

LESSON EIGHT

**THE FAMILY
PRINCIPLE**

The Family Principle

Part 1 (of 2 parts)

University Objectives... (Reviewed)

_____ the Word!

_____ the Word!

_____ the Word!

Semper Vivus: _____

“This _____ is _____!”

“University” Defined:

“An institution of _____ at the highest _____.”

Principle Eight (of 12)

The _____ Principle

I can find ultimate purpose in life only by learning the essentials of family relationships found in God’s Word and anointed by God’s Spirit. I must learn God’s principles of authority and live in them continuously. I hereby resolve to choose this course of action, and in God’s power I consider it done.

Primary Passage...

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:31-33 (NIV)

Foundational Premise...

“Premise” Defined:

“A proposition upon which an _____ is based or from which a _____ is drawn.”

Premise...

Ultimate spiritual _____ and personal _____ in life for the follower of Jesus is best taught, _____ and tested in God’s _____ of life — the family.

“Temper” defined:

- To _____ by the addition of a moderating element.
- To bring to a _____ consistency.
- To strengthen through _____ or hardship.

Scripture:

By entering through faith into what God has always wanted to do for us—set us right with him, make us fit for him—we have it all together with God because of our Master Jesus... we know how troubles can develop

passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next.

Romans 5:1, 4 (MSG)

“Family” defined:

The most instinctive, _____ social group in man, especially the _____ of man and woman through marriage and their offspring.

The ongoing _____ of new life.

The _____ of all lasting relational development.

Timeless Insights

“Family is a unit composed not only of children but of men, women, an occasional animal, and the common cold.”

—Ogden Nash

Family Transformation Through Spirit Restoration

THE FAMILY: “A Walled City!”

Scripture:

Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.

Proverbs 25:28 (NKJV)

A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls.

Proverbs 25:28 (NLT)

Five Characteristics of an Unruly Spirit (A city without walls!)

1. Characteristic One:

A city without walls is _____ to constant _____.

Scripture:

My enemies would hound me all day, for there are many who fight against me, O Most High.

Psalm 56:2 (NKJV)

TAKE THE TEST... MY EVALUATION

Do I frequently lose my temper around my family or friends?

YES

NO

_____ OFF!

2. Characteristic Two:

A city without walls is a prime _____ for a variety of _____.

Scripture:

Consider my enemies, for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred.

Psalm 25:19 (NKJV)

TAKE THE TEST... MY EVALUATION

Do I have a problem at home (or work) with my attitude?

YES

NO

Only with _____, who is a pain in the _____!

3. Characteristic Three:

A city without walls is in a constant _____ of internal _____.

Scripture:

I lie awake, and am like a sparrow alone on the housetop. My enemies reproach me all day long; those who deride me swear an oath against me.

Psalm 102:7-8 (NKJV)

TAKE THE TEST... MY EVALUATION

Do I experience frequent “worry wars”?

YES

NO

Just because you can't see _____ doesn't mean they're not out _____.

4. Characteristic Four:

A city without walls suspects every _____ as a possible _____.

Scripture:

The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

Proverbs 28:1 (NKJV)

TAKE THE TEST... MY EVALUATION

Do I frequently judge others?

YES

NO

An _____ obviously thought up these _____!

5. Characteristic Five:

A city without walls must devote most of its _____ to plan for potential _____.

Scripture:

I am weary with my groaning; all night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears. My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows old because of all my enemies.

Psalms 6:6-7 (NKJV)

TAKE THE TEST... MY EVALUATION

Do I generally find myself energetic and alert?

YES

NO

_____ ?

Talk Back Time:

(Share what you've learned with your small group.)

Discuss why you think spiritual maturity and personal fulfillment in life are best taught, tempered and tested through family relationships. In what other ways do you see the family as the laboratory of life?

Pray Back Time:

(Pray what you've learned in your small group.)

Pray for areas that you think your family (or a family you know) may be vulnerable to attacks from the enemy. Pray for the sanctity of the family in our culture today.

The Family Principle

Part 2 (of 2 parts)

Seven Steps to Personal and Family Restoration

Scripture:

A healthy spirit conquers adversity, but what can you do when the spirit is crushed?

Proverbs 18:14 (MSG)

A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body; jealousy is like cancer in the bones.

Proverbs 14:30 (NLT)

Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end.

Proverbs 29:11 (NIV)

1. Step One...

_____ more than _____.

Scripture:

Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut.

Proverbs 10:19 (NLT)

Wise men and women are always learning, always listening for fresh insights.

Proverbs 18:15 (MSG)

2. Step Two...

_____ more than _____.

Scripture:

You'll not likely go wrong here if you keep remembering that our Master said, "You're far happier giving than getting."

Acts 20:35 (MSG)

3. Step Three...

_____ more than _____.

Scripture:

Those who listen to instruction will prosper; those who trust the Lord will be joyful.

Proverbs 16:20 (NLT)

4. Step Four...

_____ more than _____.

Scripture:

And work with a smile on your face, always keeping in mind that no matter who happens to be giving the orders, you're really serving God.

Ephesians 6:7 (MSG)

A cheerful heart brings a smile to your face; a sad heart makes it hard to get through the day.

Proverbs 15:13 (MSG)

5. Step Five...

_____ more than _____.

Scripture:

A gentle response defuses anger, but a sharp tongue

kindles a temper-fire. Kind words heal and help... cutting words wound and maim.

Proverbs 15:1, 4 (MSG)

A wise person gets known for insight; gracious words add to one's reputation... Gracious speech is like clover honey—good taste to the soul, quick energy for the body.

Proverbs 16:21, 24 (NKJV)

6. Step Six...

_____ more than _____.

Scripture:

Do all things without grumbling and faultfinding and complaining [against God] and questioning and doubting [among yourselves]...

Philippians 2:14 (AMPC)

Well-spoken words bring satisfaction; well-done work has its own reward... Rash language cuts and maims, but there is healing in the words of the wise... Worry weighs us down; a cheerful word picks us up.

Proverbs 12:14, 18, 25 (MSG)

7. Step Seven...

_____ more than _____.

Scripture:

So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.

Galatians 6:9-10 (MSG)

Eleven “Happy Family” Key “Be”s!

Timeless Insights

“A happy family is but an earlier heaven.”

—George Bernard Shaw

1. Key “Be” One... (for families)

Be _____.

Scripture:

Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 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.” Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Genesis 2:22-24 (NKJV)

2. Key “Be” Two... (for husbands and wives)

Be _____.

Scripture:

Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

1 Corinthians 7:3-5 (NKJV)

3. Key “Be” Three... (for parents)

Be _____.

Scripture:

If anyone wants to provide leadership in the church, good!... He must handle his own affairs well, attentive to his own children and having their respect.

1 Timothy 3:1, 4 (MSG)

4. Key “Be” Four... (for parents)

Be _____.

Scripture:

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace [Who imparts all blessing and favor], Who has called you to His [own] eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will Himself complete and make you what you ought to be, establish and ground you securely, and strengthen, and settle you.

1 Peter 5:10 (AMPC)

5. Key “Be” Five... (for parents)

Be _____.

Scripture:

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

While we were children, our parents did what seemed best to them. But God is doing what is best for us, training us to live God’s holy best. At the time, discipline isn’t much fun. It always feels like it’s going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off handsomely, for it’s the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God.

Hebrews 12:10-11 (MSG)

Timeless Insights

“Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children; now I have six children and no theories.”

—John Wilmot
2nd Earl of Rochester

6. Key “Be” Six... (for divided couples)

Be _____.

Scripture:

In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over by observing your pure and reverent lives.

1 Peter 3:1-2 (NLT)

7. Key “Be” Seven... (for children)

Be _____.

Scripture:

Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

1 John 3:18 (NLT)

Timeless Insights

“I wish to thank my parents for making it all possible... and I wish to thank my children for making it all necessary.”

—Victor Borge

8. Key “Be” Eight... (for couples)

Be _____.

Scripture:

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV)

9. Key “Be” Nine... (for all)

Be _____.

Scripture:

Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

Proverbs 3:27 (KJV)

10. Key “Be” Ten... (for all)

Be _____.

Scripture:

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person’s strength.

Proverbs 17:22 (NLT)

A cheerful disposition is good for your health; gloom and doom leave you bone-tired.

Proverbs 17:22 (MSG)

11. Key “Be” Eleven... (for all)

Be _____.

Scripture:

A fool is quick-tempered; a wise man stays cool when insulted.

Proverbs 12:16 (TLB)

Better to be patient than powerful; better to have self-control than to conquer a city.

Proverbs 16:32 (NLT)

Bridle your anger, trash your wrath, cool your pipes...

Psalm 37:8 (MSG)

Principle Eight Reviewed

The Family Principle

I can find ultimate purpose in life only by learning the essentials of family relationships founded in God's Word and anointed by God's Spirit. I must learn God's principles of authority and live in them continuously. I hereby resolve to choose this course of action, and in God's power I consider it done.

Primary Passage...

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:31-33 (NIV)

Passages for Further Study

(See following page for an example.)

Look up these passages in your Bible, underline key phrases or put a box around them. Put a number “8” in the margin of your Bible by that passage and circle it. Then, go back to your primary passage (Ephesians 5:31-33) and in the margin write these verses beside it or at the bottom of the page. In this way you will begin to cross-reference your Bible.

- Ephesians 5:31-33
- Romans 5:1, 4
- Proverbs 25:28
- Psalm 56:2
- Psalm 25:19
- Psalm 102:7-8
- Proverbs 28:1
- Psalm 6:6-7
- Proverbs 18:14
- Proverbs 14:30
- Proverbs 29:11
- Proverbs 10:19
- Proverbs 18:15
- Acts 20:35
- Proverbs 16:20
- Ephesians 6:7
- Proverbs 15:13
- Proverbs 15:1, 4
- Proverbs 16:21, 24
- Philippians 2:14
- Proverbs 12:14, 18, 25
- Galatians 6:9-10
- Genesis 2:22-24
- 1 Corinthians 7:3-5
- 1 Timothy 3:1, 4
- 1 Peter 5:10
- Proverbs 22:6
- Hebrews 12:10-11
- 1 Peter 3:1-2
- 1 John 3:18
- Matthew 18:21-22
- Proverbs 3:27
- Proverbs 17:22
- Proverbs 12:16
- Proverbs 16:32
- Psalm 37:8
- Genesis 18:19
- 1 Samuel 1:27
- 1 Samuel 2:22-25
- 1 Samuel 3:13
- Psalm 32:8-9
- Proverbs 13:24
- Proverbs 19:18
- Proverbs 22:15
- Proverbs 23:13-14
- Proverbs 29:15-17
- Proverbs 31:10-31
- Romans 12:10-16
- Ephesians 3:13-21
- Philippians 2:1-4
- Colossians 3:18-24
- Titus 2:1-5
- 1 Peter 3:3-7
- 1 John 2:7-11
- 1 John 4:7-11

EPHESIANS 5

Imitate God

¹Imitate God, since you are the children he loves. ²Live in love as Christ also loved us. He gave his life for us as an offering and sacrifice, a soothing aroma to God.

³Don't let sexual sin, perversion of any kind, or greed even be mentioned among you. This is not appropriate behavior for God's holy people. ⁴It's not right that dirty stories, foolish talk, or obscene jokes should be mentioned among you either. Instead, give thanks to God. ⁵You know very well that no person who is involved in sexual sin, perversion, or greed (which means worshiping wealth) can have any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶Don't let anyone deceive you with meaningless words. It is because of sins like these that God's anger comes to those who refuse to obey him. ⁷Don't be partners with them.

⁸Once you lived in the dark, but now the Lord has filled you with light. Live as children who have light. ⁹Light produces everything that is good, that has God's approval, and that is true. ¹⁰Determine which things please the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the useless works that darkness produces. Instead, expose them for what they are. ¹²It is shameful to talk about what some people do in secret. ¹³Light exposes the true character of everything ¹⁴because light makes everything easy to see. That's why it says:

“Wake up, sleeper!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

¹⁵So then, be very careful how you live. Don't live like foolish people but like wise people. ¹⁶Make the most of your opportunities because these are evil days. ¹⁷So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord wants. ¹⁸Don't get drunk on wine, which leads to wild living. Instead, be filled with the Spirit ¹⁹by reciting psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs for your own good. Sing and make music to the Lord with your hearts. ²⁰Always thank God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹Place yourselves under each other's authority out of respect for Christ.

Paul's Advice to Wives and Husbands

²²Wives, place yourselves under your husbands' authority as you have placed yourselves under the Lord's authority. ²³The husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. It is his body, and he is its Savior. ²⁴As the church is under Christ's authority, so wives are under their husbands' authority in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave his life for it. ²⁶He did this to make the church holy by cleansing it, washing it using water along with spoken words. ²⁷Then he could present it to himself as a glorious church, without any kind of stain or wrinkle—holy and without faults. ²⁸So husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies. A man who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹No one ever hated his own body. Instead, he feeds and takes care of it, as Christ takes care of the church. ³⁰We are parts of his body. ³¹That's why a man will leave his father and mother and

be united with his wife, and the two will be one. ³²This is a great mystery. (I'm talking about Christ's relationship to the church.) ³³But every husband must love his wife as he loves himself, and wives should respect their husbands.

Romans 5:1,4
Proverbs 25:28
Psalm 56:2
Pro. 28:1
Psalm 25:19
Phil. 2:14
Psalm 6:6-7
Acts 20:35
Eph. 6:7
Pro. 15:13
Pro. 18:14
Galatians 6:9,10
1 Cor. 7:3-5
Pro. 22:6
Hebrews 12:10-11
1 Peter 3:1,2
Titus 2:1-5
Col. 3:18:24
Matt. 18:21-22
Psalm 37:8
Pro. 14:30
Pro. 29:11
Gen. 2:22-24
1 John 2:7-11
Pro. 10:19
Psalm 102:7-8

Principle 8
Primary Passage

⑧

Talk Back Time:

(Share what you've learned with your small group.)

Discuss ways you think might strengthen family relationships. Share one or two things that you recall are positive qualities that you saw in your family or strengths you carry with you from your family heritage.

Pray Back Time:

(Pray what you've learned in your small group.)

Pray specifically for children (or grandchildren) or other young people you know, asking that God will lead them into healthy relationships (i.e., future marriage and an ultimate family). Pray for any you know who are just beginning a family.
