

APRIL-MAY 1987

The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

1
Coming Out
of the
World?

2
Simplifying
Your
Life?

Are
you

3
Preparing
to
Teach?

4
Emphasizing
the
Family?

The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

APRIL-MAY 1987

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COVER: The time for this world's society is drawing very short! This issue focuses on four major areas of Christian living that every one of God's people must now emphasize in his or her personal life.

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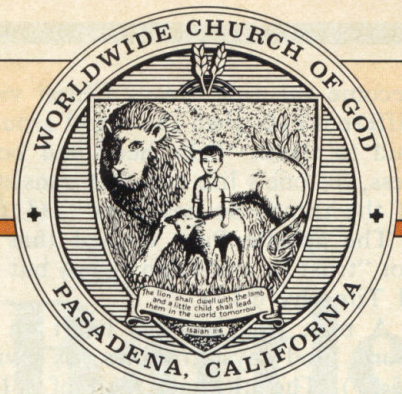
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Four Great Mandates

For the last seven years of his life, the late editor-in-chief of this magazine, Herbert W. Armstrong, often emphasized three major areas of Christian living. I have called these “the three mandates.” But I wonder how many have truly taken them to heart!

One of the failings of human nature, it seems, is forgetfulness. All the finest, most valuable and important instruction in the world is of no use at all unless it is *put to use*. Let’s take time in this special issue of *The Good News* to review these three fundamental areas of Christian conduct, along with one more great mandate I feel now needs to be emphasized.

1.

COME OUT OF THE WORLD

The first area, or mandate, as I have called it, is to *come out of the world*. This is probably the most basic of all Christian instruction. Yet how difficult it is to do!

We live in a world that has rejected God as having any final authority over men’s lives. It is a world based on the way of GET, of selfishness and pride — a world living in direct opposition to God’s way of GIVE.

God is love (I John 4:8). His commandments define godly love. The apostle John wrote: “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” (I John 5:3).

But God’s commandments are not terribly popular in today’s world. They are considered “old fashioned,” “moralistic,” “restrictive” or “inhibiting.” It is often considered self-righteous or moralizing even to talk about keeping God’s commandments.

Yet in a prophecy about the final judgment of the end-time Babylon, we are told, “And I heard another voice from heaven saying, ‘Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues’” (Revelation 18:4).

God calls upon His people, those who earnestly

desire to serve Him, to *come out* of the way of life that the rest of the world is following. And understand — you have to be in something in order to come out of it. God calls us while we are yet sinners. “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

But when He calls us, God tells us to stop sinning — to stop living the way the world around us does. We are to begin keeping His commandments. We are to evaluate our values, our habits, our conduct and our thinking in the light of God’s Word. We are to change those areas of our lives that don’t reflect His values and instruction.

This does *not* mean to hide from the world in some mountain cave. No, we have to live *in* the world. But God tells us to stop living *like* the world (John 17:15-16).

Those who desire to obey God must evaluate their personal involvement in the things of this world that are contrary to His law. Dress, entertainment, conversation, friendships, hobbies, employment, even attitudes and values can be good or bad, right or wrong, depending on whether they are based on God’s law, or not.

“Does my life reflect God’s Word, or does it reflect this world?” is a question we each need to ask ourselves. And we must *change* where necessary.

The second mandate Mr. Armstrong emphasized

2.

SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE

is to *simplify your life*. The quest for material success has become an all-consuming goal for many in our industrialized Western world. Burning desire for more possessions, more money, better cars, better homes, better clothing and a

more “glamorous” life-style has robbed people of many of the *real values* of life — a happy marriage, happy children, profitable friendships and the joy of serving others.

The reckless pace our self-oriented society demands often produces only greater stress — physical, emotional and mental. Peace of mind becomes increasingly hard to find. Frustration and anxiety

become the rule. Jesus Christ viewed life through different eyes than the world around Him. "And He said to them, 'Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses'" (Luke 12:15).

The apostle Paul warned that Christians should not "trust in uncertain riches but in the living God" (I Timothy 6:17).

A man who sets his heart on *getting* more and more, God says, troubles his own house (Proverbs 15:27). The ultimate fruit of a life devoted to the pursuit of pleasure and gain is bitter fruit indeed.

The third concept Mr. Armstrong focused upon in his final years is to *prepare to become teachers*. The ultimate responsibility of those God calls and trains in this physical life is found in Revelation 20:6: "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second

death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

God is preparing those whom He calls His "first-fruits" (James 1:18) to reign with Christ over all the nations when Christ returns to establish God's Kingdom. How important it is, then, for those whose minds God has opened to understand His plan (I Corinthians 2:9-12) to be *learning* of Him so that they will be skilled in the things of God!

Jesus said in Matthew 11:29, "Take My yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Learning the way of God takes not only study, but *practice!* It is a *way of life!* Jesus Christ set an example that is to be *followed*, not just talked about! He *lived* His Father's commandments.

In His sermon on the mount, Jesus spoke of the attitude a Christian should have toward God's way: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6).

The apostle Peter admonished those who call themselves Christians to *grow* in the grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18). Growth comes by both study (II Timothy 2:15) and by plain old *experience!* You have to put into practice what you learn. God tells us to be *doers* of the Word, not forgetful *hearers* only (James 1:22).

Only in this way will a Christian be prepared for the awesome responsibilities Jesus Christ will place on each one when He returns to establish the government of God to rule all nations.

There is a fourth major area I feel needs to be added to these three. I sum it up in three words: *Emphasize the family*. The family is the building block of society. But family life is breaking down today. Divorce rates are at an all-time high. The last decade has seen a dramatic

3.

PREPARE TO TEACH

4.

EMPHASIZE THE FAMILY

increase in the number of single-parent families. More and more people are simply deciding never to marry. And strife *within* families, between husband and wife, and parents and children, is an ever-growing social problem.

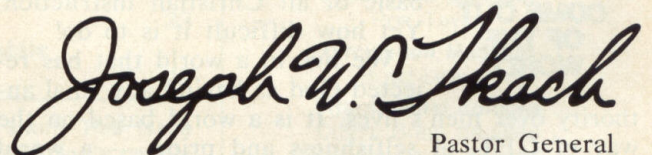
God uses the marriage relationship as a type of the relationship between Christ and the Church. Marriages *can* be happy. They *can* reflect the genuine love that exists between Christ and the Church. Children *can* be a blessing, rather than a curse.

The Creator has given mankind His Word as the guide to human relationships. Those who put His ways into practice find that they *do work!*

God has made available through His Church today several tools by which those who desire to serve Him can learn more about Him and His way. This magazine, *The Good News*, contains articles about Christian living and Bible-study topics each issue. In addition, the Church publishes a number of booklets on various Bible topics, as well as the monthly *Plain Truth* magazine and the in-depth Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. Further, the weekly *World Tomorrow* television program is available in many areas around the world.

God has made available an enormous wealth of righteous instruction available free for the asking. But as I explained at the beginning of this "Good News Personal," all of it is of no real value at all unless it is *put to use*.

How about you? Are you a forgetful hearer only? Or are you like the wise man Jesus described in Matthew 7:24-25? "Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."



Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

The Good News will be published every other month beginning with this issue. Readers will receive six issues of the *Good News* magazine each year instead of 10 as in past years.

You will find *The Good News* will continue to give you information you can get nowhere else. No other magazine is quite like it.

If you like what you see in *The Good News* and you are interested in an even more detailed, in-depth study of the Bible, why not request the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course? The Correspondence Course will be sent free — no subscription cost to you at all.

Who Is Winning the Battle for Your Mind?

Are you overcoming the world? Or is the world overcoming you?

By Clayton D. Steep

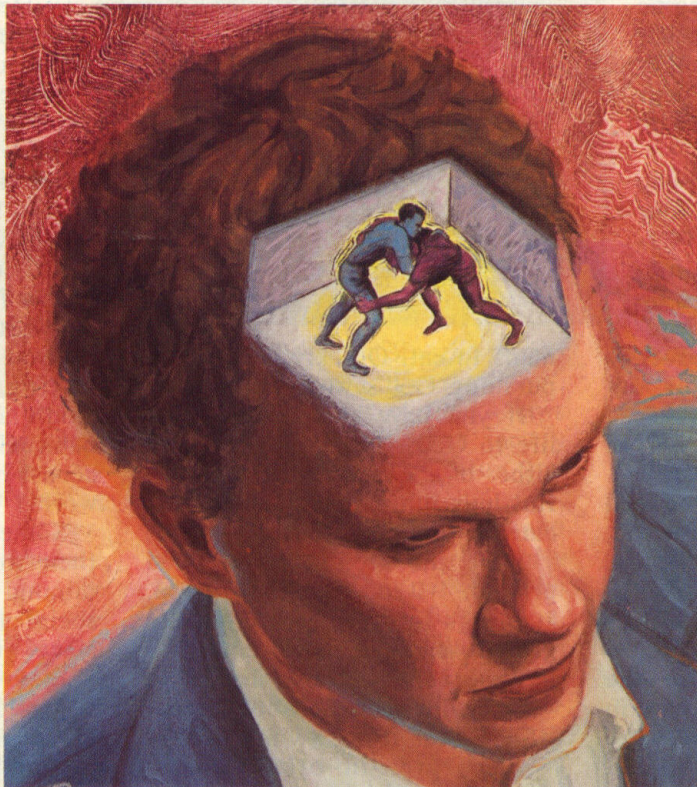
The evening before His execution, Jesus victoriously announced, "I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

The next day, standing before Pilate, Jesus declared, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36).

What did He mean by "world"? What is the "world" Christians are instructed not to love (I John 2:15), the "world" they are to overcome by faith (I John 5:4-5)?

What is the "world"?

When the Bible uses the word *world* in the sense of something that must be overcome, it is not referring to the physical planet Earth. Rather, the "world" in



that sense is the present system of society and civilization. The "world" is the collective result of the activities of errant humanity over the last nearly 6,000 years

— ever since the first humans rebelled against God.

Statements in the Bible leave no doubt that "the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one" (I John 5:19). Satan "deceives the whole world" (Revelation 12:9). He — the great adversary — is the author of the system we see around us.

Look at it. Wars, crime, violence, suffering, greed, corruption, dishonesty, sickness, depression. It is an evil, oppressive system. It is not God's world. It is not God's society, not His civilization. Anyone who seeks a close relationship with the world "makes himself an enemy of God," declared the apostle James (James 4:4).

No wonder Jesus said of His true followers, "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the

Illustration by Kirk Botero

world" (John 17:16). Jesus was *in* the world, but He was not *of* it. He did not partake of its evil ways, concepts, traditions. He stayed clean. So must we.

One of the Bible definitions of "pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this . . . to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27). Let's get a better idea of what this means.

The sower and the seed

One day an immense multitude gathered to hear Jesus speak. It was one of the largest crowds Jesus ever addressed. A throng of such size must have included a good cross section of society of that day: rich and poor, pompous and humble, skeptics, curiosity seekers, repentant sinners, conniving enemies.

Jesus knew that of all those in the audience, only some would benefit from His teachings. Only a limited number would understand and bear spiritual fruit. Why? Listen to what He said.

Jesus grouped those who hear the truth of God into four general categories (Mark 4:1-9, 13-20). You yourself fit into one of these four categories. So does every other person reading this magazine right now. To illustrate His point, Jesus described what happens to seed when a farmer scatters it on the earth.

In the first category, some seed (representing, in this comparison, the Word of God) falls in areas where it doesn't ever sprout. Such is what happens when people hear God's Word, but show no interest at all. Certainly the majority of people on earth are in this group. Their minds just are not fertile ground to receive and comprehend the Word of God at this time.

In the second case, some seed falls on rocky ground with very thin soil. It sprouts, but quickly withers when faced with adversity. Many individuals who hear

or read for the first time in their lives what God's Word really says are immediately interested. They find it thrilling to learn, for example, that God is working out a purpose here on earth, that Jesus is coming back to this earth, that prophecy can be understood. Very exciting.

Then, however, they come across a basic piece of knowledge that interferes with the way they wish to live now. For instance, they discover that some popular holidays are of pagan origins, or find that some commonly eaten foods were not created for hu-

Satan — the great adversary — is the author of the system we see around us. Jesus was in the world as a human being, but He didn't partake of its evil ways, concepts, traditions. He stayed clean. So must we.

mans to eat. Quickly, interest in pursuing God's way dies out.

If you have surrendered your life to God, you do not fall into either of the first two categories. But let's jump ahead and look at category number four.

Here the seed falls on good ground. Its roots go down deep. It brings forth vigorous, healthy growth and yields a bountiful harvest. Here, declared Jesus, are "those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit" (Mark 4:20).

They are, in other words, Christians who are growing in grace and knowledge (II Peter 3:18). They are actively seeking God's will in their lives. They are becoming ever stronger and more in tune with their Creator.

Don't we all want to fit into

that category? But wait! There is the third category — one that demonstrates a danger to us all.

Growth that becomes choked

Jesus gives no indication that there is anything wrong with the soil this seed in the third category falls on. The seed sprouts and takes root. It begins to grow.

The problem is that undesirable, thorny plants are allowed to grow along with it. And, as weeds and plants of that nature usually do, the thorny plants grow more readily than the good plants.

They take over the space, rapidly choking out the growth from the good seed.

What are those thorns? Listen carefully, for they represent a mortal threat to your Christian development. If they are not weeded out of your life, they put your very salvation in jeopardy!

Here's what Jesus said those thorns are: "the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things" (Mark 4:19). They all involve a Christian's relationship with the world. Any of them can render a Christian's life unfruitful.

Let's go over them again.

● *The cares of this world.*

What fills your mind most? Do you spend a lot of time meditating on God's Word and God's laws? Or are such thoughts habitually crowded out by concerns having to do with this world?

Some people devote most of their mental processes to maintaining business relationships or social involvements. Some are slaves to the upkeep of their homes, yards and cars.

Modern life can become so complicated. Material possessions accumulate. So does clutter. The more one has, the more one has to take care of. It seems there is a constant need to run here and there, to shop or run errands, to repair this or that.

Before one knows it, the day flies by and there has been little

time to devote to seeking God. We all too easily lose Him in a maze of worldly cares.

Christians are supposed to be fighting a spiritual warfare. "Onward, Christian soldiers," goes a popular hymn. Yet the Bible warns, "No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life" (II Timothy 2:4).

This is not to say all material concerns are wrong. We are physical beings. We have physical duties and responsibilities. But most of us have entangled ourselves more deeply than we need to. Most of us have involvements we can eliminate and others we can simplify.

"Life is frittered away with details . . . simplify, simplify," a famous author once wrote. There is more information on this vital subject in this issue of *The Good News*. Be sure to read everything carefully.

● *The deceitfulness of riches*. "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses," Christ warned (Luke 12:15). Yet so many act as though it does. It is more important to them to try to keep up with the Joneses than it is to try to keep up with Jesus. They regularly neglect Bible study and prayer.

It seems so essential to hold down an extra job, to pursue various time-consuming enterprises, to spend one's mental energy dreaming up new profit-making schemes. And for what? To perhaps gain a few extra riches — deceitful riches, because they appear to be permanent but in reality they don't last. "Do not overwork to be rich," the Bible admonishes, "... for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle toward heaven" (Proverbs 23:4-5).

It is not wrong to have wealth, but the question is, How much of our time and energy do we expend striving to obtain it? We must put first things first, for "what will it profit a man if he

gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

● *The desires for other things*. This is the quest for something new, something novel, titillating and entertaining — for the "pleasures of life," as Jesus said (Luke 8:14).

It is not sinful to enjoy pleasures that conform to God's principles. But even wholesome physical pleasure is misused if it chokes out of one's life Bible study, prayer and seeking the Kingdom of God.

How much more is it wrong, then, to fill one's attention with

Before one knows it, the day flies by and there has been little time to seek God. He is lost in a maze of worldly cares. What is it in your life that chokes out Bible study, prayer and seeking the Kingdom of God?

pleasures based on sin, the breaking of God's laws? Few realize it, but the breaking of God's laws underlies most of what society holds to be fashionable, fun and entertaining.

It is all so clearly reflected and emphasized in the world's magazines, movies, music, radio and television. Lust, fornication, adultery, murder, profanity, dishonesty — it's all there in abundant proportions. It is like quicksand, sucking a person into the thick of it so that before one knows what has happened, he or she is all wrapped up in some unrighteous idea, theme or plot.

Can a Christian really afford to allow such rubbish from a God-forsaking world to fill his or her mind while the Bible — the

clean, pure, refreshing Word of life — collects dust on some nearby shelf? Hardly.

Where to start

When Jesus said, "I have overcome the world" (John 16:33), He fully realized that very shortly He was going to be overpowered, beaten, tormented and finally crucified. But He wasn't talking about physical combat. He was referring to a victory of the spirit, the heart, the mind.

The place for you to begin overcoming the world is in your mind — your thoughts. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed" — how? — "by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). That is the key.

It requires receiving and being led by God's Holy Spirit — God's mind. "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, [set their minds on] the things of the Spirit" (Romans 8:5).

Can a person have his mind set on the things of the Spirit while he is mentally absorbed in some television program or some piece of music saturated with fornication, murder, lust and other ungodly themes?

No, it is not possible for the human mind to be set on both extremes at the same time, just as a room cannot be filled with light and darkness at the same time. It is for that very reason Romans 8:5 points out that one's mind is set either on things of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) or things of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21) — of the world.

Again, we are commanded, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2).

A struggle is taking place for your time, your thoughts, your involvement. Like noxious thorns, the influences of the world are seeking to overpower your mind and choke out your chance for eternal life. Are you gaining the upper hand? □

1.
COME OUT
OF THE
WORLD

TIME TO FLEE!

Christians are told that they must remain in the world, and yet not be part of it. But just how far should you go in avoiding the world's ways?

By Philip Stevens

Joseph had proved himself to be a hard worker. Even though his brothers sold him into slavery, he still applied God's laws about diligent service (Ecclesiastes 9:10, Ephesians 6:5-6).

Joseph's Egyptian master, Potiphar, rewarded the young Hebrew by placing him in authority over all the other household servants, a position that brought Joseph into frequent contact with Potiphar's wife.

On more than one occasion, Potiphar's wife made advances that would have tempted any red-blooded young man. Joseph, however, considered God's commands more attractive than the body of this Egyptian woman, and instead of heeding her alluring words, Joseph ran as fast as he could away from the enticing situation.

Joseph didn't want to stay around to see how well he could resist the temptation. He knew

that he must, at all costs, avoid any situation that might lead to sin.

Overriding principle

When Paul tells us that we must "flee fornication" (I



Corinthians 6:18, King James Bible), he is stating a principle that applies to all aspects of God's law, not just those with sexual overtones. Whether the temptation is to steal, murder, covet or break any facet of God's spiritual law, we must put as much space as possible between us and the troublesome situation.

It is crucial to coming out of

this world! And since it is better to prevent the temptation from arising in the first place than to try to extract ourselves once the difficulty has occurred, we should be aware of the various factors that contribute to those potentially dangerous — spiritually speaking — situations.

Four main areas

Here, then, are four main areas we need to consider if we are to follow Paul's admonition to "flee" from the face of sin.

• *Avoid a wrong environment.* When the Israelites entered the promised land, they were given instructions concerning its inhabitants: "But of the cities of these peoples which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance, you shall let nothing that breathes remain alive, but you shall utterly destroy them... as the Lord your God has commanded you" (Deuteronomy 20:16-17).

But Israel failed to follow orders: "And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites under tribute, but did not completely drive them out" (Judges 1:28). See also verses 29-33. Then, as a direct

Joseph chose to obey God, not lustful desires. Fleeing sin is crucial to our coming out of the world!

result of the influence of those pagan nations around them, "The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord... and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger" (Judges 2:11-12).

Israel put itself in a wrong en-

vironment. The temptations of the heathen practices around them proved too great for the people to withstand.

In our daily lives we must come into contact with the world. We meet its people, read its newspapers and view its films and television. Yet drawing too close to any of these aspects of society will, eventually, cause wrong influences to rub off on us.

This is the devil's world. He has fashioned all its ways. Therefore, we must carefully consider the kind of environment in which we spend time.

● *Avoid the appearance of evil.* God's ministry has long followed the policy that visits to homes where a woman will be alone should only be undertaken when a second person can go along, too. Not only does this conform to the pattern set by Jesus Christ Himself for visiting (Luke 10:1), it also follows Paul's instruction in I Thessalonians 5:22 to "abstain from all appearance of evil" (KJB).

Having such ground rules is a safeguard for both the woman and the Church. Even though no unbecoming conduct occurs between a lone minister and a woman, neighbors can spread malicious gossip. Both parties could easily become the victims of tarnished reputations.

It follows, therefore, that Christian men and women should apply similar principles in all aspects of their lives. For example, there may be times when a married Church member has to entertain a person of the opposite sex at a business lunch. Under such a circumstance it might be better to take along a colleague, so that no misunderstandings over the occasion can occur.

Under this same heading we might include acts that cause offense to others. Concerning those who were vegetarians, Paul wrote: "But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. Let not then your good be evil spoken of"

(Romans 14:15-16, KJB). The principle is clear: It is often better to avoid an action that another might construe as sin.

● *Avoid certain people.* As members of God's Church, we must be friendly, helpful and courteous. Yet for our own protection and for the eternal good of those involved, there are certain individuals with whom we should have no contact.

In some extreme cases, the Church is forced to mark such individuals (Romans 16:17-18).

Being around people who criticize the Church, who bad-mouth the ministry or who question doctrine is not conducive to Christian growth. It is easy to listen to negative comments and soon become ensnared in a wrong attitude ourselves.

Romans 14:1 tells us not to receive those who are weak in the faith if doing so will cause us to doubt.

We must be careful about associating with certain people: "But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner — not even to eat with such a person . . . Therefore 'put away from yourselves that wicked person'" (I Corinthians 5:11, 13).

Why would any of God's people want to be in constant, close association with people who show by their conduct that they are especially hostile to God's law and way of life?

● *Avoid godless talk.* Jesus Christ said that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45). Obviously, lies and misuse of God's name should not form part of a Christian's communication, but our responsibility for our words goes further.

Many people in this world delight in telling "blue" jokes or smutty stories. This is not the Christian way to use your tongue. "But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you . . .

neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting . . . For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret" (Ephesians 5:3-4, 12).

We need to choose our words carefully. When we speak, it should always be to the profit or edification of the listener.

Replace evil with positive action

These four main areas cover the negative side of life. We must be aware of the pitfalls of following such ways.

However, to end on a positive note, it is worth remembering that each of these four points does have a counterpart — a correct action we should practice.

For example, we should spend time in an uplifting environment. Being close to the wonder and beauty of God's creation is an inspiring experience. Trees, flowers, animals, even the stars, remind us of the constructive power of God.

When we give of our time in service to others, this creates a good appearance and causes God's Church to have a good name (Matthew 5:14-16).

Spending time with solid, positive, humble members of God's Church will produce the proper kind of personal relationships with the right people (Malachi 3:16, Proverbs 27:17).

And finally, a careful choice of words can encourage and promote wholesome conversations between individuals who care for each other and for God's way (Proverbs 25:11).

Having examined these four areas of our lives, we need to consider our responses as we face such situations. Are we putting a wide safety margin between us and dubious encounters? Or, on the other hand, are we anxious to remain as close as possible to this world, perhaps actually breaking God's law as we do so?

Joseph knew how he should respond. He fled from dangerous situations.

Do we? □

2.

SIMPLIFY
YOUR
LIFE

Prepare to Greatly Reduce Your Standard of Living!

By Herbert W. Armstrong

At the beginning of the 1980s, the late Herbert W. Armstrong published this eye-opening article as an advance warning for readers. The information is even more important now, as world economic conditions grow ever more uncertain. We republish it now, updated. This knowledge must be a central focus for all of God's people as we strive to simplify our lives.

It's time you knew the real meaning of the continuing financial crisis in the world.

There is far more to all this economic concern than appears on the surface. Its roots even penetrate into ancient history and biblical prophecy. Where are the United States and British nations mentioned in Bible prophecy? What is prophesied about these very conditions?

What does it all really mean? What does it portend for the relatively immediate future?

Those of us in the United States have enjoyed the most prosperous living standard of any

nation in all the history of mankind. There is a reason for this unmatched prosperity. There also is a reason for the present abnormal economic conditions and the continuing fear in financial and government circles that the West may well be in the beginning of a most severe debt crisis.

A number of times I have published an analysis of the real causes of economic distresses in the United States and elsewhere in the world.

But now the stranglehold of economic distresses is tightening around our necks. This trend is going to reach out and greatly reduce *your* standard of living, in the next few years.

Actually, what is happening to

us now is much more than purely economic causes and effects.

More than mere economic factors

I have written more than once about an incident in my personal experience that took place in early January, 1914. This was before most of our readers were born. But I was covering a significant event. I was then an editorial representative of America's largest trade journal. I was traveling, by train, of course, in those days, eastward in New York state from Buffalo. At Utica I received a telegram from our editors instructing me to catch the first train back to Detroit to interview Henry Ford.

Henry Ford was on banner

front-page headlines in that morning's newspapers. The Ford Motor Company had just come out with a sensational new \$5-a-day wage scale!

Don't laugh. Five dollars was a lot of money in 1914. My editors wanted me to cover this story and get all the facts in person.

In a sense, that was the beginning of the highest living standard ever enjoyed in any nation, although the American standard was already perhaps the world's highest. But with Henry Ford's sensational new wage scale, the U.S. living standard was to escalate to an all-time world peak.

I saw Mr. Ford, but learned that the whole new plan had been devised and was administered by John R. Lee, head of the sociological department.

"I understand you are now paying by far the highest wage scale in the automobile industry," I said to Mr. Lee.

He smiled. "On the contrary," he said, "we are paying the *lowest!*"

I was taken aback. "But isn't the union scale \$3.75 per 10-hour day?"

"Correct," he confirmed.

"And are you not now paying \$5 per day for only a nine-hour day?"

"Right again, but we don't figure what we *really* pay on that basis. We compute it on the basis of what we get for each dollar spent. You see, our sales volume is now great enough to enable us to install a new conveyor belt or assembly-line system of production. We take full advantage of the fact that fewer men can produce much *more* by machines than a great number of workmen by hand. We start each car at one end on a conveyor belt system. Each workman has to do his part as it passes him. This way we regulate the speed of production. Actually, we are now getting twice the man-per-day production for \$5 that our rivals get per man per day working one hour longer than our employees.

"That means," Mr. Lee contin-

ued, "that other manufacturers in our industry pay for two days \$7.50 for the same production we get in one nine-hour day for \$5. So we pay \$2.50 less per day for the same results as others pay in two 10-hour days!"

It was not long, however, until all motorcar manufacturers went on the assembly-line, mass-machine production system. Not only these, but all large manufacturers in the United States.

America offered her manufacturers a mass market for machine production. Other nations at that time — Britain, Russia and Japan, for example — did not

eted manufacturers' profits. But labor-union leaders were determined not to allow capital and management to keep all the vastly increased profits. The labor-union movement surged, even violently. Strikes everywhere sought to transfer the huge escalating profits into the hands of labor.

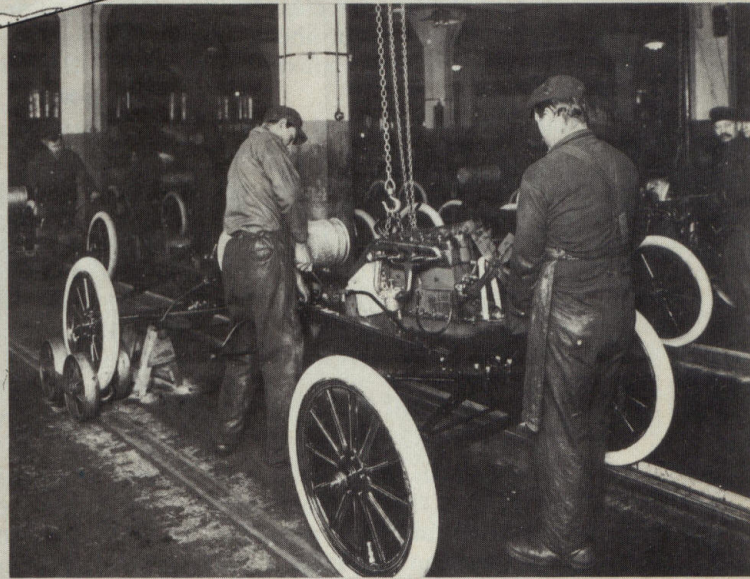
Industrial labor attracted a rapidly increasing population flow of the previously rural majority into the cities. This converted industrial labor into our primary consumer class.

Result? The U.S. standard of living rose to a height never

Photos courtesy Ford Motor Co.



Assembly lines at Ford Motor Co. in 1913. Mechanized mass production meant high profits, and U.S. standard of living skyrocketed. But there is a far more significant reason for U.S. and British prosperity, and for the plunge we are entering.



have mass markets. Two world wars have changed all that!

But in the meantime, beginning World War I, U.S. manufacturers, by this new wonder of mass-machine production, began producing much more per dollar cost. This abnormally skyrock-

known by any other nation in world history.

The labor-union movement did not materially affect other countries until more recently.

Britain's former dominance

Prior to World War I the

British Empire had risen to become the greatest in material wealth, and even in power, in all earth's history.

The world economic and power dominance began in both Britain and the United States around 1800. In those years the United States leaped, largely through the Louisiana Purchase, from its original 13-colony status to a major nation.

But Britain leaped into material greatness first. By 1804 London was the financial capital of the whole world. The British had gobbled up large parts of Africa and Asia, including India. They boasted that the sun never set on their empire.

But the top landed barons kept their vastly increasing wealth largely to themselves. Their wealth was not diffused among the lower classes. Until after World War I, a youth desiring a college education could not gain admission unless his father was university-educated. The class system in England kept the lower classes low. The upper class built great mansions, from about 20 rooms up to the great houses, like kings' palaces.

Today Britain has lost her empire, is no longer a major power like the United States and the U.S.S.R. Britain has been on the way down, in national wealth and power, since World War I.

And now the United States is STARTING TO FOLLOW on the downward path!

Our rise and fall has ancient roots

There is a far more important CAUSE behind the Anglo-American rise and fall than mass-machine production and labor-union action producing a greater diffusion of wealth.

There is a far greater CAUSE that is now starting in rapid descent to BRING DOWN YOUR PRESENT STANDARD OF LIVING.

It is true that even though Britain as a former world empire has *lost* her national greatness, yet today there is a moderately larger diffusion of what prosper-

ity they have left. British labor came to receive probably slightly more than half of America's present labor income. But Swiss, German, Swedish and other European living standards also rose markedly.

The real CAUSE, however, for the rise and fall of Britain and the United States dates back to centuries before Christ.

There is a far more significant reason — both for our Anglo-American ascendancy to the highest living standards ever enjoyed by any nations in earth's history, and our sudden PLUNGE we are now entering.

Few indeed realize that hundreds of years before Christ, God had made certain unbreakable and irrevocable PROMISES to the descendants of the patriarch Abraham. This has never been realized or proclaimed by "traditional Christianity."

Abraham is designated in the New Testament as the "FATHER of the faithful," since all of God's promises of salvation and eternal life through Christ were made to Abraham — and Jesus Christ was directly descended from Abraham.

But what not even theologians understand is that God made DUAL promises to Abraham. He made the promise of GRACE, to come through Abraham's descendant Jesus Christ — but, also, He made unbreakable promises of RACE, overlooked entirely by "traditional Christianity" and theological "scholars."

The promise God made to Abraham of GRACE was spiritual and individual (Galatians 3:16). But the promise of RACE was purely national and material. It is vital to the understanding of biblical prophecy to realize that God made also to Abraham promises of RACE — entirely separate from the spiritual promises of salvation and eternal life.

God said, "I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make NATIONS [plural] of you, and kings [more than one] shall come from you" (Genesis 17:6). Notice, these nations and kings

shall come *from* Abraham — physical generation, not spiritual regeneration.

"And I will establish My covenant between Me and you . . . in *their generations* [plural], for an everlasting covenant" (verse 7).

Cannot apply to Jews

This cannot apply *alone* to the Jews. The Jews have never been more than *one* nation.

God had put Abraham to the test. Abraham, *through* FAITH, obeyed God, even to being willing to sacrifice his only son. Then God made the covenant with Abraham UNCONDITIONAL.

A covenant is a contract — usually, as in this case, between two parties. One binds himself by contract to pay certain rewards IF the other performs certain conditions. But God made His covenant with Abraham UNCONDITIONAL — after Abraham had performed his part — fulfilling the CONDITION of obedience:

"By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing . . . in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore" (Genesis 22:16-17). These promises passed down through Isaac and Jacob.

Later the prophet Israel (Jacob) laid his hands on the two sons of Joseph, saying, "Let my name [Israel] be named upon them" — that is, on their descendants. God gave the promise that the descendants of Manasseh, Joseph's elder son, would become a very GREAT nation, but the descendants of Ephraim his brother would become a "company of nations" — that is, a commonwealth of nations.

The spiritual promise God made to Abraham of the Messiah, and of eternal salvation through Him, is well known by the most superficial Bible student. But God made also to Abraham national and material promises of RACE.

The spiritual promises of eter-

nal salvation are called the scepter, and the national promises of RACE the birthright — that which is inherited by right of birth.

Respecting the promises of RACE, God said to Abraham, “I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations [plural] of you, and kings [more than one] shall come from you” (Genesis 17:6).

The messianic promises of GRACE pertained to the tribe of Judah, who were nicknamed the Jews. But “the birthright [promise of RACE] was JOSEPH’S.” The national, material promise of the birthright — RIGHT of birth — was handed down to the two tribes springing from Joseph’s two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim (I Chronicles 5:1-2).

The 12 tribes of Israel split up into TWO nations after the death of Solomon. The nation ISRAEL rejected Solomon’s son Rehoboam as king, because he threatened to make their taxes even steeper than Solomon had. They established a new capital city in northern Israel, Samaria, and chose Jeroboam as king.

Then the tribe of Judah (the Jews) seceded from the nation Israel in order to keep their king Rehoboam and their capital city Jerusalem, calling their nation the kingdom of Judah.

So now the birthright promise made to Abraham was in one nation, the kingdom of ISRAEL, and the spiritual messianic promise was in another nation, now called the kingdom of JUDAH. The tribe of Benjamin remained with Judah, as did a few scattered individuals of the other tribes. Jeroboam, new king of ISRAEL, threw out the tribe of Levi from the priesthood in ISRAEL, and the tribe of Levi also went in with Judah — the JEWS.

Those of the nation ISRAEL were NOT Jews — never called Jews. The first place in the Bible where the name “Jews” is men-

tioned is II Kings 16:6, where the Jews were at war against ISRAEL.

We pick up the most critical prophecy as to the future of the nation Israel in Leviticus 26.

Now the prophecies

In the 26th chapter of Leviticus we find God’s promises and prophecies to Israel, beginning in Moses’ day.

God through Moses specially put emphasis on avoiding idolatry and keeping God’s Sabbath.

Then He said that IF they would keep His commandments and His national statutes, they should receive and en-

made UNCONDITIONAL to Abraham for his future descendants, God now promised ancient Israel ONLY the material promises of the birthright — and even that was CONDITIONAL.

Otherwise that birthright phase of the promises would be withheld 2,520 years, and then, in that far, far future, confer the birthright to the descendants of Israel through Ephraim and Manasseh.

God promised them, through Moses, ON CONDITION of obedience, adequate rain, abundant crops the year round, peace and such military power that a hun-

Photo by Nathan Faulkner



The threat of unemployment and the plight of homeless people, now prominent in the news, are only the beginning of U.S. economic decline. Severe financial troubles, leading to social upheaval, are prophesied for the United States and British peoples.



joy the national and material promises of the birthright in their time. He gave them NO PROMISE of inheriting, in the days of ancient national Israel, the spiritual promises (the scepter).

Even though the promises were

dred of them could put 10,000 enemy invaders to flight.

But Israel under Moses did not obey or keep their part of the old covenant!

They did so only at intervals during the days of the judges. In the day when God ruled them

through the prophet Samuel, they rejected God as their ruler and king, and demanded a human king like the nations of the world.

I have already covered how in the days of King Rehoboam, after Solomon's death, they split into TWO DIFFERENT NATIONS.

At that time, the birthright promise remained with the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh in the kingdom of ISRAEL, while the scepter promise, to be realized through Christ, remained in the nation JUDAH.

Later, King Shalmaneser of Assyria invaded, conquered and removed the northern nation ISRAEL from their land of Samaria, carrying them off as slaves to Assyria and Media.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon invaded and moved the nation JUDAH as slaves into the land of Chaldea.

The Assyrians, *with* the 10 tribes of ISRAEL, then migrated northwest. The 10 tribes, now known as the "LOST Ten Tribes," moved into Western Europe and Britain — Ephraim and Manasseh largely settling in Britain.

But they had LOST their identifying Sabbath, their Hebrew language and their identity. They supposed, and the world supposed, they were Gentiles.

A contingent of Jews of the former kingdom of Judah were sent by King Cyrus of Persia to form a colony in Jerusalem, under Zerubbabel as governor, and to build the second Temple on the site of Solomon's Temple, which had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar.

But NONE of the 10-tribed "lost" ISRAEL were among those of this colony. Some tribal names are recorded in the book of Ezra, but NONE of the 10-tribed ISRAEL are mentioned.

Other Jews, outside of this colony at Jerusalem, were scattered into various nations through the centuries.

Where the U.S. and Britain are mentioned in biblical prophecy

Prophecy mentions that Britain

(Ephraim) would lose her first colony. The colony that grew into the United States was that colony.

Now the 2,520 years the birthright was to be withheld from ISRAEL — because of their continued disobedience, breaking their part of the old covenant — expired about 1800.

The big colony Ephraim was to lose was the United States — descended from co-birthright-holder Manasseh. The United States became the ONE promised GREAT nation. Britain became head of the great commonwealth of nations.

Neither Britain nor America *deserved* the unprecedented wealth, greatness and national power of Abraham's birthright. But God had promised it UNCONDITIONALLY to Abraham. It was CONDITIONAL to ancient Israel.

Though our two great peoples did not deserve it, God was bound, and kept His PROMISE! Yet, once God had FULFILLED His promise to Abraham by giving us that national wealth, power and greatness, it became CONDITIONAL on us *whether we should retain it!*

As ancient Israel did not keep God's statutes, commandments, Sabbaths, NEITHER HAVE WE!

Now prophesied for the United States of America and British peoples

The United States and the British peoples did inherit the NATIONAL and MATERIAL promises of the birthright, promised unconditionally to Abraham. Therefore God has FULFILLED His unconditional promise of the birthright to Abraham.

Once fulfilled, in the British and Americans, retention of it by us became CONDITIONAL on our performance.

And WHAT HAVE WE DONE with all this vast wealth, economic prosperity and world power?

We have made physical SCIENCE the new messiah — our false god — which boasted we no longer needed to wear the swad-

dling clothes of superstition, or lean on the crutch of religion. SCIENCE promised to deliver us from all our troubles! But it failed utterly, and only produced the weapons of mass destruction that can now erase all humanity from the earth.

Our educational systems worshiped at the shrine of the false god of EVOLUTION, making it the foundational approach and basic CONCEPT upon which all KNOWLEDGE is based! Evolution is the atheist's attempted explanation for the presence of a CREATION, without a CREATOR!

Our governments have been corrupt. Our business, industrial, economic and commercial systems have been shot through with deception, dishonesty, selfishness.

We have adopted the WAY OF LIFE of Satan — utter selfishness, lust and greed, envy and jealousy, competition in every walk of life — business, politics, sports, society — leading to violence and destruction! We have rebelled against the authority of GOD over us, worshiping the false gods of science, evolution and greed. We have gone the WAY OF SATAN! And Satan is the god of this world (II Corinthians 4:4).

And now, FOR OUR OWN GOOD, an all-wise and all-loving God is about to PUNISH our nations, in order finally to bring us to HIM!

I will use just one prophecy here. In Leviticus 26:19, God said of OUR PEOPLE, TODAY, "I will break the pride of your power."

God has given the United States more national POWER than any other nation ever had! But since Korea the United States has been afraid to use it!

I won't take more space here. This whole story is given in great detail in my book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

But already the noose is around our necks, and is almost daily tightening! Economic ills are starting GREATLY to reduce our standard of living! I warn you, PREPARE greatly to reduce your standard of living! Even GREATER punishments are to follow! □

Simplify Your Relationships

By John Halford

Alice wants to organize a barbecue for her friends.

It seems easy enough. For a start she'll invite Pat and Jim and Jean and Bill.

Unfortunately, Pat isn't talking to Jean at the moment because of something Pat thinks Jean said about her. But Alice will have to ask them both because Jim and Bill get along really well, whereas Bill and Alice's husband Fred haven't had anything to do with each other since the incident last summer.

Well, maybe if she invites Mike and Wilma — everybody likes them. No, that won't work. Wilma's mother is still staying with them, and Alice hasn't forgiven her yet for what happened on her previous visit.

The Wilsons will be offended if they aren't asked, but they would bring that little terror Brian, and he fights with all the other kids. Unless Alice asks Gina. Gina's boy Joe is the only one who gets along with Brian. But Fred won't like that — he can't stand Gina.

Oh, dear, it's all so complicated. *Too* complicated!

Alice and her "friends" aren't

real — but their problems are. And these problems are common to all of us.

Instead of simple, straightforward relationships, our lives are often a tangled web of old grudges, misunderstandings, hard feelings and wounded pride. An important aspect of simplifying your life is to sort this kind of mess out. The Bible shows how.

Simple principles

Our lives become complicated because we don't apply the simple Bible principles that are guaranteed to straighten out difficulties *before* they become complicated problems.

"If you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses," said Jesus (Mark 11:25). An important part of being forgiven by God for *your* mistakes is that you be willing to forgive others for theirs. Many scriptures make this point, so we have no excuse.

But we make excuses anyway.

"Well, OK, I'll forgive. But I can't forget."

That isn't good enough. Superficial forgiveness, while you're still smoldering underneath, won't do it. Circumstances —

and Satan — can fan the flames of anger into life again. Jesus said to forgive from the heart (Matthew 18:35). That is the way God forgives, not man. You need to ask God for help in forgiving all the way.

"Yeah, but it was his fault. He should come to me."

No, it doesn't work like that. "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone," the Bible commands (Matthew 18:15). Even if it is the other person's fault, it is your responsibility to try to resolve the quarrel before you *both* have a problem with your attitudes.

"Well, I'll get around to it. But I'm not ready yet."

That's why Alice is having such trouble planning her barbecue. How much simpler it would be if she knew Pat had gone to Jean and resolved their misunderstanding. Or that Fred and Bill had discussed their problem. Or if Fred was willing to try to get along with Gina. Or if Alice herself had made an effort to forgive Wilma's mother.

If they all — and if we all — would just do what the Bible says, life would be much less complicated.

Don't wait

Where there are people, there will always be problems. We hurt each other — usually unintentionally — all the time. What should you do if you are wounded — or if you wound others?

"Do not let the sun go down on your wrath," wrote Paul (Ephesians 4:26). Minor scratches can become festering sores if left untreated for long. Don't wait until tomorrow. If you can apologize or do something else to resolve a difficulty today, *do it*.

This world is a complicated mass of resentment, malice, spite and bitterness. Are you adding to the turmoil?

God tells us, "Owe no one anything except to love one another" (Romans 13:8).

It's so simple, when you know how. □

First Things First!

*Here's the key to
establishing right spiritual priorities. It's
a must in simplifying your life!*

By Dexter H. Faulkner



The first law of success is to have the right goal. When we are without a goal, we live a purposeless life.

That principle applies to our spiritual lives as well. To successfully live our Christian lives, you and I must have the right spiritual goal.

Jesus Christ made our spiritual

goal crystal clear: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33).

That wasn't just a nice-sounding platitude. It is a principle Christians must base their lives on!

Seeking God's Kingdom and His righteousness should affect all our activities, all our decisions, all our thoughts.

But how?

In Ephesians 5:15-16, the apos-

tle Paul admonishes us, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

How well do you use your time? What's first in your life?

Your use of time

Proper spiritual health requires prayer and Bible study. How much time do you use for these spiritual priorities — especially compared with, for example, watching television? How you use each day's time demonstrates your real priorities — how much you seek God's righteousness.

If most of this day has already slipped by without any prayer or Bible study, you should seriously examine your priorities. There are more important things to do than entertaining the physical senses.

John put it in plain language: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world" (I John 2:15-16).

If you are too busy to pray, too busy to study the Bible, too busy to spend time with your children, too busy to help others, then you are indeed *too busy*.

Now, more than at any other time in history, we need to simplify our lives. We need to limit the number of activities that can tempt us to take time away from spiritual priorities.

Satan's world offers an almost unlimited variety of amusing, entertaining diversions. Some are obviously sinful. Others are merely wasters of time. Some are even worthwhile in themselves, but can nevertheless at times interfere with our spiritual needs.

We must take control of our lives so we can bring even our thoughts into captivity to Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 10:5). We shouldn't let circumstances run our lives.

This is the key to establishing

and maintaining the right spiritual priorities: We must simplify our lives until we can see clearly what we are doing with our lives and with our time.

Spend time with family

If you haven't spent any time with your children all day, you have a God-given obligation that is more important than watching a sports event. If watching television causes you to sin against your own children, stop watching so much television.

In Western societies, many mothers consider it more important to work at some career than to stay home and rear their children. Sometimes they do it because their husbands insist. Sometimes it is absolutely necessary, but many times it is not.

Benefits of the extra income are usually shared with the children, but the material benefits do them no good in the long run because they were not given the amount of time and training they needed. "A child left to himself brings shame to his mother" (Proverbs 29:15).

Many fathers desert their wives and children and choose to work inordinate amounts of overtime. For some, extra work is the only way to sufficiently "provide for their own." But for many, it's a desire to go from sufficiency to abundance, or from abundance to surplus.

Some are struggling to make the payments on a second car, or perhaps a house larger than they really need or can afford. If material things cause us to sin — to fail to meet our God-ordained responsibilities — we should cut them out of our lives.

Studies reveal working fathers spend an average of 10 minutes a day reading, talking or playing with their children. Working mothers spend 16 minutes a day. Children's daily television time, whether or not their mother works, exceeds two hours. Are you one of these statistics?

How about activities and commitments that consume our evenings — clubs, sports, hob-

bies, second jobs? These are not wrong in themselves, but if they all pile up on top of us, we will find that we haven't spent enough time with our families.

If we continually stay up so late working that we are only half functioning, then we cannot pray as we ought to, nor study effectively, nor train our children. If we accept so many job responsibilities that we cannot come home in a good mood, we aren't loving others as God commands.

Our two-fold priority

Our primary spiritual goal is to seek God's Kingdom. But Jesus didn't stop there. He said we must also seek God's righteousness. We can't have one without the other.

King David clearly defines righteousness: "All Your commandments are righteousness" (Psalm 119:172). Keeping God's commandments is vitally important. "The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God" (I Corinthians 6:9).

To seek God's Kingdom, we must learn to live the righteous way of life that will cause God's Kingdom to be peaceful and prosperous when it is established on earth, now in the near future. Although the Kingdom is not yet ruling over all the earth, it must rule over us now.

Too many people want God's Kingdom to come simply so they won't have to face and overcome their own problems.

Others want to be given blessings, but they aren't willing to live the way of life that gives blessings to others.

If your desire for God's Kingdom is purely selfish, you will not be in God's Kingdom. God will not give eternal life to any person whose basic motives are selfish.

God's Church is preparing for God's Kingdom by proclaiming the true Gospel to all nations (Matthew 24:14). Thousands are actively seeking God's Kingdom by supporting the Work of God's Church.

And since God's people will, with Christ, reign in God's King-

dom (Daniel 7:27, Revelation 20:6), each individual is preparing for God's Kingdom by learning to rule righteously in whatever area where God has given us responsibility now.

You have the chance to be part of the solution, rather than part of the problem.

Life tests our priorities

Jesus commanded, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." Notice what Jesus Christ promised. If we maintain the right priorities, "all these things [the food, drink and clothing we need] shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:25-33).

God will take care of us if we put Him first in our day-to-day lives. But it does require faith to seek the spiritual first.

We must be willing to give our lives in obedience to Christ. Many have been killed because they obeyed God. Of course, for many people, ridicule is worse than death. If you keep God's laws, others may laugh at you. The real test of our priorities many times is not dying for our faith — it is living according to our faith.

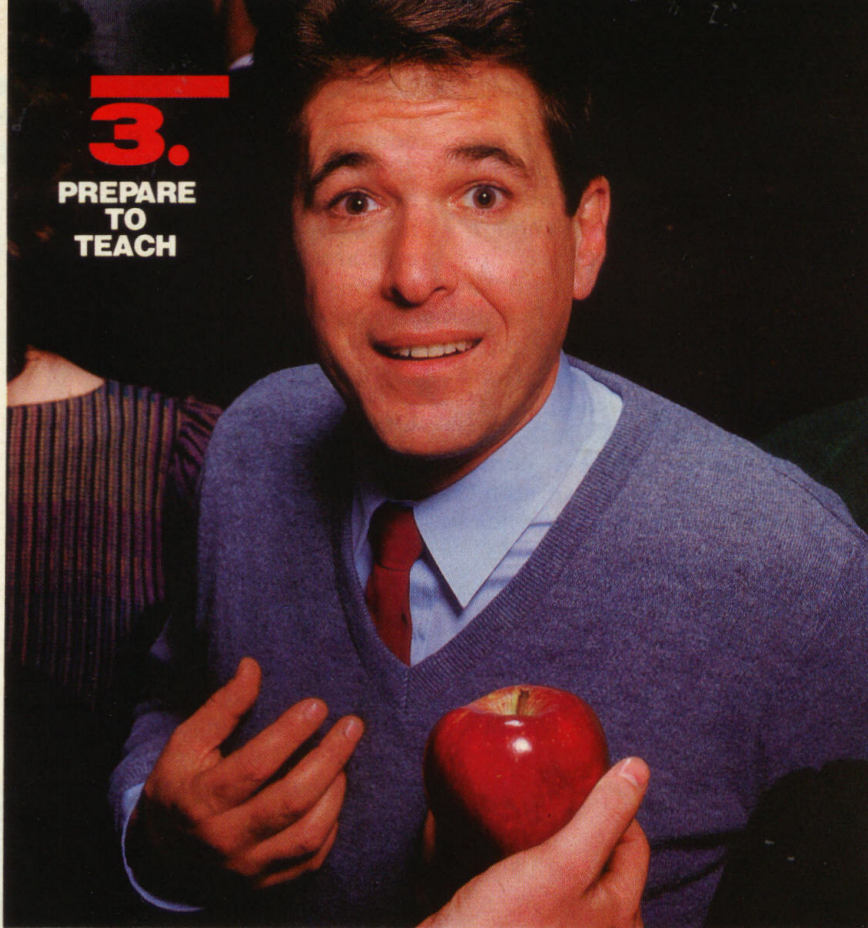
"If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out" (Matthew 5:29). It's not necessary to pull your eye out. Just make sure your eye doesn't cause you to sin. If it's sinful, you must be willing to give it up — no matter what it is or how much you like it.

That doesn't mean we have to stop having a good time. God wants us to enjoy life — but to enjoy it within the boundaries of His laws.

Look at your own life. If you are involved in so many activities that they cause you to sin, you must cut them out of your life. You must simplify your life until you can think clearly. Only then can you give proper priority to what you do, bring your thoughts into captivity and redeem the time.

Remember, don't just set goals — set the *right* goal: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." □

3.
**PREPARE
TO
TEACH**



You Were Born to Teach!

*What qualifications will you need to teach
God's way during the Millennium?*

By Norman L. Shoaf

It's coming, and nothing can stop it!

God's Kingdom — the government of God administered by the Family of God — is about to be set up on earth, at the return of Jesus Christ.

Those who, throughout the ages, faithfully served God will be resurrected to immortal life. God's chosen servants of our time who have faithfully endured will

be instantly changed into spirit-composed children of God (I Corinthians 15:51-52).

And what will we be doing in God's Kingdom? Revelation 5:10 tells us that we will become "kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

Each of us will fulfill both the offices of king and priest. As kings we will, under Christ the King of kings, rule the world, enforcing God's law. And, just as

ancient Israel's priests were to teach the nation God's way, we as priests will be responsible for teaching the knowledge of God's way of life to the entire world.

You were born to teach!

Teaching God's knowledge

God's government will be restored to the earth. Satan will be removed (Revelation 20:1-2). Man's carnal nature will be changed (Jeremiah 31:33). The *give* way will permeate life rather than the *get* way.

Notice Isaiah 2:3: "Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us of His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

As more and more people learn of and turn to God's way, "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14).

We will be responsible, as teachers, for filling the earth with the knowledge of God's way.

Exactly what qualities will we need to be able to teach God's way in the world tomorrow? Whatever those qualities are, we need to be developing them now.

And we can. We are constantly exposed to teaching opportunities with our mates, with our children, with our employees or fellow workers, with friends, with other people in the world.

Here, then, are some of the most important qualities of good teachers, qualities we need to be practicing now in preparation for our responsibility of teaching the world during the Millennium.

Good teachers . . .

- *Know their subjects.* Unless you're an expert in the field, you wouldn't try to lecture on organic chemistry to a group of chemists. You'd look like a fool! By the same token, you can't teach God's way to someone unless you're an expert on the subject. During the Millennium, the sub-

jects we'll be teaching will include God's law, God's way of thinking, giving and Bible knowledge. We'll need to know these subjects thoroughly (I Peter 3:15).

That's why Paul admonishes, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15, King James Bible).

And a good teacher is always expanding his knowledge, learning more, keeping up with new developments in his field, to improve and maintain the effectiveness of his teaching. So Peter tells us to grow in grace and knowledge (II Peter 3:18).

We can do so by constantly studying the Bible, reading the Work's publications, listening closely to Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach and God's other ministers and keeping up with news from headquarters.

• *Set good examples.* Probably the strongest method of teaching is by example. Your children, employees and others will remember what you do long after they forget exactly what you say.

God tells us to be lights to the world (Matthew 5:14-16). If you want to teach God's way most effectively, you must live it. In God's Kingdom we will live God's way perfectly.

Ancient Israel's obedience to God was to extend to every area of their lives (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). It is the same today with us, as we train to teach in the world tomorrow. The example we set of obedience to God must be constant. Anything else is hypocrisy, and God will not have on His teaching team any who do not set the right example of living His way all the time (Romans 2:21-23).

• *Use authority properly.* The most effective teachers are dedicated foremost to helping their students learn, improve, prosper and enjoy happiness. They are not cruel, vain or vindictive. They do not relish having to rebuke.

Think about how this point ap-

plies in your relationship with your children, friends or others you have the opportunity to teach now. Think about how it will apply in the world tomorrow.

You will have power over the nations — you will rule with a rod of iron (Revelation 2:26-27). When you, as a member of the God family, are able to exercise the power of a thousand hydrogen bombs at just a thought, you must control that power properly, in love, meekness, self-control, fear of God the Father and a single-minded desire to help and never hurt the humans under your authority.

And you will — but only if you develop these character traits by practicing them in the areas where you have responsibility now.

• *Communicate well.* A major part of effective teaching is simply being able to communicate well.

This means that you speak in terms the one you are teaching will understand. You don't instruct a 4-year-old in how to put his shoes away by speaking in algebraic symbols. You don't give a fellow employee an assignment by speaking in a language foreign to him. This, by extension, means that you are willing to explain again and again from different angles, as long as the person is sincerely trying to understand.

This also means that, while you talk to the person, you do not talk down to him. You communicate in humility and warmth, putting yourself in the person's place and trying to understand his point of view. Jesus Christ, after all, can empathize with us in our trials because He literally put Himself in our place and knows what we go through (Hebrews 2:18).

Practice communicating better with everyone you talk to. Make yourself clear. Be direct, the way children are (Luke 18:15-17). Strive to give full understanding. That's what you'll be doing in the world tomorrow — giving humanity full understanding of God's — your — way of life.

• *Show outgoing concern.* As

one of God's teachers, you will express the *give* way of life perfectly. You'll be dedicated to helping, serving, caring for and providing opportunities for humanity. You'll perfectly display the fruits of God's Holy Spirit.

But you must be developing those fruits now. In every teaching situation, practice them.

Review I Corinthians 13, which deals with godly love. Make God's patience, kindness, faithfulness and unselfishness traits of your own character. Learn to be merciful (Luke 6:36). Be compassionate.

When you are put in a position where you can really, finally help humanity — war-ravaged, poverty-stricken, trauma-ridden humanity — the humanity that for 6,000 years has been completely unaware of the right way to live — the humanity that has suffered the worst horrors in history during the Great Tribulation and Day of the Lord — you will need to express God's perfect, healing, comforting, positive love — your love — with every ounce of your godly power.

A new order imminent

This world is without knowledge of God's way. The world has turned its back on God and steeped itself in a way of life that, if God didn't intervene, would destroy humanity.

But God is going to intervene, and soon. When He does, He is going to offer mankind a completely different kind of knowledge — knowledge of how to live happily all the time, of how to be saved, of how to be born as God's children and live perfectly forever in God's very Family.

That knowledge will permeate every corner of life (Habakkuk 2:14).

You have been called to have a part in giving humanity this invaluable knowledge, as a teacher in the world tomorrow.

What an incredible opportunity! What a goal to strive for! What could be more important than to truly begin to prepare for God's Kingdom right now? □

Here's How to Acquire Wisdom

Most human problems result from a lack of real wisdom. No other quality is more desperately needed to help this troubled and chaotic world.

By L. Leroy Neff

What is wisdom? Simply stated, it is the ability to apply knowledge to a question or problem and make the right decision.

When we do not have this quality — or when we do not use it — we run into all kinds of problems.

We do not inherit wisdom, or acquire it naturally. Yet it is a quality that needs to be continually increased, because we are faced with different challenges each day. Yesterday's wisdom may not apply to today's situation, so we should add to our store today more wisdom than we had yesterday.

Jesus Himself said, "I can of Myself do nothing" (John 5:30). He had to receive wisdom and guidance from God the Father. Otherwise, what He did would have been wrong. We can of ourselves do even less than He could. We truly need wisdom and guidance from God each day.

Paul said that not many Christians have wisdom when first con-

verted: "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh . . . are called" (I Corinthians 1:26). Proverbs 3:7 warns us against thinking we are wise. And Proverbs 26:12 comments: "Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him."

Christians who think they are wise may be deceived. Even those who may have a measure of wisdom should realize, as the ancient Roman scholar Pliny the Elder said, "No one is wise at all times." None of us has as much wisdom as we should have.

This generation faces the greatest challenges of all history. The day-to-day problems are surely more complex, more potentially devastating, than those of any past age.

And in the world tomorrow, God's people will be responsible for helping teach the world how to overcome all of its problems. In our lives now, and in preparation for God's Kingdom, we need much more wisdom.

But the Scriptures mention

more than one kind of wisdom. Do you know what they are, and what the difference is?

Man's wisdom

"These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches" (I Corinthians 2:13).

Man's wisdom is the wisdom of this world, or of this age, as Paul says in verse 6. This kind of wisdom is also called fleshly wisdom, in II Corinthians 1:12. "This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic" (James 3:15). Wisdom of this kind comes from the invisible ruler of this evil world, Satan the devil (II Corinthians 4:4).

An example of this kind of wisdom is recorded in Luke 16:1-8, in the parable of the unjust steward. This man cheated his employer by changing the "accounts receivable" record to show that the customers owed less than they really did. And yet the boss commended him for dealing shrewdly.

The steward was clever in making friends of his employer's

customers, but in the process he defrauded his boss. He wanted favor from the customers so that they would look after him when he was out of a job.

Humanly, one has to admire this man's cleverness in "feathering his own nest" at the boss's expense. He used more of this world's wisdom in doing wrong than most Christians use godly wisdom in doing what is right. Jesus pointed this out in verse 8.

There are two basic ways of life: *give* and *get*. This man wanted to get, not give. That is the main problem with this world's wisdom. It is selfish. It considers what is good for "me," not the other person. What is good for everyone now *and* in the future is usually not considered.

The result of this world's wisdom, though it sometimes seems good temporarily, is evil. God says, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the un-

derstanding of the prudent" (I Corinthians 1:19).

God's wisdom is best

The best kind of wisdom is God's wisdom: "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy" (James 3:17).

God's wisdom is based on His spiritual law. God's wisdom considers the ultimate effect on everyone concerned. It is the way of *give* and *serve*, not *get* or *take*. In the long run, that wise way of life will turn out best.

Many of us who claim to be

Godly wisdom like Solomon's is not inherited from parents. It does not come from education, experience or counselors. It does not come from the school of hard knocks.

Christians do not have as much godly wisdom as the world has worldly wisdom! We need more godly wisdom.

How may we acquire godly wisdom?

Godly wisdom is not inherited from parents. It does not come from education, from experience or from counselors. It does not come from the school of hard knocks.

Psalm 111:10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments."

The place to begin to acquire wisdom is to fear God.

This means we should fear to disobey God and His right way of life as shown in the Bible. Proverbs 14:16 explains, "A wise man fears and departs from evil."

Ancient Job stated, "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding" (Job 28:28).

And wise King Solomon commented, "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom" (Proverbs 15:33). And, "The wise in heart will receive commands" (Proverbs 10:8). The wise person will receive God's commandments, which outline God's way of life. The fool will not!

Learning to fear God and depart from evil requires that we study the Scriptures to learn what to do. As we learn, we should fear to disobey what we have learned.

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matthew 7:24). We should "be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil" (Romans 16:19).

Study Proverbs for wisdom

The book of Proverbs was written to teach people "to know wisdom and instruction, to perceive



Illustration by Ken Tunell

the words of understanding, to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion — a wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel” (Proverbs 1:2-5).

There is much wisdom in the book of Proverbs, though all the Bible, in a sense, is about wisdom and how to acquire it. If you haven't already, you should read the book of Proverbs. And look for wisdom as you read and study all of Scripture.

Solomon, the source of most of Proverbs, said that we should have the counsel of other people. “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety” (Proverbs 11:14).

Of course, these counselors are not necessarily the source of real wisdom, as we have already seen that God is the source of that kind of wisdom. But having counselors protects one from making decisions or taking action when he or she has not thought of all the possible results of that action. Someone else may see a potential problem that you may not see.

If the source of real wisdom was a multitude of human counselors, then the world's legislative bodies would long ago have learned wisdom and the way to peace. But they will never learn God's wisdom that way, as only God can supply that kind of wisdom and show us the way to peace.

Who should your counselors be? Would you want to consult uneducated, opinionated or foolish people? Would you counsel with scorners, dissidents, bitter people whom you know are disobedient to God? Of course not. You should seek wise counsel (Proverbs 24:6) from those who obey God and who are in a right attitude toward Him.

“He who walks with wise men

will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed” (Proverbs 13:20). He is wise who follows the wise!

Wisdom is a gift

Wisdom is one of the nine spiritual gifts of God listed in I Corinthians 12:8-10. See also Ephesians 1:17. God gives wisdom to the wise (Daniel 2:21).

How may we receive this gift? The answer is to ask God for it: “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him” (James 1:5).

Do you ask God for wisdom?

You don't know what the future holds. But God does. He can help you to avoid pitfalls and trouble by giving you the wisdom you need — when you need it.

If not, why not? He wants you to have it.

You need wisdom in your relationships with God and with family, friends and neighbors. You also need wisdom to properly do your job.

Before you make an important decision, be sure you understand any scriptures that relate to the problem. Consider all the facts before you answer a question or take action.

Don't act hastily. Before you take action, consider the result of that action. Put your mind in gear before you open your mouth. If you don't know what to do, don't act until you do know.

Before he received all his wisdom, Solomon realized his inadequacies (I Kings 3:7-9). We should, too, and not deceive ourselves into thinking we are something we are not (Jeremiah 17:9), or think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think (Romans 12:3). “Wisest is he

who knows not he is wise,” according to a French proverb.

How many times have you caused problems in your relationships with other people or on your job because you did not have enough wisdom? Sometimes you don't even know what some of the factors are that make up the problem. You don't know what is going on in someone else's mind — you don't know what the future holds. But God does. He can help you avoid trouble by giving you the wisdom you need, when you need it.

God can give us wisdom that our adversaries can't contradict or resist (Luke 21:15)!

Use wisdom — now and forever

We need wisdom to understand the events that are unfolding around us in this chaotic and sinful world. We need to know what to do. According to Daniel 12:10, “The wise shall understand.” Do you?

If we have wisdom, we will make the right kind of decisions, and we will act in a way that will bring the best results for others as well as for ourselves. We will consider the consequences of our actions.

Solomon said: “Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding . . . She [wisdom] is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her” (Proverbs 3:13, 18).

Here is the ultimate result of our exercising wisdom: “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:3).

That is a glorious description of those who will inherit God's soon-coming Kingdom. Then we will be able to help God save the rest of humanity. That is what God's people are now being trained to do!

A word to the wise is sufficient. □

4.

EMPHASIZE
THE
FAMILY

Medicine for Ailing Marriages

Your marriage can be happier! Here's advice from a source often ignored — the Bible!

By Bernard W. Schnippert

“T*wo broken hearts, lonely looking wives, houses where nobody lives; two people with so much pride inside that neither side forgives.”*

These are the words of a Roger Miller song that was popular quite a while back, but the message is more relevant now than ever before. For, sad to say, more and more marriages are less and less happy.

What a shame!

It needn't be this way. People can have happy marriages. The knowledge of how to have a happy marriage is available, in the pages of the Bible.

But that knowledge has not been put into practice.

Take, for example, the apostle Paul's admonitions to husbands and wives in Ephesians 5. Here he gives the basic medicine to make any ailing marriage healthy. In brief, Paul says that men ought to "love" their wives (verse 25), and that wives should

"submit" to their husbands (verse 22).

A lot of people would say they agree with that advice (although the part about submission is often maligned these days). But even people who say they agree with Paul still have bad marriages themselves!

Why? Simply because they don't know how to put Paul's advice into practice.

Here, then, are some ways husbands can love their wives, and ways wives can submit to their husbands. Here's how to take the knowledge in Paul's statements and turn it into power to change your marriage for the better!

Advice to husbands . . .

Let's start with the husband. Since he is the head of the home, he is most responsible, in God's eyes, for the health of the marriage.

The first thing a

husband must do when he desires to love his wife the way God intends is to make her happiness and welfare one of his highest priorities.

Husbands are naturally selfish. They think a lot about their job, their hobbies, their hopes and dreams, but not about their wife's day-to-day happiness and overall welfare. Yet the Proverbs tell us, "He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord" (Proverbs 18:22).

This wife — this "good thing" — is by far the most priceless part of his life. Her happiness simply must be more important to him than his hobbies, his new dune buggy and his desire to stay out late drinking beer with his buddies.

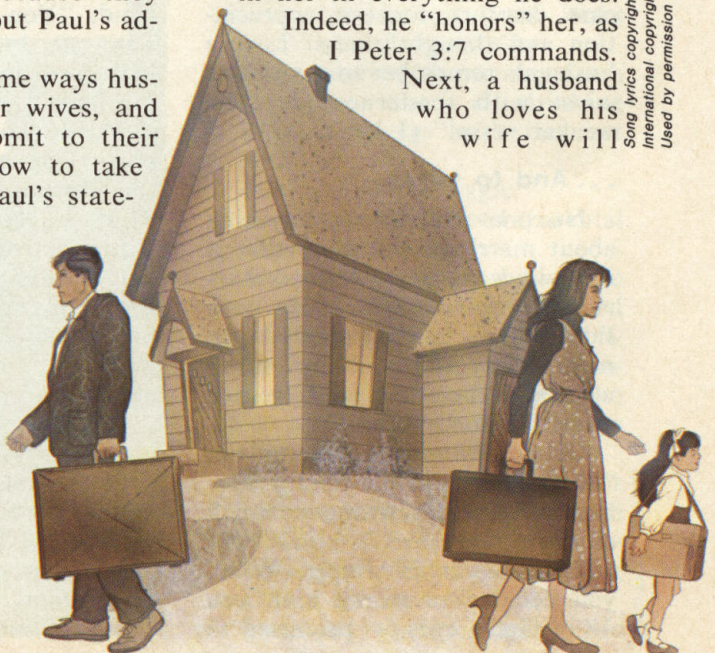
Second, a loving husband will show his love by consciously working to build his wife into a fulfilled and confident person.

To their disgrace, a lot of men have so criticized, maligned or ignored their wives that they have smashed their wives' self-esteem and transformed them into fearful, timid, depressed relics of the formerly vivacious people they were when first married.

When a man loves his wife, he compliments her, praises her in front of others, encourages her to try new challenges and confides in her in everything he does.

Indeed, he "honors" her, as I Peter 3:7 commands.

Next, a husband who loves his wife will



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spend time with her — lots of it. He will talk to her often, and listen to her as well. And he will talk to her about everything on her mind, not just about his troubles.

Lots of men want someone they can gripe to. But they forget that the wife has worries and frustrations as well. They forget she needs someone to talk to — and with.

A husband who loves his wife takes great pains to always be tender with her, both in how he speaks and how he acts. Some husbands, to their shame, are rough and gruff with their mates.

But a husband should rather treat his wife like what she is — a human being who deserves care, comfort, concern, appreciation and thoughtfulness. Loving husbands remember to treat their wives with tenderness as “the weaker vessel” (I Peter 3:7).

... And to wives

No one who knows anything about marriage will deny that it is a two-way street. A good marriage requires effort on both sides. Often, as Paul pointed out, men simply fail to “love” their wives. On the other hand, women often fail to “submit.”

Often a woman will complain, “How can I submit to my husband when he is wrong so much of the time?”

The answer is simple. When you decided to marry him, you — in God’s eyes — promised to

obey in the Lord. He is to be the head of the home. Therefore, you should have discovered the type of decisions he made or was likely to make before you said “I do.” If you didn’t, you may have some unpleasant surprises now.

Of course, he probably has some similar gripes about you. At any rate, for you not to submit in the Lord now will not solve your marital troubles. It will only make them worse.

How, then, can a woman learn to submit to her husband? To begin, she should learn to share in his dreams.

The type of submission God wants is more than mere acquiescence. It is positive, active involvement in his life.

Some women think they submit, but they actually pooh-pooh all of the husband’s ideas and hopes. They effectively undermine his confidence and cause him to never reach his potential because they don’t catch hold of his dreams and make them, as much as possible, their own.

God created the woman to be a helper (Genesis 2:18). The husband needs to know that his wife is working with him, responsibly caring for the children, seeing that the household is pulling in his direction and not against him. Any woman who tells her husband, “You can do that if you want to, but don’t expect any help from me” is merely defeating herself.

Many women would greatly profit from reading the works of the virtuous wife of Proverbs 31:10-31. Notice how this ideal wife is actively involved in household affairs. And realize that her involvement is to further the family objectives as led by her husband, not merely to branch out solely on her own.

Another thing a wife must do is avoid trying to boss her husband around. Today it is not popular to state that the husband is the head of the home. But that is indeed the Bible teaching (I Corinthians 11:3).

Of course, many men have

misused their position, and no one advocates that. But when a woman assumes leadership of the home, she cannot in any wise be said to be submitting. Like it or not, believe it or not, accept it or not, when she does so she upsets the governmental structure God ordained for the family. When she does, she automatically lowers the potential happiness level in that home.

Next, a submissive woman will not nag, complain incessantly or criticize her husband, especially to other people. Some women seem intent upon changing or rebuilding the husband just the way they think he should be. To do this, they complain and criticize, even behind his back, when it cannot possibly do any good.

Solomon rightly spoke when he said, “A continual dripping on a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike” (Proverbs 27:15). Nothing is more irritating to a man than to have his wife at his throat constantly. All husbands should try to please their wives more. But a wise woman will be very sparing in her criticism of her husband.

Finally, proper submission in the biblical spirit means a woman will strive to please her husband in everything she does. She will dress to suit his tastes, cook to suit his desires and keep house to make him comfortable.

Remember, love is an outgoing concern for the one loved. It is a desire to please the other person.

Making marriage work

Both men and women have a job cut out for them in making marriage work. But those who are wise enough to work at their marriages will reap benefits so awesome that they are worth whatever it takes.

Thankfully, the day is coming when the words of the song quoted at the start of this article may be rewritten like this:

“Two loving hearts, happy-looking wives, houses where joyfulness lives; two people with so much love inside that either side forgives.” □

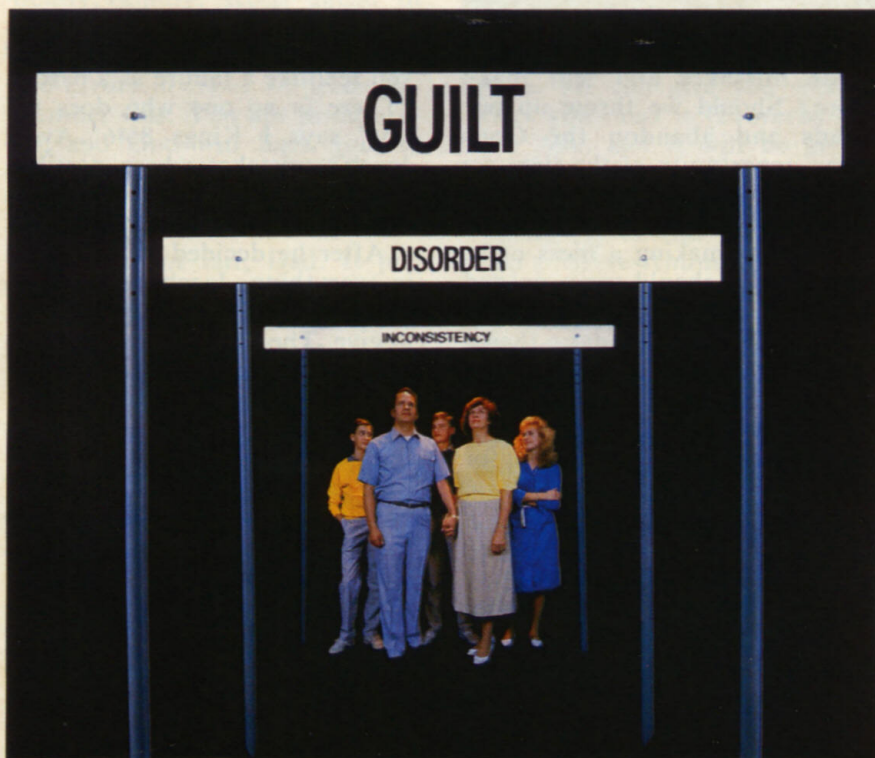
4.

EMPHASIZE
THE
FAMILY

Lead Your Family With Confidence!

Enormous hurdles face parents trying to raise children in today's Sodom and Gomorrah. Here is strong encouragement from God's Word.

By K. Neil Earle



“God, please heal Mommy, but not before June. Don't let her go back to work till school's over!”

The prayers of 7-year-olds can be very eloquent. This little girl really looked forward to finding her mom — a single parent — at home. Even if her mother wasn't in perfect health!

In this age of latchkey children, when so many youngsters lack a father at home, where a majority of mothers with preschoolers will soon be out working, it is time to emphasize a once self-evident truth: Children need parents, desperately!

The fact that this point even needs to be stated shows what a topsy-turvy world we live in. But it's true.

Even youths in their late teens need adult guidance, support, encouragement, direction. Oh, yes, they do!

Parents under fire

Wayne was the teen with the most exciting future ahead of him — or so everyone thought! At 17 he'd been scouted to play professional hockey with the Toronto Maple Leafs. That's a Canadian boy's dream! He had talent, intelligence, good looks and a pleasant personality.

Yet it only took one year at a university to lose it all, drinking and taking drugs with the fast crowd.

How sad. How tragic.

Oh, how teens need parental guidance and example.

The hideous sins of child abuse and child neglect have helped spawn an organized army of well-meaning, state-sponsored counselors and guidance officers who have — unintentionally, perhaps — invaded family affairs.

Professional analysts author countless books and articles on the family. Clever, authoritative-sounding theories of child rearing inundate the masses.

Yet, sad to say, family life

Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.

keeps falling apart at a devastating rate!

Part of the reason is a confidence gap: Parents feel guilt, and kids exploit it to the hilt! Then, too, the reams of counsel from well-meaning authorities subtly help shrink the adult role, erode the confidence parents exercised in their God-given offices in generations gone by.

The result?

Parental leadership is disappearing. In the face of controversial, conflicting advice, parents can't help but feel that they are the *last* ones to be trusted with their children.

Others go too far the other way and underrate the massive chal-

lenger of molding the minds of a future generation: "Child rearing? That's nothing. It's as easy as falling off a log. We're so advanced nowadays, we can raise preschoolers in our spare time and hold down a job as well!"

Parents *can* cope. The majority of you *want* to guide your offspring through this difficult, crumbling society.

The statistics show otherwise. Even though economic times have forced more and more mothers into the workplace, the honest ones admit this is far from the ideal situation.

"Surely you have things turned around!" counsels Isaiah (Isaiah 29:16).

Yet here's good news!

Parents *can* cope. The overwhelming majority of you reading this magazine *want* to become better fathers and mothers — you fervently *desire* to guide your offspring through this difficult, crumbling society.

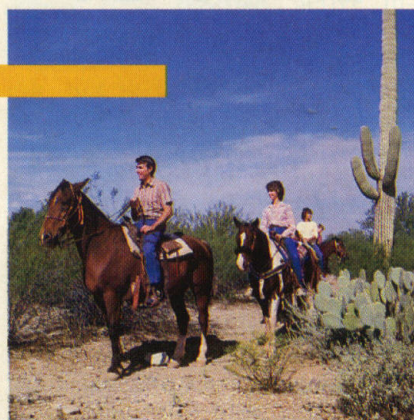
God wants to help you. The

The yoke of guilt

One of the first stumbling blocks to a strong parental role is very familiar — guilt!

We all make mistakes. Especially in dealing with those in our charge. And, yes, our mistakes have consequences that go marching down the generations. What we sow, we reap (Galatians 6:7). Single parents are often haunted with this perplexity.

So what do we do? What's our



strategy when we know we've made mistakes and will make more? Should we throw up our hands and abandon the God-given opportunity of the time we still have left (Ephesians 5:16)? Should we console ourselves with: "Well, I'm making a mess of it. Maybe they should carry on and find their own way, after all. Perhaps I'm a hindrance more than a help."

Stop!

That is not God's counsel at all. He is far too concerned for children.

Decide to obey God

Listen! Once upon a time there lived a servant of God who criminally neglected preparing his children for life. He was forced to suffer the virtual rape of his only daughter. He saw two of his boys become mass murderers be-

fore they were old enough to vote.

But, with God's help, he became, by the end of his life, the respected patriarch of a unified family.

You may have heard of him. His name was Jacob. He was one of God's greatest heroes (Genesis 32:28).

Jacob's name was changed to *Israel* — meaning literally, "prince with God" — not because of his sins, but because, once he committed himself to God's ways and God's laws with all his heart and soul, no force could shake him from following that right way.

So take heart. If you're a physical or spiritual Israelite, you're named after one of the giants in God's spiritual hall of fame.

Jacob's family life was cursed (Genesis 47:9). Guilt was only part of the penalty. He suffered through a painful, miserable life (Genesis 31:40). For almost 13 years, God let him think that his favorite son, Joseph, was dead.

These were only some of the effects of Jacob's earlier mistakes in life.

But the repentant Jacob had a lot to offer. He made up for the lost time.

Read Jacob's story next time you feel like a failure as a parent. "There is no one who does not sin," says I Kings 8:46. Avoid Jacob's mistakes where possible, but be encouraged by his guts and tenacity.

After he decided to obey God in everything, Jacob had a lot to give. You as a parent have a lot to give. The fact that you're reading this article shows you haven't given up yet.

Next time you feel helpless before child-rearing problems, meditate on the positive results of obeying God's laws. You need to stand firm, with compassion, when guilt undermines your efforts to take charge. Or when even your own offspring throw back your mistakes at you. Be encouraged. With God's guidance, you can succeed as a parent.

Christian leadership in the

home doesn't mean Mom and Dad are infallible. But the key is to retain parental authority in spite of mistakes.

Dodging slings and arrows

Young children and teens are experts, it seems, at exploiting adult mistakes. Why? So they can push a little further in their own way: "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction will drive it far from him" (Proverbs 22:15).

Expect these thorny conflicts (John 16:33). They force us to learn wisdom!

"Double standard" is a common term flung at authority figures and, like it or not, you, as a parent, are in authority.

But don't let mistakes cause you to compromise in areas where you know you need to be firm and insistent. Single parents, especially, face this quandary.

Here is what God's Word counsels: Even if you are wrong and yet God leaves you in control, take charge in spite of mistakes. Admit errors, but don't surrender your authority.

Persevere in child rearing, but also act honestly, wisely, patiently, kindly. Keep ahead of those in your charge. Our imperfections don't excuse gross faults and errors in those we lead. Remember this: You are in authority, and God will back you up (Romans 13:1-2).

Outwitting carnal ploys

"That's not fair, Dad. It just isn't fair!"

Sound familiar? This is one of the common tactics teens in particular use on adults.

How do you handle it?

Turn the attack around: "No, it may not seem fair that the teacher penalizes the whole class because of one undetected cheater. But your teacher is fighting for principles and standards. Try to see his point of view. And, like it or not, one of the big lessons you'll have to learn as you grow up is that life isn't always fair, especially in the short run. But hang on. Be pa-

tient. Something will work out. You'll see."

With today's blurred lines of morality, most parents can't speak that confidently. But God's people can: "If you see the oppression of the poor, and the violent perversion of justice and righteousness in a province, do not marvel at the matter; for high official watches over high official, and higher officials are over them" (Ecclesiastes 5:8).

Think big. God is the ultimate authority in all human affairs. Apply this strategy when controversies come up. Don't be intimidated by youthful zeal for fairness and equity. View it as a chance to teach maturity. With



God's help, stay ahead of the game. He can give you wisdom when you need it (Proverbs 8:5-6). "Ask, and it will be given" (Luke 11:9).

"Make the punishment fit the crime," goes the old proverb. Don't drive thumbtacks with sledgehammers. In all of God's laws, balance and fairness shine through.

Jesus taught: "And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he who did not know, yet committed things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few" (Luke 12:47-48).

God Himself has scaled down threatened punishment on occasion (Exodus 32:14).

Yes, the great, holy and majestic God is more flexible than

some who correct mercilessly for violations of their own picky human standards. Often these same people tolerate flagrant bad attitudes, hateful comments and simmering hostility without lifting a finger.

That is inconsistency. Inconsistency confuses young people and undermines sound family discipline. It does nothing but provoke children to wrath (Ephesians 6:4).

It is not easy to be both consistent and flexible. But rose bushes have thorns. So remember, if your first reaction was too strict, you will never lose face by scaling down punishment. It's a living law. God Himself practices it

Leadership doesn't mean Mom and Dad are infallible. The key is retaining authority in spite of mistakes.

(Jonah 3:10). And discipline shouldn't always be negative. Make it constructive.

Seek extra help

There is much strategy and counsel available to you as a parent in the Bible, God's instruction Book for man. Study it to learn practical, positive approaches to child rearing.

There is also much help in regular family articles in this magazine. This article has only scratched the surface.

Keep reading and studying *The Good News*. Request our free brochure *The Plain Truth About Child Rearing* and apply what you learn from it. For a copy just mail the literature request envelope in this issue or write to our address nearest you.

God wants you to lead your family with confidence! □

Photos by Hal Finch

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Dating

Male and Female Roles

In today's topsy-turvy world, many don't seem to know what masculinity and femininity mean anymore. In this fourth chapter of our dating series, we candidly discuss what the Bible says about the subject.

By Ronald D. Kelly

The roles men and women play in society are changing rapidly.

The pressures of a free-wheeling, do-your-own-thing world are nearly overwhelming.

Traditional families are the exception rather than the rule. Standards for dating and sexual relations seem nearly nonexistent. Premarital sex, open and multiple marriages and homosexuality no longer shock anyone, as they did a few years ago.

But where did all this confusion come from? Why are people in general so disoriented about the roles of men and women?

A study of human history will reveal that the original, God-intended purposes of masculine and feminine roles have seldom been properly understood or fulfilled.

What an array of conflicting styles we find in history! The proverbial cave-man existence of ancient times. The polygamous societies of "Bible times." The prudish Victorian era. The modern women's liberation movement. These all demonstrate the absence of admirable role models.

And what about the effect of mass media today? Situation comedies ridicule masculinity. Advertisers hawk their products with sexual overtones. Roles are often reversed.

It's no wonder people are bewildered. The

dating years should be a time young men and women develop the qualities each will carry into marriage and on through life.

Let's honestly look at masculinity and femininity.

What Is Real Masculinity?

Today, psychologists talk about "outmoded sex roles." Young people are encouraged to break out of previous sexual stereotypes.

But the results of role reversals have been much less than desirable.

A society of dainty boys and rough, tough girls will be no better than the tragedy of male-dominated, abusive societies of bygone days.

A young boy growing up is preparing for the time he will be a man.

But so few parents seem to know how to rear a boy toward that goal. Our homes are failing our youths. Our schools are overlooking them. Our churches are neglecting them.

And our youths are our most precious resource!

So what is the secret? How does a boy



become a real man? Here are four qualities of true masculinity. By no means are these four principles the only steps to masculinity. But they illustrate a balanced approach. Our young male readers should develop them. Parents must teach them.

Education

To develop through the teenage years into successful manhood, you cannot shirk education.

We've all heard the mythical stories of being granted any wish — the genie in the jug, wishing upon a star, the wishing well.

One time such a wish was really granted. It's a true story from the Bible, found in II Chronicles 1:7-10: "On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, 'Ask! What shall I give you?'"

What would you ask for if God appeared to you and offered you anything you wanted? A sports car? A million dollars? Movie-star looks? Solomon asked for none of these.

Instead, Solomon said to God: "You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place... Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?"

Unbelievable, isn't it? A man who would rather have wisdom than riches. His choice so pleased God that God granted Solomon wisdom and knowledge as he had requested. But in addition God gave him fabulous riches.

During the teen years young people will choose whether to acquire wisdom and knowledge, or whether to flit most of their time away in mindless entertainment.

Let's notice the example of Jesus Christ. By the time He was 12, He had taken hold of where He was going. His parents "found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers" (Luke 2:46-47).

These examples show how vital education is in God's sight. Both Solomon and Jesus had a desire for knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

While getting an education, a person should get not only the knowledge of the classroom, but the real foundation. Don't be afraid to study God's Word — the Bible! When you read the Bible, you'll be reading about real people who had the courage to make history.

Education and knowledge are vital tools for a masculine young man with real goals and purpose.

Music

Music is a big part of life. Whether you realize it or not, the philosophies propagated by songs influence you. Songs, lyrics — music in general — create a mood. Music can inspire and uplift you, or make you sad, melancholy and blue. It can also carry you into a futile, despondent attitude if you let it. And

surely you will have to agree that at least some of today's songs are downright vulgar!

So what should you do? Smash your radios? Burn your record albums? Rush off and live as a hermit? Of course not! You might be righteously indignant sometimes. But music can be very good. Why not discover the best in all kinds of music? And what about learning to play an instrument?

One of the most masculine men of the Bible was David. Everyone has heard the story about how he killed Goliath with a slingshot.

But David was also a fine musician. In I Samuel 16 we find David was chosen to play music before the king of his nation. Playing an instrument didn't make David effeminate or a sissy. Not at all! He was brave. He was strong and ath-



letic. In other words, David was a balanced, masculine young man.

You, too, can learn to apply the right principles of good music.

Physical fitness

Top mental agility and enjoyment of music are far less effective when combined with an out-of-condition body. Yet tests have uncovered some alarming trends. A majority of men — especially teenage fellows — are getting softer!

Look around a typical high-school campus. Notice how many boys look unhealthy and weak. How many of them can do 10 chin-ups? How many can do 25 push-ups? The shameful truth is that many boys have no skills, little strength and even less interest in developing those skills and strength.

But the teen years should be the prime years of

Illustration by Wendy Lagerström;
photo by Hal Finch

life. For a man to be out of shape, fat and effeminate is a disgrace!

David was just a teenager when he slew the Philistine giant Goliath. David was no sissy or weakling. He spent long days and nights with his father's sheep. He had to battle wild animals and even killed a lion and a bear (I Samuel 17:36). He was deadly accurate with the sling. He was courageous and athletic. He was a real man!

True, you are not preparing to fight lions and bears or 9-foot Philistines. But you can take part in a variety of sports, athletics and exercise programs that will get and keep you in good physical condition. Not only will you reap immediate benefits, but you will be a more balanced person.

Work

There is an old proverb that says, "He who does not teach his son a trade might as well teach him to steal." There is a lot of wisdom in that old saying. Too many young men in today's modern society simply haven't been taught to work.

When you get out of your teens, you will have about 50 full years of work ahead of you. No matter what career areas you work in during those years, early training in basic work skills will pay off.

Of course, you should be preparing for a specific career goal as well. Many will go on to college or university. Others will take vocational training to prepare for a trade. And since you will be spending some 50 years at work, you might as well enjoy it.

The skills of a trade and, more importantly, a good work ethic and dependability can be acquired during the teen years. You can prepare yourself for the future by working hard at whatever jobs you can find. Skills and good work habits gained even while working around the home can be helpful in finding and keeping good-paying jobs.

These four areas of life contribute to the balanced and masculine man. They are only the basics. Life is much more complicated than this. But here is the foundation. Men must be masculine and think masculine. It's essential to the strength of society.

A man must not be satisfied to be weak and effeminate.

And as far as dating goes, that truly masculine man is the ideal with whom a young woman enjoys being.

True Femininity: Every Girl's Challenge

Today's women proclaim themselves free from the burdens of history.

Women in the United States and other countries have demanded and received much. They have marched into theaters, bars, nightclubs, into jobs and factory work, into middle and upper manage-

ment in major corporations, into political offices — nearly everywhere into places once considered off limits to women.

What are the results? Has true femininity been achieved as women strove to right all the wrongs of history?

We live in difficult times

As society has swept along, it has left a maze of question marks in our minds. True masculinity and true femininity seem almost impossible to define. Men don't know whether to be wimps or macho. Women don't know whether to be homemakers or corporate presidents.

How can we know?

There is one way to find out what true femininity is. That is to learn it from the one who made humans male and female — the Creator God. He designed us. He has revealed in the Bible what men and women are supposed to be.

And the Creator God is not a male chauvinist. God did not design women to be subservient, second-rate or inferior members of the human race.

In the beginning God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him" (Genesis 2:18). She was made of the same substance. She had the same mental capacities. And she had the same spiritual potential.

But she was different!

Mankind is created in the image of the great Creator God — with the ultimate potential to be born into His Family. By making humans male and female, with the capacity to love, marry and bear children, God made it possible for us to understand the incredible human potential.

But few have understood it.

In ancient societies, women were often kept in the back tent. Walked 10 paces behind. Sometimes were part of harems that contained several wives. And otherwise lived downtrodden existences.

At the opposite end of the spectrum is our liberated 20th-century society of feminists who have tried to swing the pendulum as far to the other side as possible.

Neither has brought happiness and understanding of what true femininity is.

So, what are the qualities of true femininity?

Education for girls, too

In the accompanying pages, our information on masculinity outlines four major aspects of life a young man ought to develop: education, music, sports and work.

But shouldn't a girl also be educated, love music, participate in sports and learn to work?

Absolutely. A girl's education is just as important as a boy's.

When the late Herbert W. Armstrong established Ambassador College, he knew Ambassador had to be coeducational. Women certainly ought to be just as educated as their mates. They will work side by

side. They will rear their children. And equal education makes effective partners.

Of course, some women will not choose to marry early (or at all) and will need to pursue careers. Obviously, education is essential to that pursuit.

But this does not mean a woman's education should put her in direct competition with men in every field. Education today often demeans the importance of being a wife and mother and sometimes inflames head-to-head competition between the sexes.

The divorce courts, with their stockpile of statistics, are living witness against the system we have created. But you don't have to be one of those statistics. You can be an educated, balanced, feminine young woman, if you set out to pattern your life after the laws of Almighty God.

A girl should be beautiful

It's OK for a girl to be attractive.

But we're not talking about the way skin is stretched over a person's face. Beauty for the sake of vanity is not God's way. Some girls who are beautiful physically are beset by many problems. Witness Hollywood's female sex symbols.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with a girl wanting to be properly attractive, well-groomed, clean. But true beauty and femininity come from within and can't be painted on.

The Bible tells of several beautiful women who were outstanding examples. One was Sarah, the wife of Abraham. When Abraham and Sarah moved to Egypt, "The Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful" (Genesis 12:14). Pharaoh himself, a man surrounded by beautiful women, wanted Sarah for his wife and was willing to purchase her from Abraham.

She was Abraham's wife, though, and God intervened for them.

Another outstanding woman from biblical times was Ruth. Ruth had been left a young widow and had to earn a living gleaning grain. Boaz, a wealthy landowner, noticed her in the field. Ruth's appearance was so impressive Boaz had to stop and ask who she was.

She must have been a captivating picture to attract him under those circumstances. He decided to find out more about her. He discovered not only her outward beauty, but her beauty of character. He married her. She became the great-grandmother of David, king of ancient Israel.

The Bible tells about another physically pretty woman named Jezebel. But her beauty was only physical. She painted it on in the morning and washed it off at night. Inside she was evil and hateful. After marrying into the royal family of Israel, she brought idol worship and immorality to the nation. She was finally thrown from the balcony of her palace and was eaten by dogs — a most unpretty picture.

Pure beauty comes from the heart. Girls who

maintain proper weight, eat a nutritious diet, keep their hair in an appropriate style (the Bible says a woman's hair is her crown and glory — I Corinthians 11:15) and have a truly humble spirit are the most beautiful of all (I Peter 3:3-4).

Virginity — a lost cause?

If there is anything that typifies and represents society today, it is "sexual freedom." But true femininity is not sexual permissiveness. Godly femininity is a result of determination to maintain sexual purity during one's teen years and to prepare properly for marriage.

In today's world, a young person is often not accepted by peers unless he or she has had sexual experience before marriage. Many are made to believe that it is perfectly acceptable to neck, pet or go all the way.

But what are the fruits of this permissiveness? Illegitimate children, sexually transmissible diseases, heartache, guilt and warped attitudes about sex.

In our Western society, more than half of all young brides have experienced premarital sexual relations. (Unfortunately, the percentage is even higher among men. God does not have a double standard — men are equally accountable.)

What a testimony against our society concerning true femininity! It is a challenge to maintain a pure and chaste life — to present oneself in marriage as a virgin.

Think of virginity not as something you *lose* (the common thought), but something you *give*. And you can only give it one time. That gift should be for your husband.

But is it worth it?

Is it worth it to strive for true femininity?

You bet it is!

A truly feminine young woman has personality, a sharp mind, is educated and knows where she is going. She dresses well, does her hair neatly, is clean and well-groomed, maintains proper weight, exercises and works for success in whatever she does. She learns her life-style and attitude from the sacred Word of God.

IN SUMMARY

This series of articles is about dating. It's important that both men and women understand the proper attributes to develop. The Bible reveals them.

As young people grow to maturity and go out on dates with members of the opposite sex, those attributes pay off. A young man is much more impressed with a feminine young woman. And a young woman so much more respects a masculine leader.

In the next chapter we'll discuss what couples ought to do on dates — how to understand the roles of male and female in action, in preparation for a lifetime of marriage and happiness. □

(To be continued)

COMING IN THE GOOD NEWS

◆ How SERIOUS Are You About Your Calling?

Do you really understand God's calling? This is the most serious and important thing in your life!

◆ The Lost Art of Dating

For most people, there is little "art" to dating. Many do not even know exactly what a date is! As our series of articles continues, we focus on the practical, how-to aspects of dating.

◆ Build on Your Strengths!

If you want to have a part in the coming Kingdom of God, you are working at overcoming your weaknesses. But has it occurred to you that your strong points and talents might need attention, too?

◆ Details Count!

Our *big* decisions in life result from a lot of *little* decisions along the way. Do the details count to you?

◆ Will This Sin Be Your Undoing?

There is a deadly sin that lurks in the shadows of all our lives. Do you know what it is, and how to overcome it?
