



Preparing Our Adult Children For Marriage

by Jan Kendall

*And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children,
and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house,
and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down,
and when thou risest up.*

Deuteronomy 6:7 (KJV)

*You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk
of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the
way and when you lie down and when you rise up.*

Deuteronomy 6:7 (NASB)

The Preparations

A. God's Word and His principles

1. First institution / Genesis 1-3

“Acceptance of the divinely ordered hierarchy means acceptance of authority – first of all, God’s authority and then those lesser authorities which He has ordained. A husband and wife are both under God, but their positions are not the same. A wife is to submit herself to her husband. The husband’s “rank” is given to him by God, as the angels’ and animals’ ranks are assigned, not chosen or earned. The mature man acknowledges that he did not earn or deserve his place by superior intelligence, virtue, strength, or amiability. The mature woman acknowledges that submission is the will of God for her, and obedience to this will is no more a sign of weakness in her than it was in the Son of Man when He said, **‘Lo, I come – to do Thy will, O God.’**”

“Christ is the bridegroom, represented in marriage by the husband as the one who is responsible, to woo and to win, to call his bride to himself and give her his name, to cherish and protect and provide for her by sacrificing himself.”

Elisabeth Elliot

2. Obtaining favor of the Lord

Proverbs 18:22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord. (KJV)

3. Wisdom from hearing a father's instruction

Proverbs – read every day of the school week at breakfast

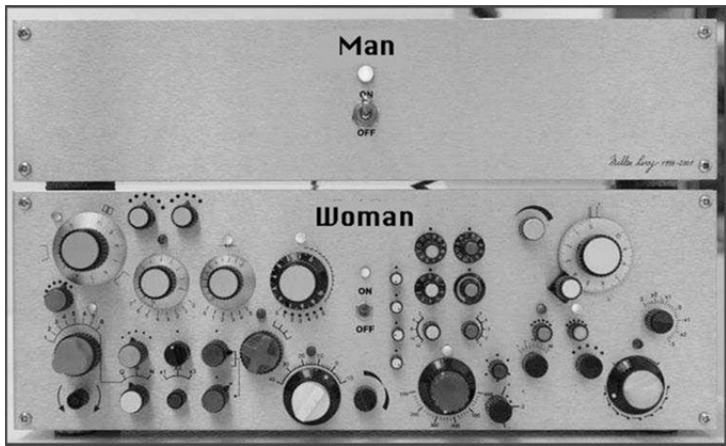
B. Our example and principles we taught

“I am your wife, but you are my life.”

Author unknown, quoted by Elisabeth Elliot

“You are fully a woman, and this means you have privileges. You are only a woman, which means you have limitations. [Our sons are fully men, and they are only men. We can] thank God for this, and live it to the hilt!”

Elisabeth Elliot



C. Prayer

The Courtship

A. Smooth sailing

B. Storms

C. Shipwrecks

D. Shore bound

The Marriages

A. Remembered blessings

1. Principles taught

2. Examples lived

B. Remembered deficiencies

1. From theory to real life experience

2. Surprises-material for sacrifice

C. Accepted differences

“The only real school for charm is home. Practice what you preach – It is the living example of a parent’s behavior that preaches the only real sermon to the heart and mind of a child.”

Emily Post

“No weapon will breach the armor of a woman’s resentment like tenderness . . . You may not understand her. You may find her unreasonable and illogical and unreachable by any means other than honest tenderness. If she can believe, even for a second or two, that you really want to understand her, that you are earnestly trying to see things from her point of view she will budge. I know. I’m a woman, and I appear unbudgeable to some, but I also know what a man’s arms around me will do to my defenses.”

Elisabeth Elliot

Marriage itself ministers, instructs, examples and prepares. It serves as the very **book** the children read, the unique **portrait** they view and the providential **history** they build upon. This **book** is filled with instruction, definition and challenge. The **portrait** depicts nuances of emotion, character molding and relational dimensions. Its **history** is filled with all the generational influences of successes and failures, of tensions and resolutions, of despair and death, of life and hope. The marriage experience is that which *shows the watching world the relationship of Christ Jesus and His Church.*

Recommended Book List

Elisabeth Elliot

Let Me Be a Woman

Quest for Love

Love Has a Price Tag

The Mark of a Man

Passion and Purity

The Shaping of a Christian Family

Elizabeth Prentiss, *Stepping Heavenward*

JC Ryle, *Thoughts for Young Men*

Jeff Pollard, *The Public Undressing of America*