



## Lesson 10

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### *Preparing Your Adult Children for Marriage*

by Donna Bixby

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your might.*

Deuteronomy 6:5

A God-honoring life is the essential  
foundation for a good marriage.



Marriage is not a problem solver  
(but has the potential of being a problem maker!)



Marriage is not for our happiness, but for God's glory.

There are two facets of teaching: model and mouth—  
which fall into two main categories, the practical and the  
spiritual.

## *What can we do and where do we start?*

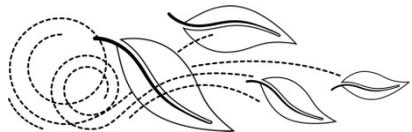
Obviously this training does NOT begin when your child turns 16, 18, or even 21, but it begins even before they are born. However, since we are talking about preparing our adult children for marriage we will continue teaching these things as we have when they were younger!

1. Ask God for help and strength every day.  
Prayer is our number 1 resource. You can teach your child the Word, but you cannot make him a Christian; you can lead him to knowledge, but you cannot make him think. All of our efforts are vain unless they are blessed by God. (Psalm 127:1)
2. Teach them God's design for marriage, the home, and the family.
  - Marriage is a life-long commitment to God and to each other. (Matthew 19:6)
  - Husband submits to God
  - Wife submits to husband
  - Children submit to parents. (Ephesians 5:22 – 6:1)
3. Show them how to walk with God themselves.
  - Read the Word daily.
  - Study it.
  - Apply it to life.
4. Teach them purity.
  - Exemplify modesty in the home.
  - Teach them to keep themselves pure for their future mate.

5. Pray consistently for their future spouse.

These prayers would be the same as those for your own children.

- To come to know Christ at an early age
- To develop a deep love for God
- To develop Christ-like character
- To keep themselves pure
- That God would protect them
- etc.



*Practical Things to teach your daughter*

Cooking  
Meal planning  
Sewing  
Housekeeping  
Laundry  
Entertaining  
Filing and record keeping

*Practical Things to teach your sons*

How to handle finances  
Work ethic  
Car upkeep  
Tools and their use ☺  
Care of his mother and sisters  
Budgeting  
Responsibility and care of a home

## *Character qualities for Daughters*

*Titus 2:4-5*

*<sup>4</sup> so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, <sup>5</sup> to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.*

### **Qualities**

Excellent behavior  
Uplifting speech  
Self-discipline  
Love your husband  
Love your children  
Discreet  
Chaste  
Homemakers  
Kind  
Submissive

## *Proverbs 31:10-31*

An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels.

<sup>11</sup> The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. <sup>12</sup> She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.

<sup>13</sup> She looks for wool and flax and works with her hands in delight.

<sup>14</sup> She is like merchant ships; She brings her food from afar. <sup>15</sup> She rises also while it is still night and gives food to her household and portions to her maidens. <sup>16</sup> She considers a field and buys it; From her earnings she plants a vineyard. <sup>17</sup> She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong. <sup>18</sup> She senses that her gain is good; Her lamp does not go out at night. <sup>19</sup> She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hands grasp the spindle. <sup>20</sup> She extends her hand to the poor, and she stretches out her hands to the needy. <sup>21</sup> She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet. <sup>22</sup> She makes coverings for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple.

<sup>23</sup> Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land. <sup>24</sup> She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies belts to the tradesmen. <sup>25</sup> Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future. <sup>26</sup> She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. <sup>27</sup> She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. <sup>28</sup> Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband also, and he praises her, saying: <sup>29</sup> "Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all."

<sup>30</sup> Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. <sup>31</sup> Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

### **Qualities**

#### Committed

- to the Lord v. 30
- to her husband v. 11
- to her family v. 28

#### Competent v. 13-27

#### Communicative v. 26

#### Compassionate v. 20

## *Character Qualities for Sons*

### *Titus 2:6-8*

<sup>6</sup> Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; <sup>7</sup> in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, <sup>8</sup> sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

### **Qualities**

Sensible  
Good deeds  
Pure doctrine  
Dignified  
Sound speech  
Irreproachable

I Timothy 6, . . . *pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.*

II Timothy 2:15, *Be diligent . . .*

II Timothy 2:22, *Flee from youthful lusts*

Proverbs

Ruth (referencing qualities of Boaz)

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