

CLASS NOTES -- Pastoral Theology

FAMILY AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

The following is a selection of Scriptures that will be helpful to the pastor in his ministry of counseling.

"The just man walketh in his integrity; his children are blessed after him" (Prov. 20:7).

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

"A wise son heareth his father's instruction, but a scoffer heareth not rebuke" (Prov. 13:1).

"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Prov. 22:15).

"Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul" (Prov. 29:17).

"Withhold not correction from the child; for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from Sheol" (Prov. 23:13, 14).

"The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame" (Prov. 29:15).

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Prov. 19:18).

"He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly" (Prov. 13:24 - N.K.J.V. [New King James Version]).

"He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother is a son who causes shame, and brings reproach" (Prov. 19:26 -- N.K.J.V.). "Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness " (Prov. 20:20).

"Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right" (Prov. 20:11).

"Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old" (Prov. 23:22).

"The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it" (Prov. 30:17).

"A foolish son is the ruin of his father, and the contentions of a wife are a continual dripping. Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord" (Prov. 10:1).

19:13, 14 -- N.K.J.V.).

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor from the Lord" (Prov. 18:22).

"A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband, but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones" (Prov. 12:4).

"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good, and not evil, all the days of her life ... She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her ... Favor [popularity] is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who feareth the Lord, she shall be praised" (Prov. 30:10 - 12, 26 - 28, 30).

"Every wise woman buildeth her house, but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands" (Prov. 14:1).

"It is better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, than in a house shared with a contentious woman" (Prov. 21:9 -- N.K.J.V.). "It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman" (Prov. 21:19).

"There is a treasure to be desired, and oil, in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man spendeth it up" (Prov. 21:20).

In the following N. T. Scriptures it will be well to look them up at your leisure and notice the contexts of the passages. This is not a complete list of the scriptures affecting the home, of course. Every verse which helps to guide the individual believer in his life for the Lord will have its effect on the home, whether he is father, mother, or child in that home. We have sought out some of the verses that have to do **specifically** with the home situation. We have no doubt missed even some of these.

"Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does" (1 Cor. 7:3 - 5 -- N.K.J.V.).

"And be not drunk with wine, in which is excess, but be filled with the Spirit ... submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the Body. Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for it ... So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself ... Let every one of you in particular so love his wife as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband" (Eph. 5:18-b, 21 - 25, 28, 33).

"And ye, fathers provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things; for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged" (Col. 3:18 - 21).

"A bishop [or "overseer" or "elder"] must be blameless, the husband of one wife. [He must be] one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity (for if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?). Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers [literally "not devilish talkers"] ... soberminded, faithful in all things" (1 Tim. 3:2-a, 4, 5, 11).

"But if any man provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (1 Tim. 5:8).

"I will, therefore, that the younger women marry, bear children, rule the house, give no occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully" (1 Tim. 5:14).

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:15).

"That the aged men be soberminded, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; the aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers [literally "devilish talkers"], not given to much wine, teachers of good things, that they may teach the young women to be soberminded, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home ["diligent at home"], obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men, likewise, exhort to be soberminded, in all things showing thyself a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned, that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you" (Titus 2:2 - 8).

"In the same manner, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands. [As to the wives' adorning] let it not be that outward adorning of braiding the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel, but let it be the hidden man of the heart in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (1 Pet. 3:1-a, 3, 4).

"In like manner, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered. Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful [full of pity], be courteous, not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing, but on the contrary, blessing, knowing that ye are called to this, that ye should inherit a blessing" (1 Pet. 3:7 - 9).

"For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: for whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye [illegitimate sons], and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Heb. 12: 3 - 11).

A pastor's family is of great importance because: **1.** His home is his first responsibility, both physically and spiritually (1 Tim. 5:8 -- the principle in this verse can be applied to the spiritual needs also). **2.** His home is a sample to the church of what a Christian home should be (1 Tim. 4:12). **3.** His home is an evidence of his leadership ability (1 Tim. 3:5 -- Apply skills at home and then use them in the church). **4.** Spiritual problems in his home can limit his work (Titus 2:5) or even prevent him from having a place of leadership in the church (1 Tim. 3:2, 4). **5.** A spiritual and happy home will help the pastor in his own spiritual life and in his preparations for the ministry outside the home.

We will spend about two thirds of our life in our **HOME**. Whether these years build us up and send us forth in more effective work for Him, or whether they drag us down and hinder our ministry and testimony, depends on what kind of a home we make it -- **SPIRITUALLY**.

The Pastor's PERSONAL LIFE -- Paul's instructions to Timothy.

First Timothy:

- * War a good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience (1:18, 19).
- * Pray (2:1 - 4).
- * Exercise yourself unto godliness (4:7, 8). Be an example (4:12).
- * Do not neglect the gift you have for service (4:14).
- * Meditate (4:15).
- * Take heed to **yourself** (4:16).
- * Take heed to **doctrine** (4:16).
- * Keep yourself pure (5:22).
- * Take care of your body, take medicine when it is needed (5:23).
- * Flee these things: the desire to be rich (don't be a miser) and the love of money (don't be a heavy spender -- on **yourself**). See 6:9 - 11.
- * Fight the good fight of faith (6:12).
- * Keep the deposit of truth (6:20).

Second Timothy:

- * Stir up the gift that is in you (1:6).
- * Don't be ashamed to be a partaker in suffering (1:7, 8).
- * Hold fast sound words; keep the deposit [of truth] (1:13, 14).
- * Be strong in **grace** (2:1).
- * Endure hardness, avoid entanglements which would keep you from being a good soldier for Christ (2:3, 4).
- * Consider what Paul says and the Lord will give understanding (2:7).
- * Remember Jesus Christ (2:8).
- * Study, rightly dividing the word of truth (2:15).
- * Shun "worldly and empty chatter" (2:16 -- NASB).
- * Depart from iniquity (2:19).
- * Flee from youthful lusts (2:22).
- * Do not strive, but be gentle (2:24).
- * Be aware of the evil character of the "last times" (3:1).
- * You will suffer persecution (3:12).
- * Continue in the things you have learned (from Paul [3:14]; from the Old Testament [3:15] and from all Scripture [3:16]) and of which you have become convinced: -- in order to be fully equipped for every good work (3:17).
- * Preach the Word (4:2).
- * Watch in all things (4:5).
- * Endure afflictions (4:5).
- * Do the work of an evangelist (4:5).
- * Make full proof of your ministry (4:5).

What we can learn, from PAUL'S EXAMPLE as a PASTOR, in PHILEMON:

- * The pastor should be concerned about individuals, not just the church as a whole. Notice Paul's concern for both Philemon and Onesimus.
- * A pastor can have a ministry through the letters he writes. As a matter of fact the **only** ministry Paul has to **US today** is through his letters!
- * A pastor doesn't have to sacrifice principle in order to be tactful. Paul's use of godly tact with Philemon is outstanding!
- * While the pastor has authority, he doesn't **have to** use it -- and **must not abuse it!** See Philemon 8, 9.
- * Follow-up of converts is as important as winning them. Notice the follow-up of Onesimus, Paul's new convert. All of Paul's church epistles are "follow-up" letters.
- * Do not expect others to do all the sacrificing in the Lord's work (Philemon 18, 19).
- * Do not take advantage of "moral obligations" owed to you (Philemon 19).
- * Expect the best from other believers (Philemon 21).
- * Minister gladly, but do not expect to be ministered to (Philemon 13, 14).
- * Take time to be friendly and courteous. The book of Philemon could have been even shorter except for this consideration.
- * Do not try to change the culture in the unsaved world around you, but work within the

culture to change **MEN**. Changed men will eventually change the culture in areas where it needs to be changed. Notice, for example, how slavery was a large part of the culture of the Roman Empire. Paul did not protest slavery, in Philemon, but returned a slave to his master. The slavery of Onesimus lost its sting in light of the fact that both Onesimus and his master had been vastly changed through their saving contact with Christ.

What TO DO when "what the members (or church leaders) say" conflicts with what you believe the Bible says:

- * **Be sure** what the Bible says -- search the Scriptures. Do not mistake what you **think** for what the Bible **says**.

- * **Be sure** you understand what the members say. Listen and consider it carefully.

- * Pray. Spend time talking it over with the Lord. Let Him counsel with you.

- * Do any necessary general teaching that may be needed as a background for a better understanding -- but don't make your messages too pointed, do not "preach at" the members (or "bomb" them -- as the Filipinos would say). Preach the truth, as you see it, but do it in love (Eph. 4:15).

- * Wait. Give time for them to think about what you have taught (but not enough time for them to forget it).

- * Reconsider the problem. Freely admit any error on your part and accept any blame you actually deserve. Do not let pride prevent this step. Do not demand any admissions of guilt or apologies on the part of others. Let the Lord deal with them about this.

- * **WAIT** again. Take time to come to a decision. Do not "railroad" it or "push it through." Do not use parliamentary procedures to get your own way in the meeting (or to show them how much you know). They should be used to make a meeting go more smoothly and to prevent anyone from defeating the true will of the majority.

- * Come to a decision. **If the decision is clearly in your favor** it is the end of the problem. But don't gloat over your victory or you may lose it!

If NOT, don't lose your temper! Be understanding and forgiving. Seek other solutions. The others may have an answer that is just as scriptural as yours and, possibly, even more effective. Wisdom in a congregation is not limited to the pastor. Possibly (depending on the nature of the problem) it can remain as an "agree to disagree" situation -- **IN LOVE!** The matter would then be "tabled" indefinitely.

There is always the possibility that they need a different pastor (but don't use this as a threat to try to force them to let you have your own way!).

The SELECTION of a PASTOR:

- * Do not ask for a "Bible Woman," just because she is easier to support, and then expect her to do the work of a pastor. Her ministries are limited by Scripture, as is recognized by the policy of many missions and church groups (1 Cor. 14:34; 1 Tim. 2:11 - 14). See "Women's Ministries" by W. P. Heath if it is available. It is published by Things to Come Mission in the Philippines.

- * Do not expect a perfect pastor -- unless you are a perfect church!

- * Do not expect the pastor to carry on all of the ministries in the barrio or city. He is to lead the congregation in **their** ministry (Eph. 4:11, 12).

* Have a plan to adequately support your pastor. He needs to eat, and support his family also (1 Cor. 9:7 - 14). Titus 3:14 (The Living Bible) says, "For our people must learn to help all who need their assistance, that their lives will be fruitful." See Gal. 6:6 - 10.

The candidating pastor's ethics -- here is a good place for some thoughtful class discussion.

REMEMBER -- The pastor is not a General to stand around and give orders to everyone, nor a policeman to enforce the law. Neither is he a cart to be pushed around by everyone, or a floor to be walked on. He is a **shepherd to feed and protect the sheep!**

Some excerpts from "The Pastor in Profile" by Adolph Bedsole:

One of the greatest danger-points for a young preacher is to have an unduly exalted opinion of himself. He may be too proud of his preaching ability, or the value of his own ideas, or his knowledge of the Bible, or he may think that he is really a courageous man to be willing to stand for sound doctrine as he does.

A second pitfall for a young preacher is the assumption of a disparaging attitude toward other preachers [looking down on them as inferior to himself].

Another pitfall for a young preacher is the impulse to "get them told" [to "bomb" the people in his church]. Yes, they may need to be told; but the telling needs to be done in a spirit of genuine humility and love.

The desire to clean out the church [to get rid of part of the people -- the "trouble makers"] is another pitfall for a young preacher. The pastor is not a house cleaner, he is a builder. If the pastor's preaching does not stimulate the people themselves to clean house, the pastor had better let the house cleaning business alone, or he may find **himself** cleaned out!

The danger of becoming copycats of great preachers is another pitfall for the young preacher. [It is not my job to make myself another Billy Graham -- but to let the Lord make me the best possible Bill Heath!].

Obviously many of the above warnings apply to older men also!

--- William P Heath

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