells us that the Word was God. Moses was told to strike the rock with his rod and water would come out. It did. Later, when they were out of water again, God told Moses to speak to the rock. But Moses, although mad at the people for their sin, struck the rock instead of speaking to the rock. He was not allowed to enter the promised land as a result. He had broken a type of Christ. Christ would be

crucified once on the cross. Blood and water would flow from HIS wounded side.

As a result, when men call upon the Lord, they receive the water of life freely. All of that to say is that in marriage, a lady represents the position of a believer in Christ. That's why they're told to ***submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*** Your marriage is to be a testimony to the world. A disobedient wife is as bad as Moses striking the rock. As a result, promises of eternal value may never be realized because they have not obeyed God's command in this area as a witness to the world. Vv 23 & 24 clearly show HIS expectation. V32 shows that HE is speaking of Christ and the church. The relationship with Christ is not a type of marriage, rather marriage is a type of the relationship we're to have with Christ. Don't desecrate that type by disobedience.

Now go to Prov. 8. So often in Proverbs we see it addresses a son, young man, etc. Men are addressed the majority of time. Notice Vv 1-3: ***Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? 2 She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths. 3 She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.*** Notice the feminine ***her, v1; she*** Vv 2 & 3. Wisdom is spoken of in the feminine gender. Notice some things stated of wisdom's identifying Characteristics: Vv 6-9 speak of the words of her mouth. They are ***excellent, right, truthful, righteous***; and are without ***wickedness, frowardness, and perverseness*** in them. (See also v13). Vv 11-21 tell us of wisdom and the blessedness it is to those who have it. But here is the question we need to answer: Why would God call wisdom "her?" Why in the feminine? One reason is we worship God for who HE is, Almighty God!

We do not worship HIS creation, angels, majesty, grace, etc., we worship HIM. God made man capable of things as grace, mercy, love, etc. As a matter of fact, even unsaved people can have a degree of these things. We must discern between godly wisdom and a wisdom of the world. For example I Cor 1:20, 21 **Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.** Jesus said of the unjust steward in Luke 16:8 **And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.** The unjust availed himself of worldly wisdom more than the saved avail themselves of God's wisdom, which comes from HIS Word. Now going back to I Cor 1:26-29 we read **For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.** The wisdom of the world can be great. It's too great for the Christian to overcome in the power of his flesh. Therefore, he must seek the way and wisdom of God. Consider one more passage in Proverbs, 9:1-3 (notice again the use of the words *she & her*:

**Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars: 2 She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table. 3 She**

**hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,** In a nutshell we see that wisdom gets the job done. So why does God refer to wisdom as a she, but whereas HE always refers to HIMSELF in the masculine? Because when God created the heaven and earth, HE gave us the opportunity to be able to find out *the knowledge of witty inventions*, Pro 8:12. The Bible is clear that wisdom comes from God and HE gives it to those that ask rightly, James 1:5,6.

This gift then is from God and can grow as we are to grow in wisdom. How? Proverbs 8:33-36 *Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. 34 Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. 35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD. 36 But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.*

Now as a wife, these things in you are clean, noble, and get the job done. A wise woman then fulfils Titus 2:3-5 **The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.** This wisdom is seen in I Pe 3:1-5 **Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; 2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the**

**heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. 5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:** Even with a husband that is an unbeliever, or he is a hard man, the actions of the wife show the Christ Spirit in her in longsuffering. She teaches and cares for her children as seen in Pro 31:10-31. But she does it as unto the Lord. One of the best evidences in a wife's life that she is a Christian who truly loves God is that she is subjected to her husband because she love's God with all her heart. She also does the work of ministry in which she gives it her best, as unto the Lord, and supports her husband in ministry.

Finally, we men need to see this as well. No matter your age, little child to senior adult, you need to seek unto this wisdom. That is, the wisdom of God, not this world. We should not expect any more subjection from a wife, or an employer from an employee, than we have to the Lord. As the bride of Christ, our number one goal is seen in Ps 86:12 **I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.** Why is my goal to glorify HIS name forever? Ps 86:13 is why: **For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.** Finish the job that God gives you to do. Seek HIS will daily. This way, you'll know *the wisdom from above*; James 3:17 ***But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be in-treated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.***

## LESSON TWO: HUSBAND AND CHRIST

Last week we saw that the Bible teaches us that our marital relationship is actually to reflect the relationship we are supposed to have with Christ. The wife represents the believer. We pointed out that a husband should not expect anymore subjection from the wife than he is giving to the Lord. Ep 5:32 is why: **This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.** Salvation is not a picture of the relationship of marriage, rather, marriage is a picture of the relationship we have with Christ. Our role in marriage is to reflect our part. If you are a woman, you are to be subjected unto your husband as unto the Lord, because you are demonstrating to the world how they are to be subjected unto Christ. The one thing a godly wife, or lady, should display daily is godly wisdom. That wisdom which is from above was seen in James 3:17 **But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.** Today, we direct our attention now to the men. A wife and family need a Christ-like leader in the home to lead them.

Men, if you're a husband and father, then remember Eph 5:25-29 shows your role and the spirit in which you are to carry it out. **Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:** You are representing the Lord Jesus in the relationship of the home to your wife and children. We

see it demonstrated through this short passage: love her as Christ loved; sanctify and set apart your home for God's use. Keep it clean with God's Word. Make your home holy and without blemish of worldliness, that it might be a glorious home in God's sight. Do it as Christ loves the church in spiritually nourishing and cherishing her for Christ sake. **If you are representing Jesus Christ, then it is incumbent upon you to fulfil your role, even more so than she fulfil her role.** Of course, neither one is a good Christian in God's sight if we're more concerned about the other persons role than we are about our own. Our God called and assigned duty should be pursued with all our heart, never growing weary of well doing.

IF we represent Christ as HE was in HIS humanity, then we need to see some passages about HIM. First see Heb 7:26 **For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;** You may be as I am in that it is hard to see how HE *became us*. Exactly what does it mean, "became?" In the Greek lexicon, it is defined for us as: *to be becoming; seemly; to be fitting*. I believe that last definition, *to be fitting* is best. As an individual, I needed not justice before God, I needed grace and mercy. Although our verse looks at HIM in HIS humanity, we see also HIS deity in that HE was the *very* and only one to deal with our sins, save, and intercede for us before the throne of the Almighty as HE does night and day. So HE had to be in HIS humanity for us God ward, all *holy*. Man-ward, HE is *harmless*, meaning in literal terms, without bad. HE is also *undefiled*, that is, there's nothing in HIM that defiles HIMSELF or others about HIM although He lived in a defiled world of total depravity. HE is also *separate from sinners*, that is, **in** the world but not **of** the world. So HE is *made higher than the heavens* so that HE satisfied every demand that absolute holiness demanded and decreed concerning my sin.

As HIS representative in the home, we are to emulate HIM before our mate and children in the area of holiness first. This is a set apart-ness unto God which is an holy example of purity. It must be *a living way* in the home so it does not appear to the wife and family, (whom you love as Christ loved the church), that you are a hypocrite, as when you are at church, portraying something that you are not. You have a responsibility to set standards for your home that will not allow the carnal desires to be fed. Therefore, television viewing, internet, and all other means of entertainment must be that for which you would not be angry to see your children watching. To demand cleanliness in morals and ethics, you must first be that yourself. The true story is told by a man who said his father had a position in the church and was known as a good Christian. He lied on a business deal, taking the other person pretty good. Although that person was a stranger, the dad did not get away with it. His children saw what he did and lost all respect for the Christianity he purported to live. His Children's lives ended up a moral disaster. **Jesus in HIS humanity was more holy than we will ever be; don't expect your children to have a higher standard than your own.** Set the standard high for yourself, making it of Biblical levels. Children should see that their dad does not watch explicit sexual innuendo on television or other media. They need to see dad is *harm-less*, that is *without bad*. They should never hear their dad use a cuss word, threaten their mother, lie, and be unfaithful to God's house. They need to see a standard that is not abandoned for a football game, a time at the beach, or some other pleasure that keeps you from God's house. Your wife and children will know if your ethics and spiritual life are for sale to pleasure. May they see Jesus Christ is truly the **priority** in your life. Your wife and children should see that the friendships set outside the home are *undefiled*. **It** is one thing to witness to neighbors and co-workers who drink etc. if the family knows you're trying to lead them to Christ. But, when you spend

time in recreation and tolerance for another's sin, laughing at their sin, then you're not *undefiled and separate from sinners*. Should you come down on your children's choice of friends if you have the wrong friends and go to the wrong places? **Sin is never something that is alright for adults to do, but not children.** Children should also see that dad loves mom, and mom knows dad loves her, and the whole family. They need to see fun times with dad and mom. Your wife should know that you still enjoy time with her and that she is still the apple of your eye. Do your best to make your home *higher than the heavens*. Speak of things in God's Word, as the person of Christ, as well as exhortations and warnings. Higher talk is not gossiping about others in church, running down the sermon, or some other aspect of the services. Neither is it complaining about the demand of time, tithes, and talents for the Lord. Have devotions in the home. Make it *higher than the heavens*. Talk of what you got from the sermon. Take notes. Many times it will not be anything new. The Holy Spirit through the pens of Paul and Peter said to *put them in remembrance*. Jesus told the disciples that the Holy Spirit would put them in remembrance. The main thing then is that in doing this you are modeling Christ to your wife and children. One day when the children are gone then your home will be back to a threefold cord, Eccl 4:9-12 *Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? 12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.* V12 is key. There is never a time when your home doesn't need Christ and there is never a time for the husband and father to stop modeling Christ. Men need to emulate HIS earthly life. Phil 2:5-8 **Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:** This in

today's vernacular, is "**mind-set.**" This is why we should be in the Word daily to learn more about the person of Christ, asking God to reveal to us the know-ledge of Christ more intimately.

**6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:**

Instead of a prima donna attitude, although HE was the sovereign of the universe. HE knew **HIS** position

**7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:** Yes, you are the head of the home, but your service to the home is one of love and provision, not of a Drill Instructor. **8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.** Be willing to give your life for your wife and home. Humble yourself, not pursuing your own fleshly desires, rather make the best for your home. When Jesus came, John 1 : 1 0, 1 1 states **He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.** Your *own* may be rebellious. Remember, your children have a free will. Your wife may develop an unsubmitive attitude and your leadership will be filled with unpleasantness and heartbreak. But in it all, Jesus never broke HIS personage of *holy, harm-less, undefiled, separate from sinners, made higher than the heavens, humbling self to accomplish the salvation we needed.* The role in the home is to emulate Christ. The world should see what Christ is to us. As they see either a happy home, or a man who endures great hardship with a peace and joy that defies the circumstances the evil one has brought, it testifies to the world that our Lord can meet every need of the inner man and sustain him in every crisis. Whereas the wife demonstrates the

wisdom of God in holy submission, and does so because she loves Christ, you demonstrate to the world a holy strength and security on which the family can depend, and learn how to have a heart that pants after God. You do this as a man because you love Christ first and foremost. HE is your all in all. Do this for your family and in front of all because you're not ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ. A passage that shows discipleship, not salvation is found in Luke 14:26 *If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.* My home, and my place in the home, is to be a testimony to the world of the Lord Jesus Christ and what HE is to those who are HIS. Can the world see Christ by the way I lead in my home? For that matter, for each of us, husband, wife, single, child; can the world see Jesus in us?

## LESSON THREE: THE SINGLE AND CHRIST

The ultimate single is the Lord Jesus Christ. Today we have people who are single and have never been married. Others have been married, but divorced. Some more than once! Then there are those who are single as a result of becoming a widow or widower. Whatever the case, there are principles and examples to learn from the life of Christ. Several passages come to mind before delving into the subject; Acts 10:38 **How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.** Matt 19:10-12 **His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry. 11 But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given. 12 For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.** I Peter 2:21-23 **For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:** I Cor 7:32-34, **But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: 33 But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife. 34 There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.**

Also, Vv 39,40 **39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord. 40 But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.**

Gal 4:27 **For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.**

After all those verses, it is not a sin to be married. God designed marriage. Years ago I heard a preacher make the statement: ***It is a million times better to never marry, than to marry wrongly.*** Not only can that be seen after years as a pastor, witnessing many tragedies in marriages, but most of you know someone who is close that also went through the heartbreak of divorce. Many children can tell you of the hurt involved. There are those who were married for years, then their mate dies. Only then do they begin to understand what loneliness is and what a single has suffered throughout their life as they see families and other couples have a connection that they do not have. God designed marriage, yet when HIS only begotten son took on flesh, HE Would live a celibate life. HE designed the home to demonstrate the relationship between the believer and Christ. So what is the purpose for being single throughout one's adult life? How do I handle it? I can only imagine, but I can't fully understand what you go through. Most of us who are married were single until we were out of school. We married shortly thereafter. Most of us did not live on our own, rather we lived with our parents. So we cannot empathize totally with those who have lived single for many years. Your answer is not found in psychology, rather it is in the will of God, via HIS Word and prayer. It is a commitment to "Whatever HE saith, I will do." The name Christian means ***Christ-like***. So let us consider Christ, since we want to be Christ like.

**John 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.** HE said HE was not left alone.

The reason is that HE *always* did those things that pleased the Father. In Heb 10:7 **Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.**

The Lord makes it clear that HIS purpose in life was to do the will of the Father, no matter what. That's why in the Garden of Gethsemane HE prays, *if it be possible, let this cup pass from me, nevertheless, not my will but thine be done.* In full view of the cross, knowing the hour had come that the wrath of God Almighty would be poured out upon HIS humanity, HE prayed this request, yet HE kept the will of the Father above HIS own desires. HE accepted the fact HE had a mission that only HE could fulfil. Isn't it interesting that we don't see a son for Elijah, Jeremiah, Daniel, or John the Baptist. Elijah was needed in the time before the ten tribes fell. Jeremiah served as a warning to Judah to repent, or go into captivity. Daniel served as a prophet of God who was needed to give Israel hope when they were in captivity. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord. The ministries in each of these cases called for someone who was single. It is interesting that although Paul may have been married at one time, we see that in his public ministry he is a single man. He could have been widowed since he was at one time on the Sanhedrin, whose members were to be married men. His greatest hour of ministry was in giving his life to plant local New Testament Churches across the Roman Empire. This ministry called for a single man to do it, who would have the time to teach, disciple, witness, and go at the drop of a hat when God said "Go to Macedonia." Now see John 3:34 **For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.**

John the Baptist said this of Jesus Christ by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The great work Jesus would accomplish in HIS humanity, (which had a fully human spirit, but without sin), was accomplished through the fullness of HIS Spirit that was given to HIM. We notice the promise of Jesus to us in John 7:37-39 **In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)** John 15:26, 27 **But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: 27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.** John 16 is somewhat the same in teaching us that the Lord Jesus promised HIS Holy Spirit to us, who would lead us into **all truth**, which would flow out of our inner man as a river if we obey and seek HIM. The single person should first seek, "What is God's will for my life?" Not, *does God want me to marry?* HE may, but it will be according to HIS will, and in HIS time and way. Every decision of life needs to be bathed with prayer. Jesus is often found praying in the major battles of ministry. One thing we see about HIM; HE did not seem to suffer from loneliness. It seems rather HE had to get away from folks. Why? HE had a God given ministry that was focused on souls. Today we have many bus children who live in broken homes. Not all, but some. Some are in places in which they'll never learn of God. I grew up in a generation in which the Bible was read in school and there was prayer. It wasn't unusual to have preachers speak at public schools.

On Sunday, we may have them two hours of the 164 hour week. Rarely do they get more than five hours of teaching and ministry. It may take single men and women who have a heart for the Lord that will pay the price to canvass, knock on doors, reach children, and seek to reach their families. It may include visiting during the week several nights, then discipling them. **(The Building Blocks Booklet was designed to be used to disciple one on one).** In other words, as Jesus in Acts 10:38, you *go about doing good* that most people with families cannot do. (Note: men and women with no children may find this is a way that God can give you more children than those who have families).

The Matthew 19:10-12 passage shows some are called to be single either by physical defect, or the call of God to a work that is best without marriage. Our nation has had three or more generations of no God in most places. Sad, but true, this nation needs a witness we once had. This then calls for us to get involved in many things. There are dating sites for men and women. So many singles and no fellowship with good fundamental Christians. So called Christian dating matches and fellowships seem more designed to promote the lusts of the flesh and religious feeling, but not godliness and holiness. In the political arena, God is being pushed to the side. Perhaps involvement at the grass roots level is God's call. The Lord placed us all as *lights in the world* if we are saved. More than husband and wife, you may demonstrate Christ to more people than they, for you, as Christ, are single. The passages in I Peter 2:21-23; I Cor 7: 32-34, 39,40; Gal 4:27 all call for people who are single to demonstrate Christ and reach those who aren't reached. The poor, the maimed, etc.; there are rest homes that need a witness. My Mother-in-law told me one day, "I decided not to sit around the house and feel sorry for myself. I go to the rest homes, help people who need help in their gardens, etc." She was a widow who was older than many to whom she ministered. College campuses need ministries.

Hurting people in the church need ministry. Is God calling you?

**In summation: First, seek what God wants me to do with my life. Secondly, with the world situation as it is today, maybe God wants you single for such a time as this. Thirdly, stay in prayer and in the Word, ever seeking *whatever HE saith unto me I will do*. Don't sit around feeling sorry for yourself. Get out and meet people. Witness, visit, stay true and stand tall. Where would we be if those single people as Elijah, Paul, Jeremiah, Daniel, John the Baptist, etc. had given up and not done the work? Maybe God has you here for such a time as this.** When so many churches are going the way of the world, removing standards, and giving in to societal pressures, it may be a single in the laity that God uses to help make a huge difference. Widowed, but still alive? God can use you too.

## LESSON FOUR: CHILDREN AND CHRIST

This lesson deals with children. Most would think that this does not deal with the adult classes. To think that would be a grave mistake. Even among **senior adults** we find the Bible states: Prov 16:31 **The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.** Lev 19:32 **Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, (that applies for the gray, white, and at this stage of my life, the bald, head) and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God: 1 am the LORD.** Prov 17:6 **Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.** Finally, although we could go to many other Scriptures, 2 Tim 1:5 **When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.** The crown of glory in old age comes when one is in the way of righteousness, Prov 16:31 teaches. What is the way of righteousness? Deut 6:25 **And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.** By this verse we see that righteousness is obeying the Lord. The Lord Jesus demonstrated this for us as we read at the Baptism of Jesus in Matt 3:13-15 **Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.** We know by the Bible that Jesus Christ was fully man and fully God. In **HIS** humanity he humbled HIM-SELF and completely submitted HIMSELF to God the Father. In I Cor 15:25-28 we read **For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.**

**27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.**

**28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.**

In HIS humanity, HE will conquer all things. Notice that although HE had this already in HIS deity, Jesus Christ who was God in the flesh, accomplished the following through HIS death burial and resurrection: I Peter 3:22 **Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.** See also Rev 1:18 **I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.** By HIS death, burial, and resurrection HE obtained the keys of hell and of death. That is why HE is the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father in salvation but through Jesus Christ. Narrow yes. But best and right? Yes! That is why there is none other name given among men whereby ye must be saved, (Acts 4:12). In HIS humanity, even powers (remember Eph 6:12 teaches that *we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, POWERS...*), are subjected unto HIM. We can be victorious over the devil because powers, be they good angels or bad angels, are now under HIS subjection and cannot do anything to which HE says *no*. Angels and authorities of the devil's world, as well as those in heaven, can give no counsel, wisdom, or overcoming power against the Lord. HALLELUJAH! When the tribulation, millennium, and white throne are over, then will be the fulfillment of I Cor 15:28; **And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.** Since we are joint heirs with Christ, it was important that HE continue in HIS humanity throughout all eternity.

In HIS humanity throughout all eternity, HE will be subjected to God. Now you understand the teaching of John 4:23,24 **But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.** Although our faith will be made sight, we will still worship God in spirit and in truth. Truth? That speaks of Jesus' words in John 17:17 **THY WORD IS TRUTH. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. 10** This is the same Jesus that John 1:1-3 tells us **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.** Yes the Word is God and v14 will witness to us that the Word was made flesh. The maker of the heaven and earth humbled HIMSELF to become a man, yet see what HE is still doing to this very day in Heb 1:3,4 **Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and UPHOLDING ALL THINGS BY THE WORD OF HIS POWER, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; 4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.** He still upholds the creation of which, without HIM, was not anything made that was made. That makes v4 even more glorious to the believer. As joint-heirs with Jesus, we enter HIS inheritance, which is more excellent than that of the angels of heaven. HALLELUJAH! Now let us consider Rom 8:17, 18; which has been alluded to in this lesson: **And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.** I think of Christians beheaded in the

middle east. I think of Foxes Book of Martyrs. We read of this is Heb 11:36-40 **And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; 38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. 39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: 40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.** Reading Scripture and thinking of these kinds of torture, then seeing in Rom 8:18 that as hard as it is for us to imagine that kind of suffering and endurance, that suffering will seem minute in its greatness in comparison to the greatness of the glory in which we shall share in Christ Jesus. That's why you witness. That's why you stand even if family rejects you. That's the reason you keep on keeping on! Give out tracts and witness. Stand against the sins of the nation. Stand against the sins that invade the church and home. Yet, suffering for doing so is not nearly what others suffered as seen above. But if you do suffer for HIS sake, then great is your reward in heaven. Matt 5:10-12 **Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.** Faith is as v39 in the Hebrews passage; it sees it afar off and depends on God telling the truth.

Now you may ask, How does this apply to children? Because Jesus was a **SON**. Think of the fifth commandment:

Ex 20:12 **Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.** Jesus honored the Father as we saw in

I Cor 15:28. In HIS adult life we read in John 8:29 **And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.** So going back to the verses at the beginning of our study, (you may want to write the references down), we see that living in subjection to the heavenly father is a life long duty of love. So Prov 16:31; Lev 19:32; are built on a person living a life of obedience after their salvation. It is a public life. One reason we have certificates, and accounting for work done, is so your children see their parents are honorable in God's sight. In Prov 17:6;

II Tim 1:5; we see the reason children are a crown. Their grandparents taught them of Jesus, lifting up a standard by their public life. A life of righteousness, (which is obedience to the Lord), Deut 6:25. Jesus did not repent of sin, for HE had and knew no sin, II Cor 5:21. HIS baptism by John the Baptist was not *of* repentance, but to fulfil righteousness. HE fulfilled all! That's how HE could be our substitute in paying the penalty for our sin. Matt 5:16,17 **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. 17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.** In marriage, one is no longer under his parents' authority. God told men to leave father and mother, and cleave to their wife. Jesus told the man who said, *let me first go home and bury my father* , "let the dead bury their dead." On the cross Jesus looked down and saw HIS mother. We read in John 19:26,27 **When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And**

**from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.**

Even in HIS greatest suffering, HE made sure HIS mother was taken care of in her old age. As much as it pains me to say it, Mary is probably in her mid fifties at the time. As you become an adult child, do your best to take care of your parents. I wonder if Prov 23:22 rang out in the mind of Jesus on the cross; **Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.** How you treat your parents throughout your adult life is a matter of love. It is because you love the Lord most, and you're allowing HIS love to be manifested through you to your parents. As your children and grandchildren see a life of obedience to Christ out of a heart of love, it then is a light to them by which they too can glorify God. It remains as an anchor when they enter the storms of life. Whether you are single, married, young, old, middle age, or a child, read **I John 2:6**; and **Phil 2:5**. It is also a love issue in the family of God. Let the church family also see your service and affection for the Lord, as an example to others. As Jesus loved HIS heavenly Father and earthly mother, let others see how you love your father and mother with the love of Christ, by your care and provision for them.

## LESSON FIVE: THE CHURCH FAMILY AND CHRIST

It is interesting that Christ referred to us as more than a family when speaking of the local church in I Corinthians, HE spoke of us as of the same body. Notice **I Cor 12: 12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into Spirit. 20 BUT NOW ARE THEY MANY MEMBERS, YET BUT ONE BODY. 22** Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: **24 ...but GOD HATH TEMPERED THE BODY TOGETHER, having given more abundant honor to that part which lacked: 25 THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO SCHISM IN THE BODY;** but that the members should have the same care one for another. **26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 NOW YE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST, AND MEMBERS IN PARTICULAR.** This passage tells us we are of the same body. Therefore, we should care for it as we do our own body. Its actually more important than our own body for it is called **one body**, of which Christ is head. Notice I Cor 6:5-8 and the anger God has when we treat one another wrongly. We're seen there as a family, and it is not what God wants for HIS family. **I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? 6 But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. 7 Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with an-other. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be**

**defrauded? 8 Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.** We are family, and God does not want HIS family fighting one another! We're members of HIS body and HE wants HIS body to work in harmony. But don't stop there. Go to Matt 16:15-18 **He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.** Vv 15 & 16 are important. They tell us on whom the local church is built. The church is the creation of our Lord Jesus Christ. The First step in local church membership is based on these words of Christ. To be part of HIS local church and body as according to HIS Word, we must believe that HE is the Christ. That is, the anointed one who would bear and take away all the world's sin, which was placed on HIS body on the cross (I Peter 2:24 **Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed**). HE wanted whosoever will to come to HIM for salvation and to be part of HIS body. In the **great commission**, HE directed us to build the body through soul winning and edification, which is the duty of every Christian. In Matt 16:17,18, **Jesus goes on then to say, upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.** That ROCK is Jesus. As a result, HE adds: *the gates of hell shall not prevail against it* Gates are for defense, not offense. We are to attack the gates of hell! Yet, we must remember that we use different weaponry than hell does. II Cor 10:3-5 **For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)**

**5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

We do the work of the Lord in this flesh, but we do not use tools of the world as sensuality, worldliness, gossip, guns and knives (as Muslims do to try to convert people through fear). Although Satan uses these things, we see in Matt 10:28 **And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.** In the battle against the gates of hell, we must battle our own carnality. It requires an all out effort and plea to God for help to: **bring every thought into the captivity of Christ.** Actually it is *bringing*, and no wonder. It is a continual battle. Strongholds of Satan are cast down when we abandon the weapons of the carnal as seen in Gal 5:19-21; and put on the weapons of the Spirit,

Gal 5:22,23; with the Captain of our faith giving these words in Eph 5:8-10 **For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.** Don't go back to the conniving ways of the flesh. Instead, walk as children of light. Notice ***IN ALL GOODNESS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUTH.*** We have a goal given to us by HIS Holy Spirit *of proving* (i.e. idea is continually proving) what is acceptable to the Lord, (not to me or some council, rather to the Lord!). We are told in Eph 6:10-19 that we are in a war as a local church, but not against flesh and blood, rather against ***principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places.*** In the day in which we live, we've seen all these devils infiltrate church after local church, and lead them into the paths of unrighteous-ness, while at the same time making people think that they are pleasing God.

See what the Bible is teaching us here about the church family and Christ. **First**, we are of the same body of which Christ is head in the local church. **Secondly**, the local church is also seen as a family in God's sight. **Thirdly**, being part HIS church and body is based on the doctrine of Christ, God's Son who died and rose from the dead, paying the penalty for all sin. **Next**, we see that the church is in a warfare in which the Lord HIMSELF ordained that we attack the gates of hell, **and every church member is to be involved in the attack from the position in the body that he or she occupies!** The Lord promised that the gates of hell would not prevail against it, if we fight in HIS strength. We need to see that our country has allowed itself to get to a point of allowing the murder of babies, and homosexual marriages. The Lord HIMSELF is barred from the public venue. It has happened in our lifetime! Many churches have gotten away from doctrinal purity. We could teach about the seven churches of Rev 2 &3, and see the failure of the churches in so many areas. What is God's response?

I Peter 4:15-19 **But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. 17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.** V15 teaches us to not to use carnal weapons. Isn't it interesting to see the level on which God places *busybodies*? With murderers and thieves! Be careful about telling others the latest, while running down people, especially in matters that affect them in their family's sphere, but not your own. But if you suffer for Christ, then glorify

God. Think on the words of Jesus in Mat 5:10-12; **Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.**

Consider the day in which we live; it could come down to jail time, or death, in this country. We've actually had millions of Muslims enter this country in the last

seven years. There hasn't been much of an effort to attack those gates of hell with the truth of the gospel. We should attack the gates of hell with the gospel, regardless of another's race, religion, gender, or sin (be it adultery, homosexuality, pedophilia, etc.). In Acts 8: 3,4, after the stoning of Stephen, we read: **As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. 4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.** These folks lost their homes, and virtually, all their belongings. I believe it would become a testimony to Paul later, as seen in Phil 3:8-10 **Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;** This is the testimony of a Christian dedicated to Christ and the Lord's ideal for the local church. What is that ideal? Eph 4:11-13 **And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for**

**the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:** A quick synopsis of these verses is: v11, God gave the church evangelists, and *pastors and teachers* (pastors who both preach and teach): V12 shows the goal is to involve each member in attacking the gates of hell by perfecting (which means equipping) the saints. For what? The work of the ministry (attacking the gates of hell with our witness and service, in and through the local church). To edify (continual tense, i.e. always edifying by building up in the knowledge of the Word to make us spiritually strong. Why? V13; to bring us in the unity of right Bible doctrine (faith), by teaching the knowledge of HIM (Heb 7:26), with the purpose of making us like Christ (as Christ was in character and person in HIS earthly life), (to be "Perfect." mature in Christ, unto the stature of the fullness (likeness of HIS being). That is the goal of the local church family, and therefore, the goal for each member of Central Baptist Church.