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"Families"

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The teaching we are about to start is in regards to families, how God designed them, the importance to having a stable family life and the part that each member of the family has in bringing this about. In the society that we live in today, the family is bombarded from all sides, and the devil is hard at work trying to destroy as many families as he can, but that is not God's plan for the church and the families involved there.

Paul is teaching in the following verses how he is able to achieve the goal that has been set before him. He has chose to forget the past and hook on to the future. His future is to accomplish what Jesus has set before him. This truth is the same for the born again believers, their past must be put behind them, striving to do what the plan is for them, knowing that they have been given Christ's explosive power to infuse them in order to be able to conquer every difficulty.

Phil 3:12-14 " I admit that I haven't yet acquired the absolute fullness that I'm pursuing, but I run with passion into his abundance so that I may reach the purpose that Jesus Christ has called me to fulfill and wants me to discover. 13 I don't depend on my own strength to accomplish this; however I do have one compelling focus: I forget all of the past as I fasten my heart to the future instead. 14 I run straight for the divine invitation of reaching the heavenly goal and gaining the victory-prize through the anointing of Jesus." TPT

Phil 4: 13 "For I'm trained in the secret of overcoming all things, whether in fullness or in hunger. And I find that the strength of Christ's explosive power infuses me to conquer every difficulty.
TPT

With this teaching we are being trained on how to overcome all circumstances that may arise, because of the power that has been given to us. Teaching on the family is sometimes challenging because of all the outside teachings that are being expressed by others. The families are being assaulted on every side from different types of media's and ideas of how the family should function. There are so many things being

said wrongly that lead people to begin to question what really is God's plan for them and their families, what does the Word of God say about the family? This is what we are going to be learning in this study.

No one should ever feel condemnation from what has happened in the past, Jesus has paid the ultimate price and through forgiveness, accepting Him as our saviour, we are now His. Most would agree that the past has probably been painful to have gone through, but we are not in the past, we are headed toward the goal that has been set before us. There has been much hurt and disappointment but that is not the plan for this teaching, God is wanting to restore the years that have been wasted, placing back in our lives the fullness, the plan and purpose that God has for each of us. Forgiveness must be present in each of our lives, we cannot allow the pain of the past to define our future.

Gen 1:26-28 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." KJV

God created all of us, He did not make a mistake as to what they were to be, He blessed them, spoke to them about what they were to do. They were to rule and reign as kings on the earth.

Gen 2:15-18 "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. 18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." KJV

God gave the man a job and told him what to do, to care for the garden but He also told him what he was not suppose to do, eat of the tree of knowledge. The man was to be obedient to what God had said. God also saw that he needed a helper. God gave them boundaries to live within, to have a godly happy marriage, they were to obey His command. What is a help meet? it means to be an aid, to be supportative and have a cheering section, morally, physically and intellectually.

Gen 2:20-25 "And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. 21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." KJV

Adam had given names to all of God's creation, but he had no one for himself, so God causing a deep sleep to fall on Adam, took one of Adams ribs and created a woman for him. Adam recognized her as his, called her woman and she became his help meet. Adam saw that this was good and they became one flesh. God made a woman, "made" also means to build or to fashion and then brought her to Adam. They were naked but not ashamed. They didn't know that they were naked, like we know what it is to be naked, without clothing.

Gen 3:7-8 "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.⁸ And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden." KJV

It was after sin entered into the relationship, that their eyes were open, they knew they were naked and sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. Later, God sewed animal skins together to cover them. In the beginning, their relationship was in an atmosphere what we would call perfection or heaven on earth literally. There was no influence of sin in their relationship. Eve did not enter into their relationship with baggage from her past, she entered as a whole person, spirit, soul and body. Adam had not entered their relationship with a past, he came also as a whole person and complete.

But, Satan had come immediately, tempting them and when they ate of the fruit, it brought sin into their lives because their eyes were open. He used a serpent to speak to Eve, causing her to doubt what God had said. They had opened the door for satan to come in because of disobedience, they didn't stay in the boundaries that God had set for them. The only boundary that God had set was, don't eat of the tree of knowledge. They had been clothed in the glory of God which is the very presence of God and wrapped up in His presence is all the goodness of God. In the beginning,

Adam and Eve were totally clothed with that glory, they had authority over everything that had been created, but since covenant had been broken, the glory had departed, sin entered in and the relationship that was so perfect was defiled. Satan hates marriage. God told them what was going to happen in their future.

(More of the story of Adam and Eve can be found in reading all the first three chapters of Genesis)

Can we even imagine what it would be like to have a relationship with someone, where we were whole, where there was total and complete trust? with no pain from the past, no selfishness because sin had not entered in.

Relationships now days are usually entered into with all the bad things that have happened in the past, the hurts and offenses, unforgiveness, neither being willing to forgive or forget, constantly bringing up the offenses, accusing others of all the bad that has happened.

In the society that currently the church operates in, it does not know how to describe or define marriage relationships. The church seems to be embracing all types of so called marriages, refusing to take a stand, allowing society to dictate or shape what the church believes, not speaking what the word of God says about everything, the church is no longer that powerful dominate force that changes society. Being scripturally correct rather than politically correct should be of importance to us. There are things in the word that tell us what is correct and what is not. There seems to be an attack from society regarding marriage and how it is intended to be. There are people showing disrespect to anyone who is standing for righteousness.

How does scripture define marriage? the following verses tell of the responsibilities of each in the marriage relationship. Paul is trying to bring the truth about Christ and the church and how can that be.

Eph 5:20-25 "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; 21 *Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. 22 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 saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;: KJV

Eph 5:20-25 "At all times and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to

God the Father. 21 Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). 22 Wives, be subject (be submissive and adapt yourselves) to your own husbands as [a service] to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife as Christ is the Head of the church, Himself the Savior of [His] body. 24 As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her," AMP

Wives are thought to be referring to the church, the husband has the responsibility of being the head of the family, these two things must be considered in what God says about the marriage unit. Christ is the head of the church and the church is His body. We must take into consideration how each functions in their part of the marriage, the wife and the husband each has a part to play, each have special giftings.

*Submission is not a word that many want to hear, it does not mean a dictator to one another, but being a servant to each other, being nice to one another, not being dominate or trying to rule over anyone, loving each as Christ loves the church. Learning to adapt to one another, or devoted to one another. We serve because we love and we love because we trust.

Submitting can sometimes means that force is intended, making the other one submit regardless of what they want, which doesn't work, no one likes that. If you really care for someone you want to please them, it comes easy but the satanic attacks can erode our emotions, not knowing how to deal with the hurts and disappointments that have happened in the past, it will cause people to put up walls, not allowing anyone into the emotions that they refrain from. It is our way of protection, having a closed spirit, not letting anyone in because of being hurt. If we are going from one relationship into another, but are bringing the hurts of the past with us and haven't dealt with the hurts, we are only going to have problems with the new relationship. The hurts must be dealt with or none of the relationships will be fulfilling.

Eph 4:31-32 "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." KJV

We change from the bad things of the past into the kindness of dealing with others. Selfishness is one of the worst things that seems to be in each of us. but by learning to have a heart of a servant that should be our goal.

Mark 11:25 "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him

and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop." AMP

Forgiveness means opening up and dropping the offense, not holding on to anything from the past, Jesus has forgiven us and we must forgive. God has restoration for each of us and He will restore regardless of what has happened.

Eph 5:20-25 "At all times and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father. 21 Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). 22 Wives, be subject (be submissive and adapt yourselves) to your own husbands as [a service] to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife as Christ is the Head of the church, Himself the Savior of [His] body. 24 As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her," AMP

Where there is love in a marriage, it is a beautiful thing, but with no love, it is the opposite. There will be a fulfilled and happy spouse when love is present. We need to know our spouses love language. If they like quality time but never give your spouse this kind of time, then they probably don't think you care for them as you should, not knowing their love language can sometimes cause a problem. There can sometimes be more than one type of love language. Gary Chapman has written a book on the five types of "Love Languages" it might be wise to get a copy of his book. The five types are 1) receiving of gifts 2) acts of giving 3) affirmation 4) quality time and 5) touch. If you love them you will want to please them.

Eph 5:33 "However, let each man of you [without exception] love his wife as [being in a sense] his very own self; and let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly]." AM

This verse is one that is quoted in more marriage ceremonies than any other and is being spoken as a voice of affirmation to her spouse. Christ loves unconditionally, God so loved that He gave.

There is going to be more teaching along the lines of marriage and families in the weeks to come.

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