

FAMILY RELATIONS

(Taught by Mr. David Antion)

This class was started by Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong years ago. However, as time progressed a refresher course termed 'Principles of Living' was established. Family Relations deals with marriage and child rearing on a more indepth study concerning the world of families; the present American style marriage, broken homes, the wrong concepts in child rearing, etc. Because of a lack of knowledge these particular things have taken place, and so the Family Relations class progresses along these lines, beginning with dating. It stresses the need of well planning ones life, also the concepts of dating, marriage, and the rearing of children.

We ask the question, how does one plan for marriage? That is done through proper dating, there is also a wrong way in which to date, this course goes into this. Many rob themselves of proper facts on family life and children and so forth. Insecurity of youth, and inferiority complexes shut us off from proper growth, our personality shrinks. We must realize that to have a study in dating gives us the proper security as we mature and grow toward becoming a full grown adult. One of the facts that we must consider is, most youngsters wish to indlude in life to the full the first one-fourth of their lives. If the life span is 70 years of age, he wishes to indulge in full at age 18 or sooner, but here again this is the approach that the present society takes to life itself.

In the 24th chapter of Genesis we read of the planned marriage of Abraham's son Issac, we understand also and read about Rebecca and we learn in this account that Rebecca had perfect freedom of choice, she was not forced

to accept. The servant asked God for help in choosing the right woman, the servant also revealed his identity. Rebecca was questioned as to whether she wanted to go, and she did. Then the servant reveals to Issac all that had been done by him in selecting a companion for him. Yes, this was a planned marriage, planned, guided, and directed; but not without free moral agency. On the other hand you should read the account of Sampson in Judges the 14th chapter. Note the behind the scenes thoughts of Sampson, also notice that Deliah did not love him, though he thought she did. Was this love or infatuation--a foolish desire based on imagination. You know we can in a state of infatuation project qualities which we would like to see in someone.

We must note that to become engaged is a big step, it should not be rushed into; also to commit oneself to another person and then change your mind about that person, which is the case in an infatuated situation, does show a sign of immaturity. Immaturity as we know is often shown in adults; when you find adults unable to control their temper when things do not go their way, this is immaturity. We do not have the right to pass on to our children our degenerate ways, because whatever we do it affects others. You should also realize that children look to their parents, be sure that you are what your children think you are.

Let's discuss parenthood. No child should be an accident or an unwanted child. We should plan for children, and it is fraudulent not to want children. Of course, parents often have various reasons for not wanting children, but in the main these are based on selfish motives. It requires the time of the person, the parents naturally. It also involves money, and time and money for the selfish person is something that they do not wish to share with others. There is a feeling of insecurity here, it could be based on fear of loss of

love-life, with a wife in case of a man, or just vice versa. Also fear of responsibility, or a woman could have fear of pain, or the loss of personal ideals. There is another aspect 7 1/2% of all couples are steril, it is becoming a growing thing. However, children are the gift of God. We must prepare for them. What should we consider? Well, there are world conditions, availability of food, economic standards, there is in Matthew 24 an admonition that when the end of time should come there are certain things we should not overlook, such as limited diets, which can bring on famine; the condition of a mother in the event of a flight, ones health. There are many things the pregnant woman should prepare herself for. She should cleanse her system. Cost is a big item as well as a woman's health. How much is it going to take to bring this youngster into the world. The average total outlay for having a child is around \$1500.00, and remember all expenses are incurred by you. There are many ways to cut costs, however. Then there is the fact that many young people wish to have their children early in life. Are you emotionally prepared for this new comer. Then there are things to consider during ones pregnancy, books to read and there are some very good books, for example, "Child Birth Without Fear," and many different types of books on the market. Then there are chemicals that can affect the baby, chemical vitamins can cause birth defects, vitamin D is extremely dangerous in many ways. Many defects are caused by poor nutrition and diet. As a prerequisite for proper child rearing we should take particular note of these two things:

- 1) You cannot be a good father unless you are a good husband, 2) Nor can you be a good mother unless you are a good wife. The basis of proper child rearing hinges on a proper homelife. Build a firm family relationship before administering discipline, and this has to do with the husband-wife relationship.

There is one thing here that should be interjected. If before marriage you have not learned to control yourself; if you are unacquainted with disciplining yourself then you should not marry, but in our present society this has not been stressed, because it was not known, after marriage there must be time to establish the proper husband-wife relationship; and this will include correction--correcting one another in love, of course. If there is not sufficient time for the two to become compatible before having children then one gets into serious trouble. You know how you go about to cultivate the ground before growing a garden, then after getting the ground fertilized and the stones taken out of it, pulverized and fortified to produce the best product. After doing this then you select seeds of the type of produce you wish to grow, you should strive to get the best seeds, this of course is an analogy used to apply to marriage, you should be just as painstakingly careful in ones relationship with one another after marriage as you are in planting, or going about to plant, a garden. Ones basic blue print of life is developed in conception, what is a child, one of the answers is one who has possibility of becoming a son of God. Yet having a carnal mind, remember that child is born a selfish person, but God made him that way. A child is a reproduction of its parents, and as we said before a gift of God. Lets stress somethings concerning proper child rearing. There are six keys: 1) Environment and example, of course the husband and wife in the home is the environment in which the child is to begin life, and realize that this child will become as you are. What spritual environment is there in the home, how is it reflected, or is it reflected? Does the child hear arguments, because there is a baby who is aware of the sounds around it and has the same senses which we do, it learns to see, hear, smell, taste, and feel. So it becomes aware of moving objects, but not as quickly as it

does sound and feeling and smelling. A child is going to identify with his surroundings, a child learns to detect trouble. Children pick up quickly fears, joys, and the habits of parents; children have fear of water, animals, birds, etc. But on the other hand you can not hide your elation, and some have not learned to hide their anger, nor their fears, the sound of a voice gives away ones emotions, so key number one, environment and example is something we cannot over look. 2) Attitude, remember your attitude rubs off on children, they can be blase or they can develop an inferior attitude or a superior attitude. Many are affected before leaving home. As your child grows, that child learns from outside influences and can be befriended or offended by outsiders, but attitude pervades the home. 3) Personality, watch your child. You can learn what your personality is. Can you see yourself in your child? Are we positive to the child? Is your child shy, over eager, impatient. Children learn what they live. Another point, is home-life environment--is it peaceful, is it clean, happy, cheerful, is it organized, is it settled or confused, is it disrespectful. 4) Love your children! How do you show affection and love? Many people do not know how to show affection. But remember your child, both boys and girls, need not one parent but both parents; and generally the mother is the one who reflects this affection and shows affection to the child, while the father is generally concerned with providing its needs, of which affection is one which should come from him as well as the wife; remember your children need both parents. Affection should be a part of the daily needs. Play with your children, not on their level, of course, but in the spirit of a family; get to know your children, appreciate them for what they are and can do, encourage them, know where they are and what they are doing, and with whom they may travel or be in company of; be concerned about them,

purchase things for them, but do not overdo. Parents thirty years ago had more time than money, now days we buy in lieu of time. 5) Teach your children. Be tender and compassionate. By being tender and compassionate they can learn a lot. Spend time teaching day and night, remember Deut. 6:7. Unless a child is given the attention he needs you will have an underdeveloped mentally retarded child. We need fellowship with one another particularly with our children. 6) Punish your children in love--in Prov. 22:6 it speaks of training up a child, in Prov. 22:15 it says foolishness is bound in the heart of a child. Wisdom is foreseeing the result of actions. One must teach your child in order to replace the foolishness that is bound up in the heart of a child. There are many Proverbs-- 23:13, 19:18, 29:17. These are very good--Prov. 13:24, Heb. 12:5. Punishment is an investment of your time which will bring delight to the soul if administered in love, it teaches your child to become balanced. It also teaches him obedience, after all you are working with your creation, remember, too, punishment must be felt and do not let anger cloud your judgment. Also remember Eccl. 8:11, a prisoner left without immediate punishment justifies his actions. God does not necessarily give punishment speedily, but the automatic penalty of the law is there and it will eventually take its toll. Have you ever noticed an animal forbidden from doing something, then permitted to do it, vacillates, retracts, and then does the opposite, then retracts and then consents. If you have watched an animal where confusing instructions have been given you will note that when you speak he will begin to quiver all over, this is because he has become confused. Well, realize that children react in the same way. God is not inconsistent, He does not change, why should we? If you are going to punish your child then punish the child, but do so in love.

First, however, you had better examine yourself. Are your emotions under control, are you consistent. If not, then perhaps you have had your child too soon. Whatever you do, make your guidelines stable, clarify your instructions and commands. Be consistent with your child. Your orders must be clear cut. There's nothing more exasperating than vacillation. These principles of extremes might help. One tends to beget another--the pendulum is an example, being too hard then changing to be too soft. Emotions tend to require change. However, wrong emotions effect a child, causing confusion. Make your punishment fit the offense--fit the crime. Never spank a child into doing what you told him to do. Punish the child for disobedience. No one will make you do a thing. Use balance in the administering of corporal punishment. Ask the question, are you punishing him for his good or for your vanity? Am I teaching him for his good, or am I teaching him for my vanity, that I might brag about how well behaved he is in the presence of others? God's manner in dealing with us is how we should deal with our children. Men correct after our own pleasure, but God corrects to the edification of the child and to His glory. Read Heb. 12:10. What is ones purpose in correcting his child? Do you feel that you can mold conversion in him? A broken home produces children warped in personality. Here are some things that you should remember concerning a child one to two years of age:

Child rearing begins at birth. There are three things that you should be aware of that a child depends upon: Love, warmeth, and security. Child rearing begins with love. Its personality is formulated in two ways: Love and environment!

When does spanking begin? Other factors should come first! Teaching is one of them. You teach your child to eat and the basic rudiments

of life. Do not force the child to walk before his legs are able to bear his weight. They will know. The IQ of a child can be greatly improved by the parents, but there is another thing that you parents must realize. It is in Eph. 6:1-4. Never put off instruction along this line. The child should learn obedience to parents. Do we make it easy for children to obey and honor us? A child can be taught to listen, sleep, talk, and be quiet. But on the other hand the child could be too tired to sleep. These are some of the things which you must determine. Teach your child to be happy.

At ages two to six remember a child does not hold on to things as adults do. Lay the foundation for future communication at this age. Teach a child when to speak and when to be silent. Teach him how to participate in a conversation. Build their confidence in you as a parent, always have the answer to their questions. A child should be taught the basic fundamentals of the law at this age. The things to do at the proper time. Prov. 17:6 says the glory of children is their father's honor. In 16:31 it says the hoary head is a crown of glory to be found in righteousness.

Children From Age 6 to 12

At this age they should already be trained. If you have practiced the afore mentioned things, then the above should be a fact. Also, contrary to what most people believe, parents make the better teachers. Is this age too old to begin to teach the basics? No--not at all. With proper and right examples, it isn't too late. The example must be set before them. That is the difference. With the older child, what ever you attempt to teach him he is going to watch you to see whether you are practicing the same thing. If you are not, then realize that it will not penetrate.

Through ages 6 to 12 you continue to build a foundation of communication between you and your child. Talk with your children, formal talks accomplish very little. The child should not have to fear being measured, but talk to him while he is helping you mow the lawn, etc. Be interested in their school work. Remember they are rehearsing the things they are being taught and they have friends. Know them! Welcome them! Be aware of their conduct. Encourage conversation and solicit the same from your child. Learn the art of asking questions also. This is very good. Your child should be mentally alert. Make it easy for them to keep the fifth commandment, if you as a parent are not honorable, your child cannot respect you. Set the right example for him. A disorganized parent causes frustration in children and lack of respect. Keep improving yourself. Let your child see your growth. Don't be a hypocrite. If you say it, do it--if you believe it, say it.

The father must not vacillate, he must be the head of the house. The mother must be a feminine person and submissive to the father. Children lose respect for parents if the opposite condition exists. Remember every child has the example of his parents before him, whether that example is good or bad. Encourage affection by giving it. One should not feel fearful nor ashamed to show affection. A child cannot earn affection neither should parents demand it. It is not for sale. Your children are loved whether good or bad, and the child must feel that the parent loves him and that child should be loved at all times.

Establish a coach-student relationship between you and your child as in Prov. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7. Teach your child the basic principles of life.

Also work with him in practical things, such as gardening, farming, hunting, fishing, sports, cooking, sewing. Be the teacher, the coach. Continue to keep that right goal before them, remembering in Prov. 10:1 that a wise son makes a glad father. Take these principles and make them live, realizing that every boy wants to be the replica of his father, and a child lives up to what his father is. Use physical things for your children to strive to attain, however, don't set the goal in an impossible position for him to reach. Proverbs was written for children-- it has a human interest story that impresses a child. The child should be told about a goal to strive for and then place that goal within his reach. You know how your heart rejoices when you have obedient children. Set the right goal before the eyes of your child. Teach the child forgiveness. Never tell a child, "you are not good." Differentiate between the child and his wrong deed, teaching him that human nature is bad. Get the point across to him.

Your child will be delighted to know what Psalm 103 says. Do not build a false impression. Tell your child you love him, this is truth. Have him stand on his own foundation which is properly laid and review in his mind always the right goal for him.

Now At Ages 13 to 18

This is really an explosive age, and also realize this--unless you think about it and set about to change your ways you will rear that child as you were reared. What is a teenager any way? He is nothing but an immature man or woman, in the stage of maturing. These are problem years. They become aware of their bodies and sex. Generally, any

information along this line is gotten in a wrong way unless you go about to teach the right way. Remember both boy and girl become aware of the opposite sex at some time, and when they do they become self-conscious. To adjust socially is a major problem. Inferior feelings take place. Chemical changes occur--emotions are over played and character is forming. Questions now form in the mind of the child. In dealing with adults they can be told, but they must also see. Explanations are in order on a basis that the child can understand. Smaller children can be given a command to form good habits, but teens must now be convinced of the command which is given. Here again one must keep the proper goal ahead of them, and that of developing good character. Encourage him to strive for this. Proverbs 13:1 says, a wise son hears his father. Realize that once he believes on his own, then he understands. Keep your child's respect by treating him with respect, don't belittle or talk down to a child, but talk to him with courtesy. Watch your examples, and your words. Teens look for faults, problems, weaknesses, and mistakes. You must use the kind of examples that will impress him, show interest in his life and in his problems. They are very sensitive and feel inferior. They find solace with one who takes time with them. Display sincerity, integrity, and love with other attributes of right character. Gal. 5:22. If a parent is respectable, he will love you. If you honor him, he will honor you. But a parent must respect himself. When a teenager is disappointed in his parents he develops a hate for the person, whether mother or father. If he grows up seeing parents as people, this shows maturity. A child can honor the office of a parent, but hate the person. A father must be masculine and head of the home, a mother must be fem-

inine and submissive to the husband.

We must see a repentant attitude in the teenager in order for him to improve himself. The primary object being that with a repentant attitude and also one of wanting to do right, he develops that portion of his personality that will certainly be and make the right impression on all with whom he comes in contact. Mr. Armstrong remains young because of his attitude and being completely surrounded with young people.

Also teach him to cooperate with his parents at the same time you as a parent must cooperate with other parents. What do we mean by this? Well, one parent may ask another their opinion of his son or his daughter. Don't be offended when told of an infraction by your child or something that perhaps you have overlooked, and the other parent has readily observed. Neither be afraid to cooperate with other parents.

Communicate with your child. Have frank talks concerning sex and dates. Talk man to man with your boy--fathers. And mothers--talk woman to woman with your daughters. Work together with them exploring the mind of a child. You do not know what's on the mind of a child unless you can reach him through friendly conversations. Have various discussions about different subjects, encourage conversation, ask them questions to see and know their thoughts, don't be afraid to talk to your children. So many parents do not know their children, are you afraid of him or her? Don't be!!

In Proverbs 19:13, 27 are warnings of erratic, sensual happenings. Why has a son departed from his teaching, ask yourself that question. Have you failed--is your child a status symbol? These are some questions that we should ask.

Now we also should consider problems in child rearing.

Here are a few:

1. Problems of judgement and favoritism, not knowing how to rule or judge. Many times parents do not know how to discipline their children, or in our association with teenagers not knowing how to teach them to discipline themselves. Many parents become prejudice to one child and abuse the other. There are those parents whose children have stolen their heart and who reek undue favors upon that child.

2. Another problem that is very much enacted in our particular age is disagreement between parents over child rearing practices. Such as: When to spank the child; how hard to spank a child, or the husband may take the privilege away from the wife of correcting or spanking the child. These differences should be worked out privately, but many times, arguments take place in the presence of the child. This should and can be worked out privately, arriving at an agreement and then both recognizing the promises made to each other.

3. Reticence, lacking in personality. A child is swayed by a strong personality, and if the mother has the stronger then that child is swayed by the mother. Also if the child cannot see improvement in the parent this can cause a great deal of frustration in the child.

Now we should search ourselves to see if proper methods of child rearing are being used. Do tight financial budget hurt a child? No! Remember we can give our children too much and ruin their moral values. This is just a part of some of the things we might consider and are of very much importance to us in child rearing.

ADVENTURE OF MARRIAGE

Mammals suckle the breast. The mammary glands are found in a woman only. In Genesis 1:26, God said let us make man in our image, in the image of God then created He man, male and female created He them. In Genesis 2:20 we find that after Adam was created there was no help found suitable for him, and so God made woman out of the flesh of man, and she is the mother of us all.

Marriage has spiritual characteristics, faithfulness, self-control, gentleness, and all of this goes to make and form joy in body as well as in the mind. Self-control brings kindness, patience, and makes one a peacemaker. Gentleness provides trustworthy attitudes, a giving attitude where the golden rule is applied. In joy, as Proverbs 5:15 says, rejoice with the wife of ones youth; in Eccl. 9:9 this principle is also found. Live joyfully with the wife whom you love. Many spiritual aspects govern ones marriage, because marriage is a spiritual thing. However, the world puts the emphasis on the physical; but being spiritual marriage brings on an absolute companionship, its a work-a-day relationship -- a day by day grind. It isn't all sex, as many of our youngsters of this age are finding out.

Marriage is like a new born child -- its weak at the beginning, its not an assemblage of many different parts, but it develops daily. Another thing which is very important for us to know is that one cannot dissolve a marriage.

Married love has a quality of exhibiting God's love and an unsuccessful marriage cannot teach children about God.

Another thing, many girls seem to see some boy whom they pity very much, and will go as far as marrying that person out of pity. This is a gross error. No one should marry out of pity. Marriage based on pity is a sure road of unhappiness. Also where there is no physical attraction there is no marriage. No one should ever marry anyone who is unstable, or who does not care to share in things held most dear. Neither should one marry in hope of improving your marriage as time goes on. For example: a woman might marry for security, not loving the man, not seeing anything where she can really say, I love him because of this or I love him because of that. But knowing that she will have security, she will marry him in hopes of the relationship improving later on. This is a gross error. Many have found this out too late to rectify. Adam and Eve had not the problem we face today. When one is committed to marriage, that's it! Sometimes we see in people something that really is not there, this is infatuation. What ^{we} are doing is projecting our desires into the other person. Remember the story of Sampson and Deliah. Here is where Sampson made a very bad mistake. You can see the things that he knew and desired in a woman, he imagined he saw in Deliah. Ask oneself the question, are we in love? What characteristics could we point out to find or to determine whether we are or not? Do you like to talk about various subject when together? Is there a never ending conversation? Is it interesting and enjoyable being together, playing golf, checkers, swimming, or driving a car? Is there a mutual respect for one another, or just a casual acquaintance? What has gained your attention? What has gained your attraction? Is there sex appeal -- not so much as to think of nothing else. You must have the proper attitude, the right attitude and it must be good. How about respect and concern for each other, mentally, socially, culturally. Is there admiration? Do you have the idea that no one will treat them as you will?

Steps Leading To Engagement

These steps should be positive. Once engaged you should not shop for another. Also prolonging the time before marriage only brings on a feeling of being free. Your engagement should be long enough to finish up details, such as planning getting together the things that are necessary to do before the marriage. Studying the ceremony, and know what it means. This is very very important and necessary. In this particular area, one should with a minister work out some of these details. You should notify the mate whether you are a virgin or not, girls as well as boys. After all there could be something that might be questionable a little later. Make final all marriage plans. Do not neck, pet, nor should you be alone. Also don't make an idol of one another.

Facets Of Marriage

A wifes failings are a reflection of her husband. A wife can contribute much to the home environment. It is conceivable that each affects the other. Now, of course, if she is a bar fly she can't expect to keep her husband at home. Ask the question, what failings of mine have contributed to the failings in the mate.

A wife and a husband both should be courteous and thoughtful toward one another, this is essential to the success of day-time marriages. You may have the thought, how will others interpret my actions? What impressions may my actions leave? Being married in day-time requires courtesy and thoughtfulness and these are two areas which we must consider.

Cleanliness is a very important facet to marriage, a slob or a slobess are irritating and intolerable, very discouraging to both if they are not neat and clean.

Personal grooming, body odor in either is terribly offensive.

A sloven posture, being dirty, or uncouth. Try to be as attractive as you can be. A woman's posture and over weight could be the means of driving her husband from her.

Then there is the area of annoying habits. Certain things bother people, grate the nerves. Watch for little things. One must be prepared to be asked to change certain habits. Would you be willing to change? If it annoys your mate, be willing to change.

Marriage And Friends

One will have many friends. Ideal friendship will be between married couples. This is good and should present the least problems. Besides, each has their personal friends of the same sex. A man may have his "pal," where a woman has her "girl friend." But their personal friends should not be used to spite each other. People who spend more than one or two evenings a week away from his or her mate is ruining the marriage. Don't run down or malign your mate. The most difficult type of friendship is one of the opposite sex. Married man and a single woman. This can be detrimental, really explosive. There is always an erotic tendency which creates tension in a situation of this type. A tension that cannot be seen, but still is there. A man must be aware of appearances--this is very very important.

Day-Time Marriage--In-Laws

The scripture states that a man shall leave home on becoming married. Parents love to cleave to their children. The in-laws do have a tendency to be too close. However, 300 miles from both parents would mean

a safe distance. Remember also that in-laws come with marriage--their influence is life lasting, its part of the package. Always be friendly--win their respect and friendship. You are the newcomer, you are the one who is joining up. Be yourself, bend over backwards if need be, join them, conform to the family, like them--treat them as your parents. Whatever name you choose to use, do with respect. If you wish to call her mom (you men) call her mom. Do so with respect. If, however, there is a relationship on a first name basis forsake that particular approach when you are out in public. Whatever name you choose to use, why, do it with respect. Never criticize. You create friction between you (that is between husband and wife). Husband--never criticize the wifes mother, your mother-in-law. When you do, realize it will cause friction between you and your wife. Familiarity widens the breach and she will resent very much your criticism of her mother. Running down a relative brings ruin--it makes a bad rupture. Marriage is like a rope, a fiber broken weakens that rope. The opposite is true also, in a wife criticising her husbands parents. Never discuss the problems with your wife, or between your wife and yourself with her mother. This is not good. Go to a minister--its the only exception. Only in counsel can you discuss your wifes or husbands weaknesses or problems. That is what a minister is for. You will hurt yourself if you discuss the problems of your mate with someone else. When people bring problems of their mate to you, refer them to the minister. Only emphasize the positive sides and the good when talking about one another. Emotions are very sensitive. They are nerve centers. Learn to adapt to customs of the family. Do whatever you can to maintain respect of your in-laws, remembering that this will affect your children as well for them to hear certain discussions concerning the in-laws.

Family Arguments

You are going to have them! Yes! Lets discuss some ways of solving them. The basic problem of all arguments for the most part is selfishness and a lack of conversion. One becomes emotional and emotionally disturbed. There is generally a lack of communication and then misunderstandings result. It could involve money, or sex, or many other things. But they do arrive. One may have a prudish wife or husband, but try to have a healthy sense of humor. Whatever the argument or disagreement may be, there is always a way of solving the problems.

Family Finances

This can be a source of much trouble. Remember the sweetest lips must be fed, and so this must be taken into consideration. The principle a penny saved is more than one earned is a good one. Remember also that there should be no impulsive buying. Wives--learn how to shop correctly, know why there are certain things facing you as you walk into a supermarket. The market manager knows his business--he knows exactly how to lure you into buying, something that perhaps many times you do not need. Remember he is planning on you spending more than you had planned to spend. And he is also appealing to one of the major weaknesses of all people. But, if you have a certain amount to spend and you are not tricked by buying somethings that you see and really do not need, you are going to save many a disagreement. A successful budget depends on the compatibility of the two people, both husband and wife, to cooperate and wait for a good price.

Responsibilities Of The Husband

A husband must have and be an article of faith. He must have spiritual love and be able to present it. He should be considerate of his wife, who is very timid and feminine. He should be able to take charge-- not a brute, nor a Mr. Milk Toast, not going about taking charge in a cave-man style. Consider that she is a help to you and a design for you. Man is a central figure of the home. Another point, learn how to correct your wife, how and when. Private discussions are best, correction does not have to be severe. Correction is a change that does not always include punishment. It is a form of education, and to correct in anger could and would involve the emotions. Correction is teaching how to do the right way. One must be careful in correcting when emotions are aroused. As we said before; it does not mean punishment. The two words are not synonymous. Correction is a form of education. Do so without being harsh, showing how to do a thing, using instruction, but not in anger. A woman is much more tender than a man, and she bruises very easily. Her feelings are also tender. In correcting think of how God serves the church. Do not correct in public. Learn how to compliment her for something done well. Many times complimenting and praising her is a good way of correcting her. Communicate with your wife, set a time for talking things over, keep her appraised of your plans. Keeping close contact with one another. Communication is a two way street. Be careful about the tone of your voice--this can make a big difference even with animals. Another point, little things mean a lot. If you like it, say so, cooking, dress, home, she goes out of her way to do these things for you, so when it is done well, praise her. Give her gifts. Don't wait until there is

a certain occasion to do so, but do so as you think of these things. Take her dancing, tell her you love her. Being romantic keeps marriage renewed, and not just for the purpose of sex. Another point, be faithful to her even in your own mind. Matthew 6:27-28. After marriage a man will still see attractive women. She must realize this. Encourage her to be herself. Develop her mind and character. Though your wife, she is still someones daughter--remember this. Help her to continue developing talents which her parents helped to develop at home. Don't try to change them to your pattern. You liked her for her personality--why change it now. Be willing to seek counsel of your wife--use the good ideas that she can give you. Marriage and love begin about the same way, through rose colored glasses, but we look more closely after marriage than before with the idea of criticizing. It is very possible for women to violate Matthew 6:28. Encourage her to be herself. Seek her counsel, the wife should have input in all things. Let her be a help to you, to augment, to add, to assist. You will be a better man by what is said. Another point, she will be what you want her to be, she was designed to help, remember! You must tell her what you like and what you want to see. She will be what you want her to be, encouragement is a great part of marriage, the difference between a pessimist and an optimist--a pessimist is in a rut and an optimist is in the groove. Women will be very sensitive to a man's likes as well as his dislikes.

How To Be A Better Wife

Eph. 5:22, the scripture says to submit to husband as the church submits to Christ. Women need guidance, husband will react accordingly. Women fit into your husbands plans, be submissive, two cannot be successfully married except they agree, she must fit in with the overall plan. Do not

abdicate from thinking. There is a time and a place to correct a woman. A wife must help her husband. Both need one another to be capable of handling the home. Carry out his wishes as you know he wants it done. Reflect his glory, help him develop his own mind, encourage him and inspire him. Both suffer from feelings of inferiority. Some husbands become very much irritated and abdicate from the role of leadership and handling responsibilities. He may also turn those responsibilities over to the wife, and become domineered and feel inferior to her. Then the wife adopts the same custom and finds fault with her husband. Most husbands fear criticism by the wife. Criticism is pointing out a fault without giving a suitable solution. Don't nag! Criticism and nagging are two ways a wife expresses herself against certain demands. Give her the right praise. Wives give him the right praise. Husbands, should be aware that this is an area where most do not conform, but each should compliment the other. Wives be sexually affectionate. Another point, be sympathetic to his problems, listen to him and then encourage him, do not do so however, if he is wrong. Keep the house and yourself neat and clean. Don't push your husband to act or be more important than he is. Live at standards your husband can afford. Recognize God's authority in your home, learn to submit to the authority God has placed in the home. Share your husband's life by learning to participate in his desires and likes. Wives can become jealous of other men too. But give him some freedom--don't be overly possessive.