



Young Mothers 2018

October 28, 2018 | Lesson 08

Assignment:

Young Mother's SS on Relationships
2006, 2010, 2014

Biblical Relationships in the Family

Training for Lasting Relationships that Glorify God
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Memory Passage: Ephesians 4:1-3

...walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

What is the source of all relationships? Why is there always a struggle to maintain good relationships? What are God's commands for relationships in the Christian home? Why is it important to train children to apply God's Word to all of their relationships?

1. The source of all relationships

A. God created man with the capacity to have a relationship with Him.

B. Psalm 116:2; Psalm 4:3; Jeremiah 31:3

C. God also made man with the capacity and the desire to have relationships with other people in His creation.

1. God instilled co-dependency between the first male and female that He created.
2. God created male and female with a perfect relationship marked only by harmony, trust, and good will.
3. God purposed that male and female would bring children into the world, “be fruitful and multiply” and that the relationships between each family member would be harmonious.

II. The struggle with relationships

A. The fall and the resulting curse brought disharmony between God and man and between all members of the human race.

B. Christ’s imputed righteousness to a sinner makes him a new creation and enables him to restore his relationship with His Creator and with other created beings.

C. God’s Word contains the only solutions to disharmony and provides for a gradual restoration of Christ-likeness until a believer stands complete in the presence of God.

D. Our goal is to apply Bible answers to our marriages and to our relationships with our children and between

E. n our children.

III. *God's standard for parents and the relationships in their home*

A. Acknowledge that your child does not belong to you. He belongs to God, His Creator.

B. Make it your greatest desire and prayer that your child will submit his heart to God in repentance and faith for salvation from his sin.

Pray that as a child of God he will experience the joy of living in obedience to God's commands and the fulfillment of serving Him with his life.

C. Obey God's commands regarding your relationships with your own parents:

"Honor your father and your mother." (Exodus 20:12; 21:15, 17; Leviticus 19:3; Deuteronomy 27:16; Matthew 15:4; 19:19; Mark 7:10; 10:19; Luke 18:20; Ephesians 6:2, Deuteronomy 5:16, 33; 6:1-2)

IV. *God's purpose and plan for the Biblical family unit*

A. The home environment

God purposed that the Christian home serve as a haven from the world and be a place that reflects God's holy character. It should be a place where parents can intentionally nurture the souls of their children in the instruction and discipline of the Lord. (Ephesians 6)

B. The function of the family

1. **Communicate Biblical truth** to children while at the same time protecting them from the lies and allurements of Satan. Teach them:
 - a. **Who they are** – sinners conceived and born into a state of misery which consists in lost communion with God, life under His wrath and curse, and liability to all the miseries in this life, death itself, and the pains of hell forever.
 - b. **Who God is** – their Creator and sovereign judge who sent His only Son to save them from their sin so that they – by faith – can become His child and He their Heavenly Father.

2. **Model Biblical truth** through the relationships in the Christian family unit.
 - a. The marriage relationship displays to the children the love of Christ for His bride – the church – and in turn, the church’s love and submission to Christ, her head.
 - b. The parenting relationship displays to the children the Creator’s authority over His creation, the absolute nature of God’s commands, and His consistent and holy responses toward the obedience and disobedience of those commands.
 - c. The parenting relationship in the Christian home also displays to the children the unconditional love of the Heavenly Father that freely forgives when there is repentance for disobedience.

V. God's description of His plan for each person in "the Psalm 128" model family

A. The God-fearing husband/father's testimony, his walk, and his relationships with his wife and children will be biblical. (Proverbs 1:8; Titus 2:1-2, 7-8)

How blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways. When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands, you will be happy and it will be well with you. Psalm 128:1-2

"It is here again and again laid down as an undoubted truth that those who are *truly holy*, are *truly happy*. Those . . . are such as *fear the Lord* and *walk in his ways*, such as have a deep reverence of God upon their spirits and evidence it by a regular and constant conformity to his will."

Matthew Henry regarding the husband / father

B. The God-fearing wife / mother's testimony before her husband and children will be biblical. (Titus 2:3-5; 1 Timothy 3:11, 5:14; Proverbs 31)

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house. Psalm 128:3

"The wife shall be as a vine . . . not only as a spreading vine which serves for an ornament, as a fruitful vine which is for profit, and with the fruit whereof both God and man are honored . . . She shall be a loving wife, as the vine, which cleaves to the house-side, an obedient wife, as the vine, which is pliable, and grows as it is directed. She shall be fruitful as the vine, not only in children, but in the fruits of wisdom, and righteousness, and good management."

Matthew Henry

The church is the bride, the Lamb's wife, the spouse of Christ; and may be compared to a vine for her weakness in herself, her fruitfulness in grace and good works.

John Gill

C. The children in a Christian home will be valued and trained Biblically by God-fearing parents.

The Christian parent's long-term goal – that their children will be like strong, self-sustaining, and fruitful plants. (Psalm 52:8)

Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. (Psalm 127:3); Your children like olive plants around your table. Behold, for thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord. (Psalm 128:3); Let our sons in their youth be as grown-up plants, and our daughters as corner pillars fashioned as for a palace. (Psalm 144:12)

Value the short time you have to train your children by evaluating the choice of every activity with questions like:

1. Is it biblical?
2. Is it profitable – contributing to the laying up of heavenly treasures?
3. Does it require time and energies that should be given to more spiritually enduring efforts?
4. Could this activity – though harmless – in time become a weight in my child's life?



VI. *Shaping sibling relationships in the home provides parents with the opportunity to teach their children to live out Biblical, God-glorifying relationships in their family, and then see them live them out in the church family.*

“We are brothers and sisters in the Lord, chosen by the Lord, and placed together by the Lord with the opportunity to serve each other in ways that reflect the mind of Christ.”

Pastor Vincent (Philippians 2:4-5)

A. The Bible provides both negative and positive examples of sibling relationships:

1. **Negative:** Cain and Abel, Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, Joseph and his brothers, David’s brothers, the resentment shown toward Jesus by his brothers.
2. **Positive:** Jacob and Esau reconciled, Benjamin loved by his brothers, Joseph’s love and provision for his brothers, James and John, Jesus’ brother James who calls Him “our Lord Jesus Christ the Lord of glory” (James 2:1, KJV)

B. The Bible refers to the relationship of siblings or of “a person and his brother” as the “gold standard of relationships

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. Proverbs 17:17

C. The Heavenly Father has designated large portions of His Word to the relationships between His children. There are 59 “one-another” commands that include instructions on how to love one another, prefer one another, receive one another, forgive one another, etc. (See handout for “one another passages.”)

D. Teach children vital Scripture passages regarding

1. The right use of the tongue (Romans 3:10; Proverbs 12:16; 13:3; 15:4; 18:21; Psalm 34:13; Ephesians 4:29)
2. How to recognize and put off the deeds of the flesh like jealousy, boasting, pride, and unkindness (Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:19-21)
3. How to recognize and put on the fruits of the spirit like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness (I Corinthians 13; Galatians 5:22-23)

QUESTION: Why are family relationships important and why is it important to train children to apply God’s Word to all of their relationships? **ANSWER:** What is learned through Biblical relationships in the Christian family will impact generations to come and bring glory to God as it impacts for eternity the relationships of those in the church family.

How blest the man who fears the LORD and walks in all His ways.
For of your labor you shall eat, and prosper all your days.
Your wife shall as a fruitful vine within your house be found.
Your children like as olive plants your table shall surround.

Behold, to him who fears the LORD, these blessing shall ensue.
The LORD shall out of Zion give His blessing unto you.
May you Jerusalem’s good behold while you on earth shall dwell,
May you your children’s children see, and peace on Israel.
 (“How Blest the Man Who Feared the LORD: Psalm 128,” alt, Henry S. Cutler,
p. 95 in Praise Glorious)