

# Growing Godly Families

## *Establishing Proper Foundations*

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 1:13-21**

#### **INTRODUCTION.**

- A. Definition of a home (or family).
  - 1. The Merriam-Webster's online dictionary gives several definitions for the word "home." One definition reads, "2 : the social unit formed by a family living together."
  - 2. For the purpose of this lesson, we will focus upon the home as being "a social unit formed by a family living together."
- B. It is possible for various homes to be shaped differently, while faithfully serving God.
  - 1. Variation 1: A single man or woman living alone.
    - a. This would be an unmarried person without child.
    - b. Consider a college student, or one who lives for several years, choosing not to marry.
  - 2. Variation 2: One man and one woman being lawfully married in the eyes of God, not having children.
  - 3. Variation 3: One man and one woman being lawfully married in the eyes of God, having children.
  - 4. Variation 4: A person who was married, finding himself now widowed and alone, being responsible for raising the children.
  - 5. Variation 5: A person who was married, finding himself divorced and alone, being responsible for raising or sharing in the raising of the children. (If the divorce was not for the cause of fornication, then the one who divorced the other is guilty of sin. True repentance would require a genuine attempt at reconciliation. Whether or not the divorce was scriptural, the responsibilities of the parents toward the children remain the same.)
  - 6. Variation 6: A single person with a child. (In order for a single person to be with

child requires a sinful act. However, once the child is born, the single person can repent of their sin and raise the child by God's standard.)

7. Variation 7: Grandparent(s) left with the responsibility of raising their grandchildren.
- C. With this lesson, we will show three foundations which the family must establish in order to grow a godly family.

## I. FOUNDATION OF GODLINESS.

- A. A foundation of godliness is a foundation based upon God's will and desire for the family.
1. A godly family seeks to live a holy life. (1 Peter 1:13-19)
    - a. "... *gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope . . .*" (vs 13)
    - b. "... *as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, . . .*" (vs 14)
    - c. "... *you also be holy in all your conduct, . . .*" (vs 15)
    - d. "... *conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;*" (vs 17)
    - e. "... *knowing that you were (redeemed) . . . with the precious blood of Christ . . .*" (vs 18-19)
  2. A godly family seeks to live a spiritual life. (Galatians 5:16-26)
    - a. We are to "*walk in the Spirit,*" being "*led by the Spirit.*" (vs 16-18)
    - b. We are to avoid the "*works of the flesh.*" (vs 19-21)
    - c. When we are "*led by the Spirit,*" we will produce the "*fruit of the Spirit*" within our lives. (vs 22-23)
    - d. "*If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*" (vs 25)
    - e. As we will show in later lessons, our family will be led by the Spirit when the family is led by God's word and seeks to walk in fellowship with the Holy Spirit.
  3. A godly family seeks to follow godly goals and decisions. (cf. Colossians 3:1-4)
    - a. "... *seek those things which are above, . . .*" (vs 1)
    - b. "*Set your mind on things above, not on things of the earth.*" (vs 2)

- B. Whether the family structure consists of one person or many people, if the individual members of the family seek God's will, then the family will be built upon a godly foundation.

## **II. FOUNDATION OF PARENTAL ACTION.**

- A. A foundation of parental action is a foundation consisting of true parents.
  - 1. Simply giving birth does not make one a parent.
  - 2. True parenting involves raising a child, shaping the child into the adult he will one day become.
- B. If you are a parent, whether it is by birth, adoption, or responsibility (as in the case of grandparents) then you bear a responsibility to bring up the child in the way of the Lord.
  - 1. You are to love the children. (cf. Titus 2:4)
    - a. There is so much that could be said on this point regarding the importance of showing love to a child.
    - b. However, we will reserve these comments for lesson two in our study.
  - 2. You are to teach the children God's word. (Ephesians 6:4; cf. Deuteronomy 11:18-21)
  - 3. You are to correct and discipline, when necessary, your children.
    - a. Correct your children. (Proverbs 29:17)
    - b. Discipline your children. (Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14)
- C. If a family has children within its care, then those responsible for the children must take parental action in raising the children according to God's standard. This will help the family to grow in godliness.

## **III. FOUNDATION OF HONOR AND OBEDIENCE.**

- A. A foundation of honor and obedience is a foundation strengthened with the attitude and practice of extending honor and obedience towards God, the parents, and the government.
- B. A foundation of honor and obedience consists of . . .
  - 1. Honor and obedience to God. (Matthew 7:21-23; cf. 1 Peter 4:1-2)
  - 2. Honor and obedience to the parents. (Ephesians 6:1-3)
  - 3. Honor and obedience to the law of the land. (cf. 1 Peter 2:17; Romans 13:1-7)
- C. If a family will be established upon the foundation of honor and obedience, then the family will be able to grow in godliness.

**CONCLUSION.**

- A. It is so important your family be established upon the proper foundations. Whether or your family is composed of one person or many people, do you part to ensure that your family is built upon the:
1. Foundation of honor and obedience.
  2. Foundation of parental action.
  3. Foundation of godliness.
- B. If you will seek these foundations for your family, then your family can grow in godliness.

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