



The Biblically-Healthy Household Pt 3_Joyfully Accepting God-Defined Roles! May 17, 2020

Text: Matthew 7:24-27

We've learned so far that:

A truly healthy Household is built on the Rock of Christ

1. Christ's Person and Work is foundational.
2. Christ's Gospel is the primary household motivator.
3. Christ is worshipped, discussed, and preached.
4. Christ's full joy is sought-after and growing.
5. Christ's warnings are accepted and heeded.
6. Christ's church is vital in the life of the household.
7. Christ's service is a reasonable.

A truly healthy Household upholds the dignity of Motherhood

1. Understands her creation and purpose.
2. Honors her office.
3. Treats her gently.
4. Receives her teaching.
5. Protects her from harm.
6. Needs her prayers!
7. Encourages her to teach younger women.

Today we want to broaden our look at how a Biblically-Healthy Household functions in terms of roles. There are, IMHO, two critical areas required for Household Health in this area:

1. The members of the household must joyfully embrace the Bible!

- To this household, Christ and His Word is the foundation. To them, Scripture is sufficient!

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV) *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT) *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*

- Optimally, the family growing in health is growing in their passionate pursuit of God's precepts. They receive the Word with gladness and begin to grow in it.
- In *Parable of the Soils* terminology from Matthew 13, they eschew the Wayside or Unresponsive Heart (vv4, 19); they don't want the Stony or Superficial Heart (vv5-6, 20-21); they are aware of the perils of the Thorny or Worldly Heart (vv7, 22); so they choose to pursue the Good-ground or Receptive Heart (vv9, 23)!
- There is less "fighting God" going on. More and more, the attitude is that of the Psalmist:

[Psa 119:48](#) *I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.*

[Psa 119:127](#) *Therefore I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold.*

[Psa 119:72](#) *The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.*

[Psa 119:111](#) *Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart.*

[Psa 119:14](#) *In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.*

[Psa 119:15](#) *I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.*

[Psa 119:16](#) *I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.*

2. The members of the household must walk in their God-Defined roles with honor!

- More on this below!

Joyfully Accepting God-Defined Roles: Seven Principles

1. Seeing Scripture as Sufficient!

- This cannot be overemphasized!
- A family indwelt by the Spirit and committed to Scripture will get healthier!
- **Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)** *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*
- **James 1:21-22 (KJV)** *Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*
- **Psalms 19:8-11 (KJV)** *The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*

2. Ensuring Family identity flows from the Word of God!

- The members of the biblically-healthy home go to God's Word to determine who they are and what they are supposed to do.
- They first embrace their position as sons and daughters of Christ. The assumption then is "If Christ has ordained it, I'm good with it. His will be done!" Or more old school: "God said it, that settles it!" :)
- They understand that their lineage and parentage are no mistake. Each member is taught they are were created by a kind Creator at the right time, placed in the right family, are of right gender, and given a set of circumstances that will move them towards God's ultimate purposes.
- The genealogy lists in Scripture indicate our God's purposefulness in creating families!
- Yes beloved, God is sovereign over our families...and everything else!

Revelation 4:11 (KJV) *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

Isaiah 40:28 (KJV) *Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.*

Jeremiah 27:5 (KJV) *I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me.*

3. Making sure Love-based **Order** and **Obedience** undergird everything!

- What is the most important character/heart trait in a biblically-healthy house?
- Many will say love, and I get that:

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (KJV) *Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*

- But all too often, charity, or love has no teeth; it's just something we say because we know we should or based on how we are feeling at the moment.
- Also, many families declare their love for one another WHILE they are acting in ways not commensurate with such a declaration (in disobedience).
- Beloved, biblical love is always lawful.

1 Samuel 15:22-23 (KJV) *And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*

John 14:15 (KJV) *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

John 15:14 (KJV) *Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.*

1 John 5:3 (KJV) *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*

- So then a biblically-healthy family is *lovingly-ordered*. God Himself is a God of *order* (1 Cor 14:33, 40). Therefore, this household strives to be governed according to God's design.
- Here is another way to say this: I submit the chief trait present in biblically-healthy families is **honor**.
- Love + Obedience/Order = Honor.
- Honor is the outworking of a loving and obedience heart.

- No jurisdiction God created (Home, Church, or even the State) works will without honor!
- **As it relates to the household, Honor is the glue that holds everything together; it is the grease that causes things to run smoothly and the guardrails for when things get testy.**
- With it, the household is a WONDERFUL place to be. WITHOUT it, there is disrespect, distrust, and and disorder. Chaos.
- Last year we taught on “The Principle of Honor”
- In Ephesians 6:2, where the Apostle reminds children to honor their father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise, the word for honor in Greek is *timaō*: to prize, that is, *fix a valuation upon; to revere; to respect; to treat with deference and submission, and perform relative duties to.*¹
- The divine promises of honor are prolonged days and a more blessed life! God values and blesses our obedience to esteem!
- **Biblical honor is not based on performance; biblical honor is based in intrinsic value...in the office one holds.**
- The church has always known how important this is. For example, the Westminster Shorter Catechism says:

Q. 63. Which is the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment is, **Honor** thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Q. 64. What is required in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment requireth the preserving the **honor**, and performing the duties, belonging to everyone in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals.

Q. 65. What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment forbiddeth the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the **honor and duty** which belongeth to everyone in their several places and relations.

Q. 66. What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?

A. The reason annexed to the fifth commandment is, **a promise of long life and prosperity** (as far as it shall serve for God’s glory and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment.

- I wrote in Playbook:

So based on the commandments, lawful love towards others has a basic framework. First, we must strive to honor our parents (fifth commandment). To honor parents is to show them reverence, respect, and deference. This is more than just saying, “I love you.” Remember, love has teeth! It is to obey them when under their covering and to maintain a submissive posture even as adults. It is

¹ Webster 1828 Dictionary

to speak well of them, speak respectfully to them, and to refuse to allow dishonor concerning them. God was so serious about the hearts of the parents and children remaining connected through this sort of honor, He said, “Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.” In the New Testament He says, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’ (this is the first commandment with a promise), ‘that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.’” (Ex 20:12; Eph 6:1-3) In other words, circumstantial blessings and length of life was tied to honoring parents! This is one way we love them lawfully. Honoring parents teaches the children to be honorable themselves. I have yet to see a fruit-bearing home without honor towards mom and dad.²

4. Father’s are **honored!**

- In God’s design, husbands/fathers are the head of their households.
- After God, he is the chief authority, and bears that *frightening* responsibility before Christ.

Ephesians 5:22-24 (KJV) *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.*

- He represents Christ in the Gospel-picture God is painting.
- Men are to lead with love and sacrifice. They are to work hard and be respected.
- A biblically-healthy household may talk things through and collaborate, but if dad has to make a call, that call is honored and prayerfully, enthusiastically supported.
- He has a vision for his household, and all are onboard!
- In our day of man-hate and rebellion, this may sound crazy. But remember, God is out to protect you and bless your life with length of days!

5. Mother’s are **cherished!**

- Mothers, and women in general as we said last week, are cherished and her dignity upheld.
- If she is married, her household is blessed by her example of godly submission. She models for all therein the church. She is holy, humble, submitted, strong, hardworking, prayerful, and loving.
- If she is not married, she becomes the chief authority. In either case her words should be honored.

Proverbs 6:20-23 (KJV) *My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: 21 Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy*

² *The Playbook*, Carlton McLeod, p. 14.

neck. **22** *When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.* **23** *For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:*

- Again she is treated gently as unto the weaker vessel and her propriety and physical safety is always protected.

6. Children are **loved** and **valued**!

- Honor flows both ways!
- In a biblically-healthy household, children aren't seen as a burden or dream-limiters. The household is blessed to have them!

Psalms 127:3-5 (KJV) *Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.*

- The children in the household are taught their value in God. They are a vital part of the household and much of what goes on is designed for their blessing and upbringing in the nurture and admonition of the LORD. (Eph 6:4)
- Much thought and prayer is towards their provision, protection, discipleship and future...even unto their children! (**Proverbs 13:22 (KJV)** *A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.*)

7. Grandparents and extended family add **perspective**!

- Scripture says:

Proverbs 17:6 (KJV) *Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.*

2 Timothy 1:5 (KJV) *When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*

- In the Bible, a grandparent is a blessing, both for the grandparent and their progeny. They were close to the family and were often quite involved.
- Many forget that Ephraim and Manasseh were considered part of the Twelve Tribes of Israel, even though they were not Jacob's children. They were Joseph's children. (Gen 48:5)
- A godly-grandparent is a great blessing: (**Proverbs 16:31 (KJV)** *The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.*)
- Their wisdom and experience can save a household from much drama.

Final Thoughts:

- **Psalms 25:10 (KJV)** *All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.*

- **Deuteronomy 32:4 (NLT)** *He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is!*
- **Psalms 18:30-31 (KJV)** *As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him. 31 For who is God save the LORD? or who is a rock save our God?*

Imagine a biblically-healthy household where all the members thereof joyfully embrace God's Word! Imagine the love and unity, the fun times of laughter and joy. The willingness to go through tough times in faith and with perseverance. The times of worship and prayer. The joy of serving the local church together. The peace of knowing that we will be together in glory.

Imagine the sweet repentance, the songs and hymns in the household, the quiet times of reflection, the spiritual battles fought and won, the serenity of obedience.

The enemy has worked hard to overthrow God's Word for our roles and assignments in our households. May the LORD rebuke him! Divine beauty is on the other side obedience!

May your household **conform** and **reform** according to God's Word!

In Jesus' Name, Amen!