

HEIRS TOGETHER OF THE GRACE OF LIFE

Session 1: He Made Them One

God's primary purpose in designing the marriage relationship is to save His children – the husband & wife; but to save them

He must first transform them into new & godly people who learn to walk after the spirit not after the flesh

God uses the marriage relationship to accomplish the transformation, having ascribed different roles & responsibilities to the husband & wife, based upon their unique creation

For the transformation to occur, we must learn our respective role/responsibilities & devote ourselves to fulfilling each

To the extent we cooperate with God's design, we can receive the immense blessings God intends for marriage to provide

A Godly marriage relationship (GMR) is built upon divine marriage principles & follows God's marriage model & sharply contrasts to a human marriage relationship (HMR) based upon man's wisdom & which typically disregards God's principles

The outcome of a human marriage relationship is *happiness* (and there are many happily married couples in society)

But the outcome of a Godly marriage relationship is not just happiness, it's *salvation!* Which is why it's worth devoting the time & energy to establish a marriage built upon God's principles

Only if a couple learns & applies the divine marriage principles will their marriage successfully transform their characters

In His wisdom: a) God uses the marriage relationship to teach each person about him/herself & to reveal the ugly (fleshly) parts of their character that need changing & to develop the love of Christ within them

b) God uses our spouse, the one whom we love the most, to help us change/be transformed; which requires sin & character flaws to be exposed & repudiated & replaced with godly characteristics

If a couple fails to establish a Godly marriage relationship together, their marriage will default to a human marriage relationship

God's ways are coming under severe pressure as the day of Christ's return approaches; we need to be clear in our mind how God defines marriage & the respective role & responsibilities He assigns to the husband & wife

Godly marriage is total commitment and devotion to God and to each other.

Marriage is a refining process God uses for His purpose to mold and refine us for our benefit and for His glory.

From Creation God intended that marriage and family would be an essential part of developing His people, both in shaping their characters and in raising a Godly seed.

Marriages fail & homes are broken up because spouses do not have the power of God's Word dwelling in their hearts/minds, to keep them bound together in *love* and *respect* and *appreciation* for each other.

If you want to be a good spouse, you must first be a good disciple; the two are intertwined, you can't be one without the other

A wise couple build their marriage on the solid rock of living God's word, to withstand the trials of life; a foolish couple build their marriage on shifting sand - it fails when the storms of life assail it

Two things are essential for true marriage in the Lord - ***total devotion of both to God, and total devotion to each other.***

These two guarantee success; all else is tragic failure.

All depends on the character of the couple - If the fear of God and regard for duty and the hope of futurity in Christ prevail on both sides, there will be lasting sweetness, because neither leans too much on the other, yet both do their duty as partners in the pact. But if there is nothing but natural seeking for pleasure and ministration, there will come, with inevitable failings of nature, little breaks under stress - acts of inconsiderateness, expressions of haste that will act as escapes of steam, which scald and destroy. Scald wounds will heal with time, but not with repetitions going on; and this is the danger, that once this sort of thing sets in, it is liable to become chronic; and marriage degenerates to a mere lodging-house convenience, and sour at that, instead of being what it was designed to be; a partnership of sweet and helpful adjustment, a noble communion of life - a fountain of love and light that must prevail. [RRoberts]

The real enemy of a godly and happy marriage is our human nature

In God's wisdom, He takes two people, burdened with the flesh, & places them in a very close environment & relationship

- Their natural sinful tendencies don't disappear; they are rudely exposed & magnified for their spouse to witness, oftentimes directed against the very person closest & most dear to us

- This is the ideal place for our shortcomings/character flaws to be exposed, so they can be repudiated & needed changes made

- What better person to help hold ourselves accountable for needed changes than the one whom we love the most! A spiritual counselor who loves God, loves us & who knows the failings of the flesh & who has covenanted to be our lifelong partner

God dearly wants to save our families and designed the family unit to accomplish this

He designed, created and implemented the family unit on day 6 – the husband devoted to his wife and she to her husband, with the two sharing a very special relationship, and both devoted to creating a family environment to raise a Godly seed.

All the commands in Scripture and the counsel to parents – to husbands and wives – are built around this divine model.

The importance of the marriage relationship is no more evident than recognizing Adam and Eve were created within a marriage relationship. God wanted to save them both and recognized the best way to achieve this was as man and wife.

“It is not good that man should dwell alone, I will make him an help meet for him” - Gen 2:18

This is God’s thinking behind the creation of the woman & identifies the critical role she plays in her husband’s life

Left to himself, Adam would have been in a “not good” state, lonely and incomplete; he needed a companion, a helper, a partner (fellow disciple) who would complement him and eliminate his deficient state

God tells Adam & all husbands: you need a companion; you’ll be a better person having Eve’s companionship

- this is why a wife is intended to be a husband’s best & most intimate friend, his closest companion

God didn’t create husbands to be independent creatures; without Eve Adam was incomplete, “not very good”

Man has a real need for woman, God created man with a “female dependency”; husbands should therefore always treat their wife with the love, respect, devotion and care that such a need warrants

Adam recognized his unity with Eve in his exclamation, “this is now bone of my bones...”; which is not a biological explanation of her creation, but a description of Adam’s joy & the close affinity he felt for her; she was part of him! they were one!

Husbands, we need to see our wives as God’s spiritual gift to us; He knows our strengths & weaknesses & He knows she will be uniquely helpful to us given those strengths & weaknesses

We don’t ever want to squelch that divine aid/helper that’s been specially selected & given to us

While God didn’t create our wife from one of our ribs, He did bring her into our life as He brought Eve to Adam

There’s a reason we’re married to the wife we are – she is *exactly* who we need to assist our transformation

“what therefore God has joined together” (Matt 19:6) shows it was God who brought the two people together; how dare anyone, including either spouse, put asunder a relationship God joined for the purpose of saving both

Our marriage together was not by chance; our children, who in reality are God’s children (Ps 127), have been known by God from before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4); God’s children don’t happen by chance

Husbands must never forget that a prudent (heb: to act wisely, being versed in the Word) wife is from the LORD (Prov 19:14); echoing the principle that she is God’s gift – not as a present, but a gift that we need to help save us

God uses the natural to teach the spiritual; as husbands need their wives physically, so too spiritually & emotionally; but the need must be recognized before it can be valued

“...and they shall be one flesh” – Gen 2:24

3 times in v24, God references the unity of the married couple: leave, cleave and ONE flesh

This isn’t just a description of their physical union, it refers to the greater principle of their Oneness, their unity

God wants a couple to view their relationship together as being special, unified, inseparable; He wants them to learn to function as one, as a single entity

Oneness is the highest level of unity a relationship can attain (Jn 17:11) & what God intends in marriage (Mal 2:14)

He created the marriage relationship to be unlike any other relationship of the couple & for them to build their marriage relationship to transcend all other relationships they have

God designed the marriage relationship to be unique and to create a special affinity/intimacy between the couple

1) Eve was given to Adam by God to be his special friend; his spiritual, emotional and physical companion

2) God intended that they see themselves as “one flesh”, not two; one in thought, action, purpose, planning and living

3) Eve’s unique creation underscored the close affinity God sought to establish between them; she belonged to him and he had a responsibility to her; Adam recognized God’s intent, “this is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh”

4) The husband’s focus, emotions and loyalties were to rest with his wife; he was to *leave* his parents and *cleave* to his wife

5) Eph 5 highlights the special relationship: God places the responsibility for the wife’s salvation upon her husband (v23); you cannot have a closer relationship than one in which one person has a unique responsibility to save the other

6) The wife is under command to submit to her husband in everything (Eph 5:24)

7) God specially designed the pleasure resulting from their physical intimacy as the culmination of their unique relationship

8) Through childbirth, they create a new, unique and precious life together, for whom they are responsible

9) The raising of a child is intended to reinforce their special relationship, to create a home in which the child is taught of God

10) God intends for their relationship to be patterned after the relationship of Christ and his bride

These 10 aspects underscore how God is impressing upon us just how important, unique and special He intends for this relationship to be between a husband and wife

A couple should cherish their special relationship together above all other relationships, and be willing to nurture it, protect it, grow it, and be willing to make the personal contributions and sacrifices such a special relationship is worthy of

The spiritual strength and power for good in being ONE!

The stronger the Oneness, the greater the ability for each person to help the other grow spiritually & to be transformed
A high level of Oneness means: help in times of sorrow; the ease of admonishment when necessary; the ability to hold each other accountable to do what's right; when sin occurs it will be dealt with & changes made, through open & frank dialogue
Conversely, a low level of Oneness reduces the spiritual value one spouse can have for the other; you can't be frank in discussing weaknesses, or hold each other accountable, or address sin, because the relationship is weak
God can put two people together in a marriage, but He can't control the level of Oneness they achieve in their relationship, nor can He control whether they build a Godly marriage relationship, or a human marriage relationship
He can set forth the principles in His Word that can be used to build a Godly marriage & point out the wisdom for using the principles, but each couple & each person within the relationship has to decide to put those principles into practice

The very special marriage relationship is of such importance to God that the couple enters a lifelong covenant

It is absolutely appropriate, because of the unique & special relationship they are to enjoy together, that both people make a vow that they will remain a part of it until either their death or Jesus returns

The marriage vow is a commitment of lifelong loyalty & devotion made before God (Mal 2:14), who hears & witnesses our vows

Though God does not sign our marriage certificate, *He takes responsibility for the marriage* – “*what God has joined together*”

The friendship of the couple didn't blossom into courtship and then an engagement all by chance! Nor did they stand before

God and exchange their vows on their own; it was *God* who brought them together to be joined in this special relationship

Their covenant is also with God and ties their marriage back to the special relationship He implemented in the Garden. It is to be for life; there is no support in scripture for the couple to ever claim incompatibility as a valid reason to separate

They will have serious issues to work through & resolve, but incompatibility is outside the scope of God's creation (Mt 19:4), expectation and teaching (v6)

The ease with which marriage vows are broken in society (or never exchanged) reflects the last days, but must not be viewed as an option for saints. It is similar to our covenant at our baptism. In both cases, God knows discipleship and marriage will be difficult and the flesh will, at times, want to give up; but a covenant compels us to continue, even in the face of difficulty; both vows are exactly what we need to prevent us from convincing ourselves we can abandon either commitment

God knows sin will at times prevail in a marriage, causing pressure and tension, and will challenge a couple's compatibility
This is inevitable when two people with a sin prone nature live together as one. God has designed the marriage relationship to expose the ungodly aspects of our character so that these can be properly addressed by a person who loves God, loves the erring partner, knows the failings of the flesh, and has covenanted themselves to their spouse as a lifelong partner

Session 2: Love & Respect – God's Wisdom in Roles & Needs – Eph 5:22-31

Seven times Paul likens the marriage relationship to Christ & his bride, showing the high spiritual plane marriage resides in

The husband has an incredible responsibility in fulfilling the role of Christ – to save his wife! This requires that he rise above his natural inclinations of looking out for himself & completely change his outlook to that of his wife's spiritual well being

There are 3 components to a Godly marriage relationship: the spiritual (v23-28), emotional (v29-30) & the physical (v31)

The spiritual: the husband, his wife's savior, loving her with Christ's sacrificial love; sanctifying her (keeping her away from the world's evil, to be holy); cleansing her with the Word & refining her character, to present her to Christ ready for salvation

The emotional: nourishing & cherishing her with tenderness & loving affection; being in tune with each other & connected;

including the Oneness of Gen 2 (cited by Paul) – a unity of the highest level of togetherness a relationship can achieve

The physical: a culmination of the spiritual & emotional; a celebration of the complete relationship, including all 3 parts

The spiritual part is the foundation; without it there is only a HMR; never be satisfied with a spiritually weak relationship

Practical ideas on how to increase your Spiritual Oneness

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| 1) encourage one another daily | 5) do a joint Bible study, read the same book |
| 2) read and discuss the Bible together | 6) discuss any Bible class/exhort you hear afterward (1 pt) |
| 3) pray for each other | 7) work together in the ecclesia (teach SS, CYC, picnic, clean hall, visit sick/elderly) |
| 4) pray together | |

Practical ideas on how to increase your Emotional Oneness

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| 1) become an expert regarding your spouse – learn what they like | |
| 2) follow the 10 to 1 rule – 10 compliments, positive comments, points of affection for every 1 criticism | |
| 3) joy and sorrow with them – what is important to them, becomes important to you | |
| 4) pray for them each day | 6) always speak highly of them in public, never criticize |
| 5) listen to what they have to say | 7) forbear and forgive |

The husband has been made the head; it's not about authority, rule & domination; it's responsibility to save!

He is called the savior (v23) who is responsible to present his wife to Christ (v27) in a condition prepared for salvation. His headship is coupled with the responsibility to nourish, cherish, sanctify & cleanse his wife (using the Word), by love. When God establishes authority, it always includes responsibility to save those over whom the one with authority has been placed (i.e. judges, elders, kings, priests, prophets); Christ, being the head of his bride, carried this same responsibility. If Christ were asked to define headship & if it means being 'the boss', he would respond: it means being a servant who saves. Spiritual leaders/heads take those whom they lead to levels of faithful obedience they wouldn't achieve on their own; the wife must still be actively engaged in her own preparation for salvation, but she follows her head.

It's not a love that comes naturally – sacrificial love must be learned; nor is it human love whose level varies by circumstance. Courtship love is beautiful & romantic but it must mature into self-sacrificing love, into a love whose aim is salvation; romantic love isn't abandoned after marriage; it should blossom & have a deeper layer of love added to it – a love that saves.

Wives: what can be more spiritually romantic than a husband who devotes his life to saving yours?

The love of Christ is a love a husband must continue to show his wife over & over & over again & never tire of it.

- It's a love she craves (in a good sense) because she feels loved & safe & secure & special; she'll never tire of receiving such love. God brings husbands to the cross – see that man's love & what he was willing to do for his bride? That love should be your love! That love enables a marriage to succeed & grow spiritually; it's a love: a) that doesn't happen naturally & must be learned; b) is giving, even unto death; c) puts a wife's needs first; d) is sensitive & learns her needs; e) doesn't depend upon her conduct because its motivation is to save, not to receive a reciprocating favor.

In God's wisdom, He knows he cannot save a husband unless he learns to love as Christ loved; He teaches the husband to learn this love through his love for his wife (for whom he cares deeply), which transforms his character & enables God to save him. Learning to love with Christ's love also transforms the marriage from a HMR to a Godly marriage relationship.

Marriage takes its toll on most couples because of the myriad of mistakes; the love of Christ enables the marriage to rise above mistakes which cause irritations, and the couple to use them as opportunities to build up the relationship, not tear it down. To "love your wife as your own body" (v28), links to the 2nd great commandment (defined by the parable of the Good Samaritan) and back to Gen 2, "this is now flesh of my flesh & bone of my bone...", echoes the Oneness Adam felt for Eve.

Husbands are placed by God in the role of Christ in the marriage relationship – a daunting responsibility

This role is not one that husbands would naturally aspire to, knowing their weaknesses & numerous failings.

Husbands are not asked to be a *type* of Christ, but Christ himself; nor are they asked to be the head by type, but the reality; likewise to lay down their life for their wife, not in type, but as a reality; and to sanctify, cleanse, wash & save, as a reality. What should the wife do in support of her husband's mammoth responsibility? Be his "helper" as her God-assigned role (Gen 2:18), his companion & encourager when he feels overwhelmed or fails in his duties as the head.

Husbands cannot shy away from this responsibility, unqualified as they know themselves to be; in God's wisdom, He knows there will be numerous failings, but maintaining Christ as the standard of conduct prevents making allowance for sin.

- When perfection is the standard by which we measure ourselves, all shortcomings & sins are recognized to be repudiated.
- If a husband's standard is anything less than Christ, it's spiritually fatal & destroys his marriage, because sin is accommodated. God's wisdom is again evident: when a husband embraces his role as the savior, it will transform him & lead to his salvation.
- God uses the marriage relationship to teach us how to become better disciples; as difficult as a husband's role is to be Christ, if the Kingdom is his life's aim, his role aligns perfectly with his love for his wife & his desire to see her also in the Kingdom.
- The command to sanctify his wife means he must first sanctify himself (cp Jn 17:19) & remain separate from the world's evil.
- The command to wash (grk: to bath) his wife in the Word (a beautiful analogy of bathing his wife that every wife cherishes), requires the husband to first be immersed in the Word himself, again aligning what he needs to do with his God-given duties.

Col 3:19 – Husbands are warned not to be bitter toward their wives, but to love them; bitterness is the opposite of love.

- Husbands know all too well the reason for Paul's warning; bitterness comes easily & naturally, but must be overcome by love.

1 Pet 3:7 – *"husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered"*

"According to knowledge": how God created woman different than man & has special needs; learn these & be sensitive to them.

- Learn how she thinks & acts & can change her mind at will & all the other aspects that make her different from yourself.
- Peter commands husbands to learn to understand their wives; he doesn't tell them to change their wives.

"Giving honour": grk = great value, used in 2:17 to honour/highly esteem the king; Peter: treat your wife like a queen!

"Weaker vessel": she isn't weaker spiritually, she is vulnerable in your relationship; don't take advantage of her, do the exact opposite! Lift her up & honour her & see yourselves as joint heirs together of eternal life.

- "heirs together of eternal life" is the banner for all marriages, portraying a couple walking hand in hand, helping, loving, encouraging, admonishing and sustaining one another as you head to the Kingdom – all under the umbrella of God's grace.
- Peter is echoing Paul from Eph 5 – husbands, learn to overcome your natural selfish character by learning to love your wife.
"That your prayers be not hindered": if husbands fail to properly love & care for their wife, their relationship with God is adversely impacted; God is watching each marriage; never show disrespect, never embarrass in private or public.

The primary responsibility for a happy marriage rests with the husband – H Tennant.

Man's authority is not one of sheer domination over his wife. There is nothing of harshness, oppression, self-centeredness or mastery. He is the lord of love in his home and he has cast his mantle around his beloved. He has made promise that he will care for her and create such circumstances as will allow her to respond with her love for him by building a home within the compass of his provision for her. He supplies strength and overall guidance in such a way as to fulfill the divine injunctions that husbands should 'love your wives as their own bodies'. Each husband should give himself for his wife as Christ did for the ecclesia and so nourish and cherish her that she may find ample room for the full expression of her tender love and unflinching care as though she were the bride of the Lord himself. [H. Tennant, *Christadelphian*, 1978, p406]

*God's expectations of husbands: that we will **sacrifice** our interests, **serve** her needs, **satisfy** her longing to be loved & adored. Christ's love for his bride must be the standard by which we measure our love for our wife; we can't dismiss it as unattainable or unreasonable; it's how God transforms our character, by learning a love that has the power to save!*

In God's wisdom, He aligns my (husband's) salvation with my responsibility to save my wife; the only way to fulfill this is to learn to love as Christ loved, putting her needs before my own, dying to sin and becoming her servant (Mk 10:45); when we become good disciples we become good husbands and vice versa

Christ, at the Judgment Seat may ask husbands, "did you do all you could to save your wife?"

Did you wash her in the Word to present her in splendour without spot or wrinkle, holy and without blemish?

Did you nourish her, cherish her, separating yourself from all other relationships, giving her your full devotion?

Such Godly love is shown, not because our wife deserves it, or is worthy of it, or has earned it, but because she needs it!

Human love: "if you treat me nicely, I'll treat you nicely." A relationship built on human love won't endure marriage trials, but a relationship built on Godly love can sustain hardships and grow stronger out of them.

If we treat our wife based on how she treats us, we're no different than worldly men. So we love her regardless of whether she is or isn't a model wife. Our love for her is unconditional. *One simple rule—seek your wife's salvation above all else*
The trials of a marriage will always reveal the type of love upon which the marriage is built – either godly or human.

The role & responsibilities God assigns to the wife, based on Creation, are markedly different than her husband's

Her focus is to be on her home: her husband & her family (Titus 2:5)

She is to submit to her husband, being subject to him who is her head

Col 3:18 – Wives be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord

1 Pet 3:1,5 – wives are to be in subjection to their own husbands, regardless of the husband's standing with God (v1), so the principle is not waived if her husband is not in the Truth or not diligent in his service to God

1 Tim 2:12 – when applied to the context of a home, a wife should not usurp the authority of her husband

Titus 2:5 – wives are to obey their husbands

1 Cor 11:8-9 – "the man is not of the woman, but the woman of the man; 9 neither was the man created for the woman, but the woman for the man" The flesh thinks of possession & dominance (v9); instead, read *special care & responsibility to save*

Paul echoes the principle of subjection in Eph 5: 22: a wife is to submit to her husband; v24: she is to be in subjection to him, in everything! which means the subjection is not only when he makes good decisions, but also when he makes poor ones

Subjection does not mean a wife is to be extinguished in the relationship; she still plays a valuable role as the "helper"

A wife's subjection to her husband is done by faith ("as unto the Lord" Eph 5:22), trusting in what God has commanded

1 Tim 2:11 – God did not create woman to fill a leadership role or to have authority in the marriage relationship

God doesn't ask a wife to put her faith in her husband; she is to submit to him, but her faith remains in God

A wife is to excel, not in leadership of the marriage, but in setting the right example with a quiet spirit 1 Pet 3:1-5

Subjection does not preclude her godly conversation (conduct) (vv1-2) & her meek and quiet spirit, which God highly values (v4)

The holy women of old were subject to their husbands, but their faith was in God & their character reflected His ways (v5)

A wife shouldn't view the command to submit to & respect her husband as a thing imposed, but should submit by love

A husband needs his wife's respect & her submission (just as she needs his love), especially when he's made a bad decision

Though placed in dangerous situations, Sarah remained subject & retained her respect for Abraham, calling him her lord (v6)

Respect starts in the heart & is a state of mind; Sarah carried her respect in her heart; her actions reflected her heart

Godly respect & submission for a husband is not something he earns or deserves, it's unconditional & it's something he needs

Sarah shows how consistent respect is very helpful to the one who is trying to lead (be the head) but who has many failings

The command to submit is not designed to feed a husband's ego, but to encourage him to fulfill his responsibility as the head

- It's what he needs, not because he is qualified but because he is so unqualified; his wife's continued respect helps prevent him from abandoning his daunting responsibility to fulfill the role of Christ in the relationship

Submission & respect is what the head needs to be the spiritual leader; leaders can't lead if followers won't follow; a general cannot charge into battle if there are no soldiers behind him; nor can a conductor lead an uncooperative orchestra

We must see the dual commands of God, placing responsibility upon the husband to lead & the wife to follow

- God wants the wife to *willingly* submit & to respect her husband, out of love, not because she has been forced to
- The only way her husband can be the head in their relationship is if she *willingly* accepts his role along with her submission

In God's wisdom both the husband & wife must work together if the husband is to fulfill his responsibility as the head

She is asked to submit to the very person who carries the responsibility to save her life – it's a wise & healthy arrangement

- While society sees submission as archaic, the divine model provides a perfect arrangement for the wife's salvation

There's only one way wives can fulfill their responsibility to submit to husbands: by Godly love, based on faith.

By placing her faith in God, not her husband, she trusts God will bless her and will not put her in a situation beyond what she can bear; that all will work out for her eternal well-being. God asks wives to submit to their husbands out of love for Him, not because the husband deserves it, or is worthy of it. But there's a tendency to put a human condition on this divine principle – when my husband is a good man and treats me better, then I'll submit to him; if he doesn't, why should I submit to him? That's human reasoning – you improve your treatment of me, I'll improve my treatment of you. A spiritual wife finds motivation and power to obey her husband because of her love for God. *[physical abuse may require intervention]*

A wife is also to reverence/respect her husband (Eph 5:33) & ties closely with the principle of submission

- It doesn't mean a wife is to agree mindlessly with everything her husband does or says; he needs her counsel & insight
- Husbands have major blind spots & bad thinking at times; a wife's role, as his "helper" is to bring these to his attention, but to do so in a respectful & loving way; "I love you & only want what's best for you..." is preferred over "you are about to make a huge mistake & if you don't change we are all doomed..."

Vashti disrespected Ahasuerus; his wise men recognized her example would destroy the marital fabric & create chaos in every home because domestic turmoil results when a wife fails to reverence/respect her husband

In practical terms, respect means a wife does not demean her husband to others, either in public or private conversations, because it would erode the Oneness of her marriage relationship, which she ought to be building up

- God puts a wife in a very special & confidential position, to see her husband's many failings; she shouldn't betray him by revealing these to others, just as she would not want her own shortcomings put into circulation

When both parts of the roles & responsibilities of the husband & wife are viewed together, God says to the husband: "you are to act like Christ in the relationship & fulfill his role as the savior"; He then turns to the wife & says, "you must do all you can to support your husband in fulfilling his responsibility to save you" – it's a marvelous arrangement!

- If both do their part faithfully, both will be transformed by their marriage relationship & be made ready for the Kingdom

In God's wisdom, the very nurturing & compassionate characteristics that are not well suited for leading the household (or ecclesia) enable her to excel as a wife & as a mother to save her children

Make the spirit of Ephesians 5 come alive in your marriage – H Tennant

"Take for example, if you are a husband or a husband-to-be, the simple question: do you regard yourself *as the redeemer* in your relationship with your partner? Sister, if you are a wife, or a wife-to-be, do you see yourself in the marriage yoke *as the bride of Christ*? In other words, does each see the spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ as the very essence of a sound marriage? If the husband works always for his wife's eternal salvation in the everyday things of marriage, and the wife fulfils her calling as part of the bride of Christ, then, together, they will truly be 'joint-heirs of the grace of life' (1 Pet. 3:7, R.V.). Words and deeds will be governed by the sole desire to work together for eternity, and to make the home a place where saving truth is the touchstone. In the context of Christlike life and marriage, Paul exhorts: 'Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us' (Eph. 5:1). *We begin by submitting one to another* (v. 21). *It is not simply that the wife submits to the husband; both submit to one another.* This is the spirit of service, the very core of how Christ has redeemed us. Marriage becomes infinitely sweeter when we learn this secret." (Harry Tennant, *The Christadelphian*, 1986)

Christ didn't redeem us by dominating/controlling us, but by serving/loving us, so too should husbands serve/love their wives. "Joint-heirs of the grace of life" means they don't see themselves as two people just trying to get along, but as two saints, working together to help save each other; recognizing their relationship and inheritance is linked to God's grace

An excellent wife is the crown of her husband.

Prov 18:22—He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favour from the Lord.

"Scripture provides no support for a husband who thinks he is in any way superior, or that his sole role is to study the Word while his wife deals with the domestic chores. In his mind, his wife must be seen as a gift of God, a spiritual companion, a needed partner in the Truth." [Man & Woman, a Study of Biblical Roles, Michael Lewis, p14]

Discipleship through marriage

But above all we know that our relationship in marriage speaks to us of the relationship of Christ and his ecclesia. It is in marriage that we learn to practise the things of Christ, to practise forgiveness and selflessness, to learn the true depths of love, to put someone else first, to subdue anger, to restrain a hasty word. If in our marriage we cannot learn these things then where else can we practise these qualities of discipleship? It is in the sharing of these things, which help each of us to be Christ-like in our lives, that we become truly one with our partner in our marriage. [A. Walker, 1999 Christadelphian]

“No husband is perfect, far from it, and it is tempting to find fault and justify one’s own position. Dwell on his particular strengths instead and encourage him in these. The exercise of self-control and patience, refusing to explode at him over life’s small hiccups, oft times make the difference between the successful and the ordinary marriage. If you can turn adverse events into opportunities for endearment and support you will sustain a closer and more enduring unity. Problems can become the building blocks that marriage cements itself on; they can present opportunities to share love rather than harbour resentment.” [Be Ye Doers of the Word, A Practical Guide for Godly Living, South Australia]

A wife needs to ensure she does not place a burden of materialism upon the marriage relationship

A husband is under divine command to nurture and cherish his wife and to provide for her needs

Matt 6 says we are to seek 1st the Kingdom & not be concerned over food & raiment, since God will provide
Scripture is clear on the need for disciples to be content with what God has provided & not to chase after riches

Phil 4:11 – for I have learned that whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content

1 Tim 6:8 – having food and raiment let us be therewith content

Heb 13:5 – let your conversation (conduct/lifestyle) be without covetousness and be content with such things as ye have, for He hath said, I will never leave thee or forsake thee

A wife needs to be careful in what she desires regarding this life’s possessions; she can easily make it known that she needs more or finer things (clothes, bigger house, more house furnishings)

- The message she is sending is “you need to work longer hours or be more successful in your job or get one that pays us more money so I can have the things I think I need”

That’s not what a “helper” does for her husband, because it is not helpful to the head

Prov 31 defines what submission, subjection & respecting a husband look like when put into practice

a) She is of an extremely high value to her husband – worth far more the gems

b) The heart of her husband trusts in her: she is faithful, reliable & dependable in all that’s committed to her care

c) She does him good, not evil in all that she does & for all her life – she comes with a lifetime guarantee!

- Don’t just think domestic chores – recognize her spiritual value to her husband & her positive impact upon him

d) Echoes of Gen 2: the virtuous woman illustrates what a “helper” does in marriage

- Her husband is in a very good state! & has a close companion who complements him in all things

e) This is what led Adam to exclaim his joy in declaring Eve’s importance to him

f) Prov 31 identifies exactly what a husband needs in his wife & why she is of such spiritual value to him

g) She helps with finances, is industrious & frugal; she doesn’t drain the couple’s bank account

h) She’s concerned about her husband’s reputation & helps him fulfill his leadership role, not seeking that herself

i) She knows God’s truth & can speak spiritual wisdom to others

j) She is highly regarded by her children & her husband (who praises her, v28) & God praises her (v31)

k) she fears the LORD

Session 3: Communication

Effective communication between a couple is vital to a godly marriage; it can always be improved if both parties are willing
The marriage relationship immediately improves (especially if there has been a breakdown) when the health of the communication improves; at times this may require an apology, more focused attention or better listening

There is a spiritual reason to become better listeners and good communicators: the better listeners we become, the better we are at communicating with our spouse, which strengthens our connection with each other & ultimately our Oneness

- the more our Oneness increases, the more effective we are at helping our spouse and being helped by them

We will never achieve a strong Oneness without first scoring high in the area of communication

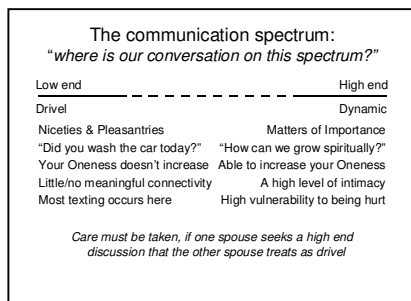
Men tend to focus on problem solving, women (being nurturers) on being heard, understood and having sympathy extended
Brethren who work in a “find a quick solution” work environment, one that places little to no value on building relationships,

must recognize that what may be highly valued at work is not helpful to building strong relationships at home

A wife needs to feel her views/opinions, pains, fears, observations & suggestions for solutions are genuinely respected

A husband who fails to show such respect, runs counter to the command of 1 Pet 3:7 to honour his wife

The respective strengths of the husband (problem solving) & wife (empathy) will serve the couple well regardless of their trials



Dynamic conversations with our spouse strengthen the marriage relationship

A couple's aim should be to engage in high end discussions when possible, to increase their Oneness

Care must be taken because there is greater vulnerability when discussions occur at the dynamic end versus the drivel end

Session 4: Physical Intimacy

Intimate delight is God-given; it can only be realized in a loving, caring relationship

It's a wonderful, divinely created means for a couple to celebrate their Oneness; it's the ultimate giving of oneself to the other. The Bible does not restrict physical intimacy to only the times for child bearing.

There's nothing embarrassing, inappropriate or sinful about marital intimacy – scripture encourages & celebrates it (Heb 12:4). God wants a couple to celebrate their godly marriage relationship thru intimacy; it is spiritually good, wholesome and helpful for the marriage.

Prov 5:15-19 Drink water from your own cistern ... let your fountain be blessed, and **rejoice** with the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and always be enraptured [*exhilarated, intoxicated*] with her love.

Song 4:7-11 You are all fair, my love, there is no spot in you ... how beautiful is your love, my sister, my spouse ... better is your love than wine ... your lips, my bride, drip honey.

When a husband looks upon his bride he sees in her a joy, a pleasure, a thing of beauty, a thing to be desired, all fair, with no spot in her, the fairest of God's creation.

Deut 24:5 When a man has taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war or be charged with any business; he shall be free at home one year, and bring happiness to his wife.

Intimacy exists when it is part of a loving, caring relationship; it cannot exist alongside of harshness, unkindness, or disrespect. Real intimacy flourishes when an abiding love is present. It thrives when our words and actions reflect tenderness, affection, forbearance as a normal pattern of daily life together. A spouse who has been neglected without appreciation or respect finds intimacy to be difficult, rather than joyful and fulfilling. There has to be a wholeness, a harmony, a consistency between the way we treat each other and the intimacy we long to share. If our bride no longer melts at our touch, and the sparkle has faded from her smile when caressed, this is a clear signal of distress and unhappiness, and we need to renew our covenant and realign our priorities.

Men possess a God-given drive that requires the couple to work together to ensure all is done to God's glory

It can also be a source of marital trouble for most couples, so don't feel alone if this is your lot; it's important for a couple to resolve significant issues in this area, for without proper intimacy a couple can grow apart.

Wives need to understand that God has given men a strong sexual drive, a deep physical need for release in a sexual way, preferably in a loving stable marriage relationship for maximum fulfillment (versus an unloving relationship).

Wives: don't resent the natural drive or wish it were different, it's how God created man; instead, identify ways you can support your husband, recognizing how you respond to his need deeply affects him & how he views your relationship.

- If a wife's response is only mechanical, it will leave her husband unfulfilled & to some extent unloved.

If a wife fails to support her husband, or is inadequate in her support, the Bible warns he will struggle with temptation/sin.

- If a wife always waits until she is ready for intimacy, she will leave her husband in a "not good" place.

Communication is vital in this sensitive area of the relationship; both partners need to explain their needs, concerns & fears; listen to each other and work together to find a workable solution to any difficulties in a righteous manner.

Neither partner should use intimacy as a weapon in the relationship; only bad things will result & the situation will deteriorate.

1 Cor 7:5 cautions that abstinence should only be for a brief period lest Satan tempt either one through lack of self-control.

A wife's response to her husband's physical needs can alleviate his temptations; her body doesn't belong to her alone, neither does the husband's belong to him alone.

- "Each partner should consider the physical needs of the other & any sexual activity should be at the discretion of either spouse, except when both are given to prayer...leave the world's practices outside your marriage relationship; they are not designed to promote godly union, they are designed to excite carnal thinking & practices" – *Be Ye Doers of the Word*, pg 106

- Make love to your spouse as often as either of you need it. Do it often & enjoy it! Make your aim to bring fulfillment to your spouse. Don't let your spouse be tempted to look elsewhere for the love they should get from you" *That We May Be One*, pg 83

Husbands need to recognize physical intimacy doesn't stand as a separate part of the relationship; in practical terms, you can't ridicule your wife at the dinner table and then expect her to be receptive to intimacy later that night
- A wife, especially, needs to feel spiritually & emotionally connected to her husband for her to feel connected physically
God hates infidelity; it destroys everything good that He intends for the marriage relationship; if children are involved, it also destroys the family unit; Christ warns if a man even thinks about infidelity, he has already crossed the line into sin – this is how abhorrent God views unfaithfulness & how far away from that line He wants a husband to remain

Fidelity in marriage is vital!

Mal 2:14—The LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? He was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.

Session 5 – Resolving Conflict and Forgiveness

Forgiveness needs to be immediate and continual – we must never tire of forgiving our spouse

Christ immediately forgave any and all personal offenses against him without waiting for an apology
From the cross, his first recorded words were a plea for those who put him to death to be forgiven ("Father, forgive them...")
Stephen (Acts 7:60), Paul (Acts 21, 2 Tim 4:16), Joseph (Gen 50:20), David (to Saul); all forgave, absent apologies
It is not a sin to forgive a person who has not repented, but it is a sin to fail to forgive (Matt 6:11-12)
Immediate forgiveness doesn't mean we condone the sin; if it's serious enough the ecclesia must become involved, but any disciplinary action is left for them to decide; our first response is to forgive; it should be the first thing we do, not the last
Apologies are very helpful and appropriate, but are not a prerequisite to forgiveness; don't fall into the trap of thinking you need to wait for an apology before you can forgive your spouse
The alternative is to keep score of the apologies our spouse 'owes' us; but love doesn't do this (1 Cor 13:5 – "thinketh no evil")

What kind of marriage do I want? One in which each person forgives immediately, or forgiveness is withheld?

Newly married couples are counseled to expect to forgive their spouse over and over and over again
We should expect to have to forgive one another time and time again ("70 times 7"); it is inevitable, given our sin prone nature and the fact that God uses our marriage to expose our sins so they can be repudiated & properly dealt with
We don't ever want to run out of forgiveness for our spouse
A marriage based upon immediate forgiveness will be altogether different than one that is not

Two simple principles make it impossible for a couple to remain unreconciled under the gospel of Christ

#1: If I've offended my spouse, I must go seek him/her out & be reconciled (apologize, make the situation right) - Mt 5:23-24
#2: If my spouse has sinned against me, I am to forgive him/her, if I also want to be forgiven by God - Matt 6:14-15
In either case, Christ places responsibility on my shoulders to take steps to ensure reconciliation occurs immediately
If I am faithful to both principles it will prevent me from maintaining an unreconciled disposition toward my spouse
The importance of reconciliation is so great that the need for me to apologize and reconcile with my spouse takes precedence over my fellowship with God – "leave thy gift...first be reconciled...then come and offer thy gift"
In neither situation does God allow me to remain unreconciled to my spouse over matters of personal offense
The gospel of Christ is foremost the gospel of reconciliation; the Father and Son have done all they can to reconcile us to the Father, including the Son's sacrifice; how tragic for a couple to remain unreconciled in light of such divine saving work

Resolve conflict with fairness, gentleness, concern for a lasting relationship

Prov 12:16—Fools show their anger [*annoyance*] at once; the prudent ignore an insult.
16:32—One who is slow to anger, whose temper is controlled, is better than the mighty.
19:11—Those with discretion are slow to anger, it is their glory to overlook an offense.
29:11—A fool gives full vent to anger, but the wise quietly holds it back.
Eph 4:26—Do not let the sun go down on your anger ... be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Session 6A – The Spring Season of Life

Early married life

It shouldn't surprise you that the swirling, romantic, thrilling time of courtship has subsided; that love was not sustainable, neither would it result in your characters being transformed

The change in your relationship, after the "honeymoon" period, is due to the warts/blemishes you observe in each other, brought on by human nature; it's not that your love has waned, it's that your vision is clearer living together 24/7

Seeing the warts isn't a bad thing; it's a good thing since your joint aim is to see your characters transformed for the Kingdom God designed marriage to help both people rid themselves of their warts; each spouse is the perfect person to help the other. The first (& subsequent) quarrels after your wedding are not the result of declining love; rather, you're dealing with the warts. This is why the closer you can become spiritually, during the early period of marriage, the better your relationship will be.

- Do things together: readings, Bible study, praying, preaching, visiting the sick/elderly, etc. to grow your spiritual component.

It is critical for your spiritual piece to grow at a healthy rate at the very time you are discovering the warts in each other, as a strong, vibrant Oneness will counteract the ugliness of the flesh.

Warts should not be confused with points of irritation (toilet seat, toothpaste cap, dirty laundry on floor); these aren't biggies.

- Unresolved points of irritation need to be properly dealt with by changing habits & submitting to one another out of love.

- Left unresolved, they can grow to become sources of conflict themselves because of perceived lack of respect.

Warts are the biggies: selfishness, pride, vanity, inconsiderateness, covetousness, etc., that must change to enter the Kingdom.

Such warts were ingrained in the character of our spouse before we entered their life; God had already been at work on them.

One of the many values of our spouse is that they can help us hold ourselves accountable to making necessary changes.

While we shouldn't turn a blind eye to a wart in our spouse, neither should we expect changes to take place immediately;

God uses a lifetime to undertake the needed changes.

Don't make removing your spouse's warts a personal project, but do appreciate how they contribute to difficulties that can arise in a marriage relationship; we should expect troubles since both partners carry a nature that needs to be crucified!

Our wedding vows likely included, "for better or worse"; the latter doesn't arise because the love stops, but in part, because our nature gets in the way to challenge our love for each other.

If you have unresolvable difficulties, seek help from an older couple in an ecclesia; find the right couple & they will gladly help.

Finances – follow godly principles, work together, stay true to your commitments & you can avoid trouble

Principles and simple rules/guidelines to follow:

a) count the cost (Lk 14:28-30)

b) don't waste your money (Lk 15:11-14; Prov 23:20-21)

c) be united in your planning & purchasing: agree ahead of time about any unusual purchases; prepare a budget together.

d) stick to your budget; if any deviations are needed, both should agree to these.

e) be understanding of the other person's needs (you may have to reconcile a spendthrift with a miser); use communication.

f) don't spend more than you make; pay off any credit card purchases each month.

g) learn to be content with what you have (Phil 4:12; 1 Tim 6:8-10); don't allow marketing gurus to convince you that you need more than God has provided & don't let them teach you to love money & what it buys; covetousness is as sinful as idolatry.

h) be generous in giving to others (Ps 37:21; Deut 15:8,11; 1 Cor 16:12).

i) give to God – tithing is a biblical principle (Mal 3:8-10; 2 Cor 9:6-7); our money is not ours, it's His, on loan to us.

Sample Budget

The anticipated income & expenses

The actual income & expenses

Income for the month: \$ _____

\$ _____

Expenses:

1) mortgage/rent \$ _____

2) car loan/gas/repairs _____

3) insurance (car/house) _____

4) food/household goods _____

5) donations _____

6) gas/water/electricity _____

7) internet & phone _____

8) savings _____

Total expenses _____

Difference (should be a positive number) _____

An annual budget can be developed by multiplying all numbers by 12; be sure to include any expenses that may only occur once or twice/year. This same format can be used for tracking monthly expenses by adding 2 more columns that include the actual income & the actual expenses, once they are known.

Session 6B - The Summer Season of Life

The family unit is built upon the marriage relationship and reflects God's supreme wisdom

God designed the family with a mom & dad who ①love Him, ②each other & ③are committed to each other's salvation
Into that home and relationship, a highly favourable spiritual place for a child to be raised, God places His children; an ideal environment for children to grow up to learn about God & His future, & how they can be part of it, and make God *their* Father
An infant begins life with a sin prone nature & 2 parents devoted to teaching him how to overcome it - exactly what he needs
In God's wisdom, it isn't just the children who benefit spiritually; the parents, by devoting themselves to the salvation of their children, are saved in the process because of the spiritual example they are compelled to continue to set for their children
Everyone involved is encouraged unto righteousness & everyone is encouraged to encourage each other unto righteousness
God aligns our love for Him, the Kingdom, our spouse and our children so that all the pieces pull in the same direction
It's all specifically and purposely designed to save everyone in the home, who are ALL God's children
We need to understand the wisdom behind the family unit so we can cooperate with it & fulfill our responsibilities
Its wisdom is further seen in that when people deviate from the divine model, they make it very difficult for God to save them
There is no substitute for the family unit designed by God; any other model will spiritually fail the parents and the children
As with the marriage relationship, the family unit is the ideal place for the character flaws of our children to be exposed – in an environment of 2 loving parents, familiar with the failings of the flesh, and devoted to the child's salvation
As parents, we are going to make a lot of mistakes; but God doesn't need *perfect* parents to raise His children; He only needs *devoted* parents who are committed to raising His children according to His ways
If God needed perfect parents, He would have arranged to have His children born during the Kingdom, to immortal parents

A Kingdom heading family!

This can be an overarching theme for your children: they can understand it & relate to it & learn to embrace it; a goal for all
Paint an age appropriate picture of the Kingdom for your children so they will see that the Kingdom is a better life to live for
The children will learn the Kingdom is the central focus of your family; especially important in the midst of an ungodly world
It helps explain the WHY behind the family dos & don'ts, where you go, what you talk about, how decisions are made
It also helps explain why your family is different than other (non-Kingdom headed) families
Make it age appropriate; kids will grow to see family standards (& discipline) are done with the aim to save everyone
Put up a picture of the Kingdom in your home as a vivid reminder of its importance & what the family is living for
A Kingdom heading family creates a family environment that encourages all to help save each other & not to live for self

The direction God is heading should be the direction our family is heading to be part of that future

As parents, this should be our primary objective for our children! To teach and encourage them to want to take on God's character, to learn to live like Christ – to think, speak, love, preach, forgive and treat others as he did
God typically gives us 15-18 years to teach and prepare our children for Him to then become their Father
The family unit is designed consistent with God's plan to fill the earth with people who reflect His glory; marriage is intended to provide a family environment to educate and prepare God's children for that specific future
The family unit will also be used in the Kingdom to teach and develop mortal families (Zech 14:17)
Everything else (material goods, career achievements) is of secondary importance to saving the family

The single, overriding principle pertaining to parenting: "If I want to raise a godly seed, I must be living a godly life"

Being a good parent starts with being a good disciple who genuinely loves God and puts the Kingdom first in his/her life
The absolute best thing we can do for our children is to live the Truth ourselves! showing God's ways are the right way to live!
There is no substitute for this critical responsibility of parents; if it's missing, it will leave our children hopelessly confused
Our children must see: ① we reverence God in how we live; ② the Kingdom is the most important thing in our life; ③ the Bible is special; ④ Christ is special; ⑤ the ecclesia is special; ⑥ prayer is special; ⑦ we love by putting others' needs first; ⑧ sharing the Truth with others is our responsibility, because as God is saving us, we should help to save others
When our children see us living the Truth, the Truth becomes alive for them
In God's wisdom, children become a motivator for parents' right conduct & restrain parents from wrong conduct! Who is saving whom? Is it the parents saving the children or the children saving the parents? Both help save each other!
The flip side is a sober warning: if our children see we're not living the Truth, we severely damage them spiritually!

Children need to clearly see 2 things in this age of confusion: 1) what God's Truth is & 2) Mum & Dad are living it!

"Parents in the Truth have only one life: the spiritual, which enters and shapens every aspect of daily living. This kind of living has a tremendous influence on growing children: to them deeds are far more powerful than words. Children who grow up in a family where attendance at ecclesial meetings is as habitual as the daily meals become accustomed to loyalty to the ecclesia as a way of life. If, as soon as they are able to read, they take part in the daily readings, they are absorbing a habit which will not be easily broken. If they see parents showing unswerving affection and devotion to ecclesial members, especially the lonely and the aged, they are likely to carry into their lives that care and affection for others long after they themselves have left the family circle. These things are not "preached" to the children: they are lived out in the lives of the parents. Children need not to be told that they must go to a meeting. It is unthinkable that a family should act other than as a family in all these things...Deeds rather than words, and example rather than exhortation are good rules for spiritual living, and children readily absorb them." *John Marshall The Christadelphian, 1965, pg 199*

Our family is God's family, our children are His children; we raise them to be God's children, not our own— Ps 127

The house (v1) God is building is not a physical structure, it's the family unit (the people), which is why v1 also describes how

God keeps the *people* in a city safe, not the walls, and v3 speaks of *children*; God is building families!

V1 could read, "Except the LORD build the family, they labour in vain that build it;" unless God is at the centre of the family,

unless His principles are the foundation upon which it is built, all parental efforts, strenuous though they be, are fruitless

Children are an heritage (a thing of great value, passed on to us); they don't originate with us, but with God, and belong to Him

They are also called a "reward" (v3) God gives us, not a thing earned, but a thing given (by grace) independent of our deeds

Parents' response to the 'reward', given, as a gift, but belonging to God, should be to raise the child in a Godly home

Ps 127 identifies our main objective as parents with the children God gives us: to raise them to understand and embrace His

ways, so when they are older they will embrace Him as their Father - the very reason He brought them into the world

Children are also likened to "arrows" (v4) and meant to be aimed! A mighty man (a marksman) would find his target and aim

his arrow with great precision! We are to aim God's children in the right direction; they can't aim themselves

If we don't aim our children, we can't expect them to go in a godly direction

Ezek 16:20-21 – thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters whom thou hast *born unto me*...thou hast slain *my* children

Prov 22:6 – Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it

Isa 49:2 – Christ was an arrow (a polished shaft), hid in God's quiver as a youth

Mothers play a special role in raising children

"It is impossible to overestimate the importance (of the mother's influence on her children)...the ability to instruct through the everyday pattern of daily life is a mother's highest quality...From the mother's example, good or evil, children learn the rudiments of life. The mother who redeems the time, sees in all parts of her activities the need to honour the name of God, has the happy disposition of one who leaves the affairs of an unknown future in the hands of her God and concentrates instead on today & how she can please Him, will communicate this devotion to her children." *Swanick Family Gathering 1986*

Resources and thanks to:

Be Ye Doers of the Word – A Practical Guide for Godly Living (S Australia brethren)

Steps to True Marriage – Harry Tennant, Christadelphian Office

Select articles: The Christadelphian, Harry Tennant

For Better, For Worse – Mark Vincent

That We May Be One – Robert & Sharon Prins, Auckland, NZ ecclesial area

Bro Ken Styles