

International Bible Institute Library

CHARACTER

DEVELOPMENT

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• ~ Maturing In The Faith ~
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CONTENTS

- 1 – Launching Into Adventure - 2
- 2 – Launching Into Building Character - 4
- 3 – Character In Husbands & Wives - 11
- 4 – Character In Fathers & Mothers - 21
- 5 – Character In Sons & Daughters - 30
- 6 – Character Dignity - 37

Christianity is more than a set of rules by which we guard ourselves from following after our own morals and religious imaginations. It is a lifestyle. Jesus wanted us to have an abundant life in this world. In order to have this gift, we must bring into our behavior His principles of living. When we live as Jesus would have us live, then we will have a very fulfilling life. We will understand that there is a fullness of life that God intended that we have during our existence on this earth. It is for this reason that we must view the Bible as a textbook for the best life we can have. It is our spiritual guide for the development of our personal characters in order that we have the abundant life about which Jesus spoke and promised those who would follow Him.

Chapter 1

≈ Launching Into Adventure ≈

Every person must deal with helping others, and thus serve in helping the communities in which he or she lives. One is a good community person only when he or she has a good reputation of helping others to lead a better life. As a nation, we must seek leaders who have characters of good moral and ethical conduct. Some have claimed to be leaders, but have manifested wrong behavior in their business dealings and the affairs of their communities. It is for this reason that **we as citizens of our nation must focus on how we can influence for good those people around whom we live.**

A happy community exists when individuals live together with one another in a peaceful relationship of neighborhood interaction. Those who believe in God should lead in being the best citizens in any community because of their skill to live in harmony with others. Learning personal skills in order to live in harmony with others will build great communities, and subsequently, great nations. Developing our characters makes it possible for us to dwell peacefully with others. Therefore, it is the responsibility of every individual of the community to develop his or her personal character in order to be a productive citizen in the community and nation.

**Good Moral
People
Produce
Great Nations.**

CENTER OF THE COMMUNITY

The center of any community is the family. Good families produce good citizens for every community. Men and women can live together in peace and harmony when families function according to basic principles that enhance family relationships. In order to maintain peace and harmony in any society, nations must rise up to focus on producing better families. In order to build great families, husbands and wives, and fathers and mothers, must develop parental skills that lead to the establishment and maintenance of healthy family living. Any nation that seeks to be united on the foundation of moral living must first encourage the development of solid family structures within society.

The only true and abiding answer to social dysfunctions are morals that are greater than man himself. These morals must be taught to and practiced by everyone in our community, starting with our families and our leaders.



In reference to sexual relationships, God's morals mean abstinence from sexual activity outside the bond of marriage. As a young person, one must understand that if he or she violates the moral law of abstinence outside marriage, then one will reap the consequences of one's action. We can save our communities from the bad consequences of immorality only by practicing God's moral principles in our lives.

Those who refuse to learn from the mistakes of vanished nations in the past are doomed to repeat and relive that which destroys nations. But we must

**The Principles
Of God
Never Change.**

commit ourselves not to repeat the mistakes of the past. It is the duty of every citizen to recognize and implement in his or her life those character principles that lead to a better life. It is the responsibility of religious institutions and schools of every nation throughout the world to train the minds of its citizenship in the moral principles of the word of God. People must be trained to conduct themselves with good moral and ethical behavior in their relationships with one another. It is the responsibility of every society to focus the minds of every generation on moral principles that build great nations.

Religious leaders must encourage the religious institutions and schools of a nation not to repeat those things that will lead to the destruction of our communities. Civic and religious leaders must seek to focus the citizenship of a nation on unchanging principles that have always built better nations. In doing this, communities within nations can build dynamic environments in which citizens

**Learn From The Past.
Build For The Future**

can live in peace, and thus, become productive participants in a dynamic society.

If we seek to develop a nation that is united under belief in God to whom we all will give account, then it will take a great amount of effort. We must be motivated to do what is right in order to establish within our societies principles that will produce the kind of citizenship that builds vibrant nations. Therefore, as one studies through moral and ethical principles that lead to the development of a great person, he or she must realize that we all have a great responsibility as a citizen of our nation to build the nation on morals and ethics that will lead to a better life for everyone. When we do this then we fulfill the dream of everyone, that is to live a happy life.



**Everyone Wants
To Live
A Happy Life.**

**Nation Building
Is Accomplished
Through
Character
Building.**

1. **T or F:** One is a good leader when he or she is known for helping others.
2. **T or F:** Leadership must focus on how one influences others to do that which is good.
3. **T or F:** Happy communities can exist without people learning how to live together in peace.
4. **T or F:** The most important thing in developing a unified community is economic growth.
5. **T or F:** Nations that are built on the foundation of good morals and ethical behavior will be growing and producing great nations.

Chapter 2

≈ Launching Into Building Character ≈

Great nations are the result of dignified individuals who seek to dwell together in peaceful unity that is based on the moral integrity of all citizens.

It is the responsibility of every citizen of every nation of the world to strive to build a unified nation of peace. Nations are built on the good characters of individual citizens. Therefore, **it is the responsibility**

“Sow a thought,
you reap an act;
so an act,
you reap a habit;
sow a habit,
you reap a character;
sow a character,
you reap a destiny.”

Samuel Smiles

of every citizen to develop his or her character as a person in order to develop a great nation.

It is thus the task of religious and civic leaders of every nation to challenge the citizenship to develop good moral characters.

Someone once said, **“A good character is more valuable than gold.”** Our lives are built around our character. Good characters produce good lives. Unhealthy characters produce many unfortunate consequences that destroy lives. Therefore, we must be diligent to challenge one another to live the best lives we can that are based on good moral and ethical principles of God.

Our success in life will depend on how we relate to other people. The better we relate with others, the better we will succeed in life. When one develops his or her character, he or she can better live with family and friends. Good character development makes it possible for us to live in harmony with our neighbors. When we learn and practice skills of how to relate with others, we will succeed in life as a productive citizen of the community.

**Our Character
Determines
Our Future.**

We must be encouraged to be productive citizens in our communities. If one follows good principles for character development, then he or she can have a happy family and peaceful community life that is based on moral and ethical principles that influence others to do good. And by having a positive influence on others, we will be an encouraging leader in our communities.

A. Character And Our Faith

Our character is not our religion, though our religious beliefs will affect our character. Our beliefs affect our character development if we understand that we will give account to God for our behavior.

The first test as to whether a religious faith is from God is in the fact that the faith must move us to be better people. God created all men. He then gave rules by which all of us

could live together in peace and harmony. Any religious faith that does not promote honesty, integrity and peace among those of God's creation, cannot be from God. Our development as citizens, therefore, must focus on moral and ethical principles that come from God.

Every person has a character regardless of his or her religious beliefs. It is for this reason that every person must seek to develop a good character in order to be a good citizen of any society. **We must focus on being a person of integrity in order to be honorable citizens in our communities.** Character development is absolutely necessary for developing a life that is rich with success and good relationships.



B. Character And Conscience

Everyone has a conscience. If we do not do that which we think is right, then we hurt or violate our conscience. A good character that originates from a God-trained conscience moves us to do right in order that we not violate our conscience. In order to define and develop a good conscience that is based on eternal moral and ethical principles, we must look for moral and ethical principles that originate from God, and thus are eternal in nature.

Men And Women
With Good
Characters Know
And Practice
What Is Right.

Everyone has developed in his or her life that which he or she considers to be right. We seek to do good according to what we believe is right. Character development is knowing and practicing correct principles by which we can determine what is good or bad. **We develop our conscience with good moral and ethical principles in order to guide ourselves to do that which is right.**



Our character determines how we will respond to every situation in life. Our character, therefore, is manifested by our encounters with people and situations.

- ▶ **Good characters make the best of bad situations.**
- ▶ **Bad characters make the worst of good situations.**

It is necessary to develop our characters so we know how to interact in all situations of life, whether good or bad.

C. Character Building Blocks

God's standards upon which good characters are built have been time-tested and accepted as true and good by men of all ages. Because we are the creation of God, God has placed within us a conscience to do right and good to our fellow man. God is the source from which good character principles can be discovered. Upon His principles great characters are built. We assume that God knows best concerning the development of our characters for successful living because He is our Creator. He created us, and then created principles for abundant living.

Society throughout history has proved that it cannot develop moral and ethical standards by which people can conduct themselves in moral and ethical decency with one another. The immorality and genocides that continue to occur throughout the world is evidence of this fact. AIDS is evidence of this fact. Crime, terrorism, and moral decay are all evidences of the fact that humans are not able through their own will and laws to determine what is correct moral and ethical behavior. If humans do establish good moral laws, they often cannot develop a conscience that motivates them to keep those laws. Therefore, we must always use Divine principles as the foundation on which to develop and train our consciences.

RESEARCH THOUGHT

In 1844, a deceased citizen gave the city of Philadelphia in the state of Pennsylvania in America a large sum of money in his will. The money was to be used in teaching orphans the "purest principles of morality." However, the heirs of the deceased man wanted his money for themselves. As a result, they sued and the case went before the Supreme Court of the United States. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the directions of the deceased person's will. In addition, the Court ruled that the New Testament be used as the textbook for

teaching orphans moral principles. The Court stated, “Where can the purest principles of morality be learned so clearly or so perfect as from the New Testament?” (*Vidal vs Girard’s Executors*; 43 U.S. 127, 200 [1844]).

D. Character For Nation Building

Almost all religions teach the same principles for moral, ethical and character development. Many religious faiths of the world accept the Bible as the primary source of moral and ethical principles in developing our characters. In fact, the first president of the United States, George Washington, said, “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.” The great educator, Noah Webster, once said, “The Bible must be considered as the great source of all truth by which men are to be guided in government, as well as in all social transactions.”

William Lyon Phelps once wrote, “Western civilization is founded upon the Bible; our ideas, our wisdom, our philosophy, our literature, our art, our ideals come more from the Bible than from all other books put together. It is a revelation of divinity and of humanity.”

Though the Bible has been used as the foundation upon which many civil constitutions have been developed, God does not intend that the Bible be used directly as the actual constitution for any government. He only desires that men in writing their constitutions for civil government be guided by His principles for national building.



Good constitutions are based on timeless moral and ethical principles by which God seeks to build every nation of the world for all history.

Nations that construct their constitutions on the principles of God will be nations that are unified as one people. Though many languages may be spoken in a nation, any nation as a whole can be united on common moral and ethical principles by which the citizenship conducts itself. Nations that have a common moral and ethical behavior will be nations with societies that work for the upliftment of the nation as a whole.

E. Character And Success

It is true that social upliftment and success is determined by relationships. This is true simply because success depends on our ability to interact with other people. Since our relationships with others is determined by our character, then our success depends on how well we develop our characters. A good character helps us to get along with our friends, our family, our business associates, and the people of our community. The better we get along with others, the more successful we will be.

When we maintain a proper relationship with others, we will be successful in life. But also, we will be a success in everything we do because others will gladly work and associate with us in our efforts to accomplish our goals for life. If you want to be a successful person, you must focus on developing your character.

**Character Is Judged
By Our Relationships.**

Learning to develop your character is an adventure in learning skills that makes us better people. It is a discovery in learning some of the most important principles that have ever been made concerning our purpose and work of life.

Those who concentrate on developing qualities of character in their lives will be socially and economically uplifted in society. For this reason, it should be the goal of everyone to become a person who is known for having good character qualities. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (Jn 10:10) The fact that we want to have the abundant life about which Jesus spoke must motivate us to be the best we can be. Once we are motivated to develop good characters, we will discover that life is truly blessed for the one who wants to live in service to others. You must make it a goal of your life to discover character skills that will help you to be a better person.

If there is righteousness in the heart,
there will be beauty in character.

If there is beauty in character,
there will be harmony in the home.

If there is harmony in the home,
there will be order in the nation.

If there is order in the nation,
there will be peace in the world.

A Chinese Proverb

CHALLENGING YOUR MEMORY

Answers To Chapter 2 Questions

A. Bible, B. succeed, C. bad, D. responsibility, E. focus, F. service, G. interact, H. principles, I. conscience, J. better, K. future, L. build, M. unified, N. character, O. motivates, P. account, Q. successful

1. ____ It is the ____ of every citizen to develop his or her character in order to develop a great nation.
2. ____ Our lives are built around our ____.
3. ____ The better we relate to others, the better we will ____ in life.
4. ____ Our character determines our ____.
5. ____ Our religious beliefs affect our character development if we understand that we will give ____ to God for our behavior.
6. ____ The first test as to whether a religious faith is from God is in the fact that the faith must move us to be ____ people.
7. ____ Character development is knowing and practicing correct ____ by which we can determine what is good or bad.
8. ____ Good characters will make the best of ____ situations.
9. ____ Because we are the creation of God, God has placed within us a ____ to do right and good to our fellow man.
10. ____ When humans establish good moral laws, they often cannot develop a conscience that ____ them to keep those laws.
11. ____ God does not intend that the ____ be used directly as the actual constitution for any government.
12. ____ Good constitutions are based on timeless moral and ethical principles by which God seeks to ____ every nation of the world.
13. ____ Nations that construct their constitutions on the principles of God will be nations that are ____ as one people.
14. ____ Success depends on our ability to ____ with other people.
15. ____ The better we get along with others, the more ____ we will be.
16. ____ If one wants to be a successful person, he or she must ____ on developing his or her character.
17. ____ Life is blessed for the one who wants to live in ____ to others.

Chapter 3

≈ Character In Husbands And Wives ≈

**In our homes we mould good characters.
With good characters we shape our society.
With our society we shape
and build a strong nation.**

When God created man and woman, He intended that it be natural for them to live together in the loving marital relationship of a husband and wife. In the covenant of marriage, God gave the right to the husband and wife to bear children. In bringing children into the world, God gave the responsibility to the father and mother to create a loving environment in which children could be trained to be good citizens of community and country.

The character and behavior of the citizens of all societies depends on the relationship that is established between a man and woman in marriage.

Good relationships in marriage establish an environment in which children can develop into being positive and productive citizens for social development. Therefore, it is necessary that good marriage principles be learned in order to establish a good relationship between a husband and wife.

The foundation for good communities depends on the good relationships that are established between men and women in marriage. If the relationships between husbands and wives are not established upon fundamental principles of moral stability, society as a whole pays the price. **Almost all problems in any society are directly linked to problems in the home.** And since the home is the responsibility of husbands and wives, the solving of community problems must focus on solving problems in husband/wife relationships. In order to save our children from great heartache in life, fathers and mothers must accept the responsibility of creating a loving home environment for the development of their children.



**The Foundation Of
Social Morality Is
Formed In The Family.**

A. Focus On Responsibility

The headship of the husband is for the purpose of establishing a center of reference in the home. This center of reference is for the purpose of giving spiritual leadership for the family. However, the

husband must express a loving attitude toward his wife in order to establish his headship and example for the children. If he does not express a loving relationship toward his wife, then he has failed to offer to the family the spiritual leadership that God intended for the family to have on a daily basis.



**The Family Is The
Citizenship Factory
For Every Nation.**

It is important that fathers provide an example of how loving relationships are maintained in society. Mothers must provide an example of how citizens are to submit to authority in society. The submission of the wife to the husband, therefore, is the example that children observe and learn how they are to be good citizens.

Because of the challenges that face the family in our world today, we must establish in our families those principles that will preserve our societies. We must learn how husbands and wives can relate to one another in marriage. We must do this in order to establish peaceful societies wherein all citizens can live in harmony with one another. **The first principle in creating good families is that we must make a decision to learn skills that produce healthy family relationships.**

- ▶ **A husband who loves his wife is NOT physically and mentally abusive toward his wife, and thus he will train up his sons NOT to be abusive toward their wives.**
- ▶ **A wife who maintains her submissive role in relation to her husband will NOT present to her children an example of rebellion toward authority.**
- ▶ **Children who have learned submission to authority in the home learn submission to the authority of civil government.**

In healthy family relationships, **the commitment of husbands and wives is first to one another.** Their commitment to love one another is an example to the children concerning the strength of commitment that

is needed in a family in order to make a family strong. This commitment is needed in order to maintain a healthy relationship between a husband and wife. The future of our children is preserved by husbands and wives who commit themselves to one another: **Children learn commitment from their parents.**



B. Example Of Submission

Children must grow up in an environment that illustrates the spirit of submission. One of the responsibilities of a wife is to illustrate a submissive attitude to a loving husband. The Bible says, *“Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord”* (Ephesians 5:22). The husband must also show a spirit of submission to the wife since the Bible also teaches, *“Submit to one another”* (Ephesians 5:21). The wife is the keeper of the home, and thus, the husband must submit to her responsibility as the keeper of the home (Titus 2:5). When there is mutual submission between the husband and wife, children grow up in an environment where they learn submission to the needs of others.

Submission on the part of the wife should not be viewed as a negative position or work. She is not emotionally or intellectually inferior to the husband.

**A Wife Teachers
Submission
For A Society,
By Her Own
Submission.**

Submission of the wife to the husband is not a manifestation of inferiority. On the contrary, wives must lead the children in the family with spiritual and emotional strength.

Submission is a specific and positive work in the husband/wife relationship because the children of the family are following the submissive example of the wife.

Submission is a principle of character that must be central to the development of our individual personalities. If we do not have a submissive spirit in our character, we will not be good citizens of society. Societies function in harmony only when

they are made up of citizens who know the spirit of submission to one another.

The wife's role is a teaching example for the children concerning how they should submissively relate to authority. By following the example of their mother, children learn how to behave in reference to authority in society. When they graduate from the care of their father and mother, they go into the world with a spirit of submission to authority.

C. Source Of Security

Almost all faiths of the world teach that in the union of marriage the husband is the head of the wife. However, we often misunderstand the meaning of the husband being the head of the wife. When we think of the husband's headship in the family, we often think only of his control of the family. In many ways, the husband is in control. But there is more to the headship of the husband than just control.



**Headship Means
Security & Protection.**

Because of his love for his wife, the husband is to be the spiritual and emotional center of reference for his wife and family. When a wife finds a fountain of spiritual and emotional care in the husband, then one finds security. Husbands thus earn the right to their headship by being a source of spiritual and emotional security for their wives.

D. Living Example Of Love

When a husband provides security for the wife and family, then it can be said that he truly loves his wife. The Bible teaches, ***“Husbands, love your wives Husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it”*** (Ep 5:25-28).

GOD-FEARING HUSBANDS

The Bible teaches, *“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever”* (1 Timothy 5:8). Any God-



Love Connects
Husbands To Wives.

fearing man who does not care for his wife is worse than an unbeliever who does not know better. Those who believe in God are to be a people of love. The love of God has changed their thinking and behavior.

Therefore, if a husband who

believes in God does not care for his wife, then he is worse than those who do not know better because of their lack of knowledge of what God requires of loving husbands.

Loving husbands are committed to caring for their wives. An unloving husband will often be a tyrant who mentally and physically abuses his wife. But a loving husband behaves differently. Love is the guarantee that the husband's headship toward his wife is controlled and conducted with all dignity. Love guarantees that the husband will care for his wife.

By manifesting care, concern, provision and protection of his wife, the loving husband establishes an example of how children are to treat their future wives. Children who grow up in single parent families, or are orphans, may have a difficult time in adjusting to God's direction concerning the responsibility of a husband toward a wife. But by learning from the example of good families in the community, one can learn good family skills. The Bible is also full of family principles and skills.

Regardless of one's childhood, one can learn how to be a loving husband or wife. If you seek to be a husband, you must make a commitment of giving yourself to your wife for life. This is the spirit of love. Husbands who set a sacrificial and loving example

of character for their children will produce children of loving characters. These children will mature into great citizens.

E. Legacy Of Honor

The Bible instructs that husbands give honor to their wives. It is written, *“Likewise, husbands, dwell with your wives with understanding, giving honor to the wife as to the weaker vessel, and as heirs together of the grace of life, so that your prayers not be hindered”* (1 Pt 3:7). A loving husband has an understanding heart. His understanding heart makes it possible for him to live with his wife. He gives honor to the wife by not doing the following to his wife:

- ▶ He does not reject her.
- ▶ He does not belittle her.
- ▶ He does not refuse to support her.
- ▶ He does not criticize her.
- ▶ He does not argue with her in the presence of her children.
- ▶ He does not embarrass her in the presence of her friends.

On the other hand, an honorable husband does the following for his wife:

- ▶ He seeks to build her self-image by giving her respect.
- ▶ He recognizes that she needs his support.
- ▶ He continually gives her praise for the good she does.
- ▶ He respects her counsel as a partner in marriage.
- ▶ He spiritually and emotionally provides for well being.
- ▶ He protects her from all harm.

Because she is emotionally tender, the husband recognizes that his wife needs his strength. Husbands who are committed to their wives will seek to lead their wives with the dignity of God’s love. If fathers are to pass on to their children the character of an honorable husband, they must be spiritual leaders in the marriage relationship by giving the wife honor for her position and work.

F. Loving One Another

William Penn once wrote, *“Between a man and his wife nothing ought to rule but love.”* The extent of the husband’s love for his wife is explained in the words of the Bible that husbands ***“ought to love their own wives as their own bodies”*** (Ephesians 5:28). As one should take care of his own body, so the husband should take care of his wife. It is for this reason that drunkards or drug addicts cannot love their wives as they should. They do not take care of their own bodies, and thus, they do not take care of their wives.



Husbands And
Wives Commit
Their Love
To One Another.

The Bible teaches, ***“He who loves his wife loves himself”*** (Ephesians 5:28). A man who does not manifest love toward his wife usually has low self-esteem of himself. He does not think much of himself, and thus, he seeks to exalt himself over his wife by degrading her and other people.

A truly loving husband seeks to care for his wife. He seeks to make sure that her emotional and physical needs are cared for as he would care for himself. He nourishes and cherishes his wife. Men who are confident and have great self-esteem will love their wives as God would have them. They do not manifest their own lack of confidence in themselves by belittling their wives.

G. Committed To One Another

A husband must commit himself to his wife. The Bible says, ***“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be joined to his wife, and the two will be one flesh”*** (Ephesians 5:31). In marriage, a man and woman assume responsibility first to serve one God, and then to serve one another. The husband must commit himself to only one wife. **The level of commitment that God intends that a man give to his wife can be accomplished with**

only one woman. When a man makes this level of commitment in marriage, then in the eyes of God, the man and woman become one. In marriage, two people bring their worldly goods together into one ownership. But they also bring their two personalities together to create for both a new world in which the two exist as one in the eyes of God. It is for this reason that a man must leave his parents and cleave to his wife in order to nourish and cherish only her as his wife.



**Marriage Is A
Commitment Of
Two People
To One Another.**

Submission is a principle of character that must be central to the development of our individual personalities. If we do not have a submissive spirit in our character, we will not be good citizens of society. Societies function in harmony only when they are made up of citizens who know the spirit of submission to one another.

The Bible also teaches, *“Let every man have his own wife and let every woman have her own husband”* (1 Co 7:2). The responsibilities that God requires of a husband in marriage cannot be carried out with more than one wife. The same is true of the responsibilities of a wife to a husband. When a man seeks to have more than one wife, then he cannot fulfill all that God requires of him in relation to nurturing a relationship with his wife. Therefore, God has always intended that there be one man for one woman in marriage.

H. Sanctity Of Marriage

Concerning marriage, the Bible teaches, *“Let each one of you in particular so love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see that she respects her husband”* (Ephesians 5:33). When a man and woman marry, **they are spiritually joined together as one in the eyes of God.** In this union there is mutual respect for one another because the two are

joined as one. Because God joins the two as one in a spiritual sense, He never intended that a man be joined to more than one woman.

A husband and wife gain respect for one another as they consider and value one another. As the husband grows in love for his wife, she grows in respect for him. The respect of the wife is thus earned by the husband's love for his wife. An unloving husband gains no respect, neither from his wife nor from those who know him. King Solomon correctly said of husbands, *"Rejoice with the wife of your youth For this reason, a husband should live joyfully with his wife"* (Proverbs 5:18; see Ecclesiastes 9:9).

I. One Partner For Life

Sexual intercourse is a beautiful treasure that is to be discovered only in the union of marriage. It is an emotional and physical action wherein a husband and wife give themselves to one another, and thus, initially establish, and subsequently, continue to reaffirm their marriage covenant for the rest of their lives. The sexual relationship between a man and woman reaffirms their marriage bond for life. The Bible speaks of this relationship in the following manner:

Let the husband render to the wife due affection, and likewise also the wife to the husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise also, the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another except by agreement for a time so that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer. And come together again so that Satan not tempt you because of your lack of self-control (1 Corinthians 7:3-5).

J. Committed To The Home

Older Christian women are to *"encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, pure, workers at home, good, subject to their own husbands so that the word of God not be blasphemed"* (Titus 2:3-5).

Wives and mothers who assume the great

responsibility of keeping the home, gain for themselves great honor. Their honor is in manifesting true servanthood, toward their families and toward others. The mother's servanthood is copied by her obedient children who go out into the world as servants of God and the needs of others. Therefore, the term "homemaker" is a designation that carries with it great honor. The great honor is in the fact that a woman has accepted the responsibility of training her children who are the young citizens of a nation's future. Through the nurturing of children, it is our mothers who will determine the future of our nations.

CHALLENGING YOUR MEMORY

Answers To Chapter 3 Questions

1. relationship, 2. dignity, 3. skills, 4. reference, 5. cleave, 6. guarantee, 7. keeper, 8. one, 9. servanthood, 10. spiritually, 11. future, 12. legacy, 13. covenant, 14. responsibilities, 15. youth, 16. earned, 17. self-esteem, 18. harmony, 19. learned, 20. unbeliever, 21. security, 22. life, 23. praise, 24. love, 25. body, 26. spiritual, 27. commitment, 28. submission, 29. husbands, 30. strength, 31. government, 32. honor, 33. marriage, 34. self-image

1. ____ The behavior of the citizens of all societies depends on the ____ that is established between a man and woman in marriage.
2. ____ It is necessary that good principles be ____ in order to establish a good relationship between a husband and wife.
3. ____ The headship of the husband is for the purpose of establishing a center of ____ in the home.
4. ____ Children who have learned submission to authority in the home learn submission to the authority of civil ____.
5. ____ The first principle in creating good families is that we must determine to learn ____ that produce healthy family relationships.
6. ____ As a man should take care of his own ____, he should also take care of his wife.
7. ____ In healthy family relationships, the ____ of husbands and wives is first to one another.
8. ____ A loving husband seeks to build his wife's ____ by giving her respect.
9. ____ The wife is the ____ of the home.
10. ____ A wife teaches ____ to authority by her own submission.
11. ____ Wives must lead the children in the family with spiritual and emotional ____.
12. ____ Husbands ought to ____ their own wives as their own bodies.
13. ____ Societies function in ____ only when they are made up of citizens who know the spirit of submission to one another.
14. ____ Because of his love for his wife, the husband is to be the ____ and emotional center of reference for his wife.
15. ____ Husbands earn the right to their family headship by being a source of spiritual and emotional ____ for their wives.
16. ____ Any God-fearing man who does not care for his wife is worse than an ____ who does not know better.
17. ____ Love is the ____ that the husband's headship toward his wife is controlled and conducted with all dignity.

18. _____ If one seeks to be a husband, he must make a commitment of giving himself to his wife for _____.
19. _____ Older Christian women are to encourage the young women to love their _____.
20. _____ Through procreation in the covenant of _____, God gave the right to the husband and wife to bear children.
21. _____ The Bible instructs that husbands give _____ to their wives.
22. _____ The loving husband continually gives his wife _____ for the good she does.
23. _____ Husbands who are committed to their wives will seek to lead their wives with the _____ of God's love.
24. _____ A man must leave his parents and _____ to his wife in order to nourish and cherish only her as his wife.
25. _____ Honorable husbands leave a _____ of honorable children.
26. _____ A man who does not manifest love toward his wife usually has a low _____ of himself.
27. _____ The husband must commit himself to only _____ wife.
28. _____ The _____ that God requires of a husband in marriage cannot be carried out with more than one wife.
29. _____ Marriage is a _____ that two are making with one another for life.
30. _____ When a man and woman marry, they are _____ joined together as one in the eyes of God.
31. _____ The respect of a wife is _____ by the husband's love for his wife.
32. _____ Through the nurturing of children, it is our mothers who will determine the _____ of our country.
33. _____ King Solomon correctly said of husbands, "Rejoice with the wife of your _____."
34. _____ The mother's _____ is copied by her obedient children who go out into the world as servants to the needs of others.

Chapter 4

≈ Character In Fathers And Mothers ≈

The testimony of a good father and mother is manifested in the lives of their children.

God's pattern for fathers and mothers is that they teach and demonstrate in their lives honorable ways of life for their sons and daughters to follow. Through the father's loving relationship with the mother of his children, he sets an example of how one should care for others. Because of his love for his wife, he demonstrates to his children how they must behave toward their future wives. The mother's loving concern for her husband and children produces a home environment where happiness is guaranteed for future families.



**Good Fathers
Interact With
Their Children.**

FATHERS must lead in establishing correct family relationships. In the father's relationship with his children, he gives an example of loving understanding and tender care for the innocent. Children with loving fathers grow up without being hard and harsh in their relationships with others. They show respect for authority and the lives of others. A father's relationship with his children,



**Christian Fathers And
Husbands Nurture
Their Families.**

therefore, establishes the attitudes of the men of society in their relationships with one another.

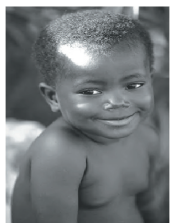
As a provider for the family, the father gives an example for the sons as to how they are to take care of their future wives and families. He gives an example of how one is to assume the responsibility of caring for others. Those who have grown up without the righteous example of a father or mother must take special care to learn from God in His word what is required of fathers and mothers.

In his loving relationship with his wife, the father leaves with his daughters an example of how their future husbands should treat them. Future husbands or wives who grow up under the care of a godly father will have to help their future spouses who have not had this privilege. Many young men and women have not grown up in loving families. As a result, when they are married, they need the help of loving spouses who have had the privilege of a good family. With help from a spouse, they can learn the responsibilities by which husbands and wives should conduct themselves in marriage.

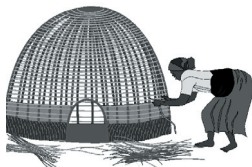
Since both sons and daughters form their personalities and characters after their parents, it is very important that the father conduct his life according to God's principles for fathers. Those who have not had the opportunity of growing up under the nurture and admonition of an earthly father must turn to our heavenly Father for direction. The relationship that our heavenly Father has maintained with His

people throughout history is the best example of how earthly fathers are to relate to their children.

MOTHERS establish an example of how one should be a keeper of the home. It is God's plan that the mother be the keeper of the home for the sake of preserving society with children who believe that the home is a precious institution. It is her responsibility, therefore, to maintain the home after the principles of Divine instruction. Her example of godly living establishes a pattern that is to be followed by the children. It is important that mothers conduct their lives after Divine principles for home building in order that they direct the children of the family to honor God in all things.



It is unfortunate that many children grow up in the world without either a father or mother. This does not mean, however, that one's life cannot be great in the eyes of God. When one becomes a believer in God, he or she must discover principles by which one can be a great father or mother by making God his or her Father. You can be a great father or mother by establishing religious principles in your life.



Wives And Mothers Are Keepers Of The Home.

Here are some important principles for family direction that have been around for centuries. These are things that parents must give their children as a heritage in a healthy family environment. If we practice them in our families for a future father or mother, they will lead our children into being the best parents they can be because we are trying to be the best parents for them.

God's principles for happy families have been taught by believers in God throughout the world and throughout the centuries. All religious faiths have agreed on the fundamental principles for family development. Many of these principles have been recorded in the Bible

for thousands of years. Thousands of young men and women have grown up under the direction of these principles and have become great fathers and mothers. As a future father or mother, if you pattern your life after God's principles for family life, you too will enjoy the same happiness that millions throughout history have enjoyed in righteous family environments.

A. Give Children A Heritage Of Faith

Faith in God motivates us to create in our lives essential qualities that develop healthy personality characteristics that enhance our relationships with others. It is recorded in the Bible by Paul concerning a young man named Timothy,

The Greatest Inheritance:
FAITH

“When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, I am persuaded that it is in you also” (2 Tm 1:5).

- ▶ Faith in God is what gives purpose for living a better life.
- ▶ Faith in God motivates us to live according to principles that better our relationship with others.
- ▶ Faith in God teaches us that we will be held accountable for our actions.

The instruction of parents to their children is not only by words of teaching, but also by example of a godly life. Parents of faith produce children of faith. Parents must leave their children a “genuine faith.” The greatest inheritance that parents can leave their children is a faith in God that will carry them throughout the rest of their lives.

B. Give Children Spiritual Knowledge

The Bible speaks of the results of one godly mother, of whose son, Timothy, it was stated, *“Continue in the things that you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from a child you have known the Holy Scriptures that are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith”* (2 Timothy 3:15).



The Holy Scriptures (the word of God) are a source of wisdom. From childhood, Timothy was taught the principles of the Holy Scriptures. He was taught by his mother and grandmother, women who had dedicated themselves to God and His principles for conducting their lives. Good parenthood begins by first giving ourselves to God.

RECOGNIZING OUR CREATOR

Since God is our Creator, we must love Him with all our hearts. This may seem to be a strange statement in the context of the parents' relationship with their children. But it is not. Parents must teach their children to love God above all things by their placing of God before their children. The parents' example of putting God first in all things teaches the children that God must be exalted above all things in life. When parents live totally committed lives to God, their children will understand that there is a Higher Power to whom we all must eventually give account. Their children will also understand that the most important thing in life is to focus on that which goes beyond life.

C. Give Children Godly Living

In speaking directly to fathers in their responsibility of working with their children, the Bible says, *"Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the discipline and admonition of the Lord"* (Ephesians 6:4). Fathers must not provoke their children through unjust punishment, lest the children become frustrated. It is the responsibility of the father to correct and direct the children. He is to do so with wisdom and a spirit of love. Unloving discipline leads to frustration and rebellion on the part of the children. However, if a father will lovingly discipline his child in order to restore the child to that which is right in the eyes of God, then the child will greatly respect the father.

D. Give Children Examples Of Good

Parents are human, and thus they have their own faults. They know what good should be done to their children. Regardless of their faults, good parents will

always seek to do that which is right for their children. However, if they do wrong to their children, they will gain the respect of the children by confessing their wrong and asking forgiveness from their children.



Do For Others As You
Would Have Them
Do For You.

Parents are not perfect. They are human. And being human means that they also can make mistakes. It is not wrong for a parent to confess to his or her children when he or she has failed the children by wrong actions. If children see a spirit of confession in their parents, they too will develop characters of humility.

E. Give Children Heart Of Service

Since all humans are the creation of God, then all humans must peacefully live together on earth. In order to do this, we must seek to do good to one another. It is for this reason that doing good to others must be a fundamental principle that is taught in the home.

When parents do good to others and to their children, they set an example for their children of doing good works to others. In a home where good works are continually done for others, children grow up with an example of how they should behave in relation to others in society.

Doing Good
To Others
Brings Society
Together In Peace.

Civic leaders who have grown up in homes where they have experienced a life of doing good to others will see their function as civil servants who must do good to others. They will not see their work as a position of power. They will see it as an opportunity to serve their communities and nations as humble civic servants.

F. Give Children Hearts For Others

It is stated in the Bible, *“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this, to visit the orphans and widows in their affliction”* (James 1:27). One cannot have a true relationship with God if he or she is not concerned about the needs of those who have suffered the loss of their husbands or have been robbed of their parents by unfortunate circumstances. One cannot say that he or she loves God if he or she does not have compassion on those who are either widows or orphans. Parents who want to develop character in their children must reach out of their home to those who are widows and orphans. By doing this their children learn about community responsibility in taking care of others. And when our children learn to take care of others they develop a heart of compassion for others in their community. Those who have a heart of compassion are good citizens.



G. Give Children Self-Discipline

A disciplined child disciplines himself in life. Discipline is necessary in the home in order to develop the type of person that will be a responsible person in society. King Solomon wrote, *“He who spares his rod hates his son. But he who loves him disciplines him promptly”* (Proverbs 13:24) *“The rod and rebuke give wisdom. But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother”* (Proverbs 29:15).

**An Undisciplined
Child Will Not
Discipline Himself
For Success
In Life.**

God's principle for family order is that children be disciplined when they do wrong. **A father who does not discipline his children does not love his children.**

An undisciplined child will not respect his or her father or mother because the child has not felt loved. When discipline is administered in love, it manifests a spirit of love toward the child. Those parents who do not discipline their children when they do wrong are

teaching their children that they have little concern for their future.

We love God because He corrects us when we do wrong. His discipline in our lives is evidence that He loves us. God deals with us as we should deal with our children. This is why children must be disciplined when they do wrong. Parents must prove that they are concerned about their children's moral development in relation to others. God's discipline of us creates in us characters of self-discipline. The disciplined believer, therefore, disciplines himself or herself for success in life.

An Undisciplined Child Feels Unloved.

H. Be Responsible For Children

Parents should accept the responsibility of taking care of their children. While their children are in their home, it is the responsibility of the parents to care for the needs of the children (2 Corinthians 12:14). Parents must not only care for the physical needs of their children, but also for their spiritual needs. In doing this, they set an example for their children as to how they should care for their own children when they are married. **Parents who care for their children guarantee that their grandchildren will be properly taken care of by their own children.**

I. Give Children Security

Being the head of the family means being the center of reference for both physical sustenance and spiritual strength. As the head of the wife, the husband must accept physical and spiritual responsibility for his wife. If a man is not willing to do this, then he has no right to marry a woman. The loving headship of husbands brings a sense of stability to the family. When children grow up in a stable family, they develop a sense of security.

Unstable families produce unstable children. When parents argue in front of their children, they confuse their children. When children witness parental arguments, they become confused

concerning family relationships. They thus lose their sense of security. It is important, therefore, that parents develop a secure character in their children by giving them an example of harmony in the family environment. Parents must control their tempers when in the presence of their children.

LEARN FOR THE FUTURE

Parents have a great responsibility of setting an example for their children to follow. When children grow up in a home that is conducted after the principles of God, then good citizens are trained for society. However, when a home is broken, the children of the home are given insufficient or erroneous examples for family conduct. Broken homes destroy nations.

Many people in the world today have come from broken homes. However, coming from a broken home is not an excuse for one to refuse to live according to God's principles for the home. Everyone can and should learn family skills that will produce great families for society. It should be the goal of every young person to learn these skills. By learning them we are on our way to developing a happy family for the future and a stable society for nation building.

CHALLENGING YOUR MEMORY

Answers To Chapter 3 Questions

1. example, 2. tempers, 3. serve, 4. above, 5. love, 6. God, 7. good, 8. unjust, 9. discipline, 10. head, 11. success, 12. wisdom, 13. compassion, 14. frustration, 15. wisdom, 16. argue, 17. faith, 18. spiritual, 19. purpose, 20. respect, 21. accountable, 22. faith, 23. relationship, 24. nations, 25. confess, 26. good, 27. love

1. _____ Faith in God is what gives _____ for living a better life.
2. _____ Faith in God teaches us that we will be held _____ for our actions.
3. _____ Timothy was given a genuine _____ from the time he was a child.
4. _____ Instruction of children by parents is not only by words of teaching, but also by _____ of a godly life.
5. _____ The greatest inheritance that parents can leave their children is a _____ in God.
6. _____ The Holy Scriptures are a source of _____.
7. _____ Good parenthood begins by first giving ourselves to _____.
8. _____ The parents' example of putting God first in all things teaches the children that God must be exalted _____ all things in life.
9. _____ Fathers must not provoke their children through _____ punishment.
10. _____ Unloving discipline leads to _____ and rebellion on the part of the children.
11. _____ If a father will lovingly discipline his child, the child will _____ the father.
12. _____ Good parents will always seek to do that which is _____ for their children.

13. _____ It is not wrong for a parent to _____ to his or her children when he or she has failed the children by wrong actions.
14. _____ Doing _____ to others must be a fundamental principle that is taught in the home.
15. _____ In a home where good works are continually done for others, children grow up with an example of how they should behave in their _____ with others.
16. _____ Those who have been brought up to do good to others will see civil work in government as an opportunity to humbly _____ others.
17. _____ One cannot say he loves God if he does not have _____ on those who are either widows or orphans.
18. _____ is necessary in the home in order to develop the type of person that will be a responsible person in society.
19. _____ The rod and rebuke give _____.
20. _____ A father who does not discipline his children does not _____ his children.
21. _____ An undisciplined child will not discipline himself for _____ in life.
22. _____ Parents must not only care for the physical needs of their children, but also for their _____ needs.
23. _____ As the _____ of the wife, the husband must accept physical and spiritual responsibility for his wife.
24. _____ When children grow up in a stable family, they develop a sense of _____.
25. _____ When parents _____ in front of their children, they confuse their children.
26. _____ Parents must control their _____ in discussions when in the presence of their children.
27. _____ Broken homes destroy _____.

Chapter 5

≈ Character In Sons And Daughters ≈

**Children bring honor to their family
by their obedient conduct in the community.**

The family is a God-created institution. In the family, children learn principles and personality skills by which they can live in society. It is also in the family that children develop their characters. It is important, therefore, that fathers and mothers take special care in teaching their children relationship and behavior skills that are based on the sound moral and ethical principles of the word of God.



**Loving Parents
Create
Loving Children.**

It is the responsibility of the children to maintain an obedient relationship with their parents in order that they learn as much as possible from their parents.

Obedient children learn from the example and teaching of their parents in order to be good citizens in society.

If a child unfortunately grows up with only one parent, or no parents at all, then he or she must take comfort in the fact that one can learn to be a good parent from the example of others. God also wants



to direct everyone's life according to principles that will lead us to become better people. Regardless of one's family situation, he or she must always seek to discover healthy family principles by which to become a great parent to his or her own children. Being an orphan may at first present some

challenges as to how one can be the best father or mother he or she can be. However, by learning the principles of God that relate to being a good parent, anyone can successfully apply these principles for building a good family.

A. Honor Parents

One of the ten commandments that God gave Moses to give to Israel was, "Honor your father and your mother" (Ex 20:12).

Children must respect their parents for who they are. Rebellious children bring shame upon the name of the family. The Bible states, "*Honor your father and mother—which is the first commandment with promise—so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth*" (Ephesians 6:2,3). The life of those who do not honor their parents will not be well on the earth. It will not be well simply because one's attitude toward his or her parents will be his or her attitude toward authority in the world. The prisons are full of people who did not honor their parents

B. Obey Parents

A son or daughter who does not honor either his or her father or mother manifests a lack of respect

for authority. The result of a lack of respect for authority will lead one to have many conflicts with others. If one does not respect authority, he will bring many sorrows upon himself. It is stated in the Bible, *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right”* (Ephesians 6:1). *“Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord”* (Colossians 3:20).

The Spirit of Obedience

Obedience is a virtue that manifests the integrity of a self-disciplined life. It is a personality characteristic that goes beyond individual acts of submission. It is a personality that is what is right in every situation where one encounters the needs of his fellow man.

C. Be Submissive

Young people who are obedient to their parents manifest a spirit of submission. **One cannot be faithful to God and at the same time be disobedient to his or her parents.** Young people learn how to establish and maintain guidelines in their lives through their obedience to their parents.



Young people who are obedient to their parents manifest their honor of their parents. King Solomon wrote through the direction of God some good advice for sons and daughters. This advice is from God, not just from the hand of Solomon.

- ▶ *“My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother”* (Proverbs 1:8; see 6:20)
- ▶ *“A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a grief of his mother”* (Proverbs 10:1).
- ▶ *“He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother is a son who causes shame and brings reproach”* (Proverbs 19:26).

D. Do Not Conform To Evil

Have you ever heard the statement, *“Bad companions corrupt good morals”*? (1 Corinthians 15:33). It's true. If you seek to associate with those who do evil things, you will adopt their motives, and

subsequently, will carry out in your behavior wrong actions.

As children grow into young adulthood, they invariably seek to explore the world. And when people become friends of the world, evil times will result. Jesus explained such evil times when He stated, ***“Now brother will betray brother to death, and the father the son. And children will rise up against their parents and will cause them to be put to death”*** (Mark 13:12). It is during evil times as this that children become disobedient to their parents. When children do not learn God’s will, they will bring evil times.



In times of evil in society, there is a lack of family loyalty. Disobedience to parents is a sign that there is wickedness in society. Therefore, young people play an important role in maintaining an orderly society when they are obedient to the instructions of their parents. Their obedient spirit encourages their parents to give the best counsel possible for their direction.

E. Build Faith In God

All that we know about the early childhood of Jesus is mentioned by Luke when he recorded an incident that happened in Jesus’ life when He was about twelve years old. One time when the parents of Jesus were returning after a feast in Jerusalem, Jesus stayed behind in order to carry on with His heavenly Father’s business. After the parents returned to



**Always Have
Christian Friends.**

find Jesus, it is recorded in the Bible, ***“Now it came to pass after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the middle of the teachers, both hearing them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers”*** (Luke 2:46-49).

The parents of Jesus asked why He stayed behind. He responded, ***“Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?”*** (Lk 2:49). When



Discuss Bible Subjects.

young people seek to do God’s business, they focus on doing good, not evil. They go about doing good projects that uplift their community.

Young people should desire to be among those who seek to serve God in the community. As Jesus, they should seek to discuss spiritual subjects and do good things with others. When young people focus their attention on spiritual things and doing good to others, their thoughts are on the right things. Their minds are on spiritual things, not things of this world.

When speaking in the context of worries about the possessions and circumstances of the world, Jesus encouraged us by saying, ***“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you”*** (Matthew 6:33). It is only reasonable to believe that those who seek to maintain a spiritual life will enjoy the best of this life.



Christian Families Have Common Moral Values.

The unifying bond that brings a family together is the common desire of every family member to place God before every family member. Happy families are built on a common goal of every family member placing God first in all things. When we place God first, we are cautious to follow His instructions concerning the family structure. When young people honor God, they will follow God’s instructions that they be obedient to their parents. Obedient children bring peace to their father and mother.

“The Greatest Of All Faults Is To Be Conscious Of None.”

Thomas Carlyle

F. Be Humble

The beauty of humility is in the fact that others are drawn to humble people. We seek to be in the presence of the humble. Humble parents produce an environment in the home where the minds of children are opened for instruction.

**“Those Who
Think Too Much
Of Themselves
Don’t Think Enough.”**

Amy Carmichael

Humility is recognizing that one never has all the answers for every situation in life. It is developing one’s life around others and God, rather than one’s self. Great men realize their weaknesses, and then compensate for their weaknesses by relying on the counsel of others.

When one grows into adulthood, he or she should not lose the spirit of humility. The reason for this is that one who is proud and arrogant will never accept the instructions of others simply because he or she has never learned how to submit to the will of others.

When still in the home and under the direction of their parents, young people should seek to maintain their humility by submitting to their parents. When they come to the age of making their own decisions, they should carefully follow the counsel of their parents. Following the counsel of our parents shows that we seek to do right. It shows that we continually respect our parents.

It is the responsibility of children to maintain their God-ordained position in the family. Not only do the parents have a responsibility to maintain their position and work in reference to the children, the children also have a responsibility to maintain their obedient relationship with their parents. When both parents and children place God first before all things, and thus maintain their God-ordained functions and positions in the family, then the family becomes a truly happy environment on earth.

What some young people did when they were between the ages of 18 and 25.

TENNYSON wrote his first volume of literature.

JOHN CALVIN became a part of the religious Reformation Movement of Europe.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT conquered the ancient middle eastern world.

ISAAC NEWTON formulated his conclusions concerning the Law of Gravity.

MARTIN LUTHER began his literary work of the Reformation Movement.

CHARLES DICKENS wrote Pickwick Papers and Oliver Twist.

JOHN OF AUSTRIA led an army to victory at the Battle of Lepanto.

JOAN OF ARC did all her work by the time she was burned at the stake at 19.

CHALLENGING YOUR MEMORY

Answers To Chapter 5 Questions

1. society, 2. integrity, 3. kingdom, 4. disobedient, 5. first, 6. authority, 7. skills, 8. evil, 9. authority, 10. youth, 11. answers, 12. love, 13. instruction, 14. parents, 15. greatest, 16. spiritual, 17. counsel, 18. better, 19. right, 20. loyalty, 21. honor, 22. parents, 23. understanding, 24. morals, 25. name

1. ____ In the family, children learn principles and personality ____ by which they can live in society.
2. ____ Obedient children learn from the example and teaching of their ____ in order to be good citizens in society.
3. ____ God wants to direct everyone's life according to principles that will lead us to become ____ people.
4. ____ In the commandments that God gave through Moses, He stated that children should ____ their fathers and mothers.
5. ____ Rebellious children bring shame upon the ____ of the family.
6. ____ One's attitude toward his or her parents will be his or her attitude toward ____ in the world.
7. ____ The Bible teaches that children should obey their parents in the Lord for it is ____.
8. ____ Obedience is a virtue that manifests the ____ of a self-disciplined life.
9. ____ Young people who are obedient to their parents manifest their ____ of God.
10. ____ Solomon wrote, "My son, hear the ____ of your father and do not forsake the law of your mother."
11. ____ One cannot be faithful to God and at the same time be ____ to his or her parents.
12. ____ Bad companions corrupt good ____.
13. ____ When people become friends of the world, ____ times will result.
14. ____ In times of evil in society, there is a lack of ____ to the family.
15. ____ Disobedience to parents is a sign that there is wickedness in ____.
16. ____ All who heard Jesus when He was a young man were astonished at His ____ and answers concerning spiritual things.
17. ____ As Jesus, young people should seek to discuss ____ subjects and do good things in the community.
18. ____ God promised that if we seek first the ____ of God and His

- righteousness He will take care of us.
19. _____ Happy families are built on a common goal of every family member placing God _____ in all things.
 20. _____ Jesus said that whoever will humble himself as a little child, the same is _____ in the kingdom of heaven.
 21. _____ One who is proud and arrogant will never accept instruction from God simply because he or she has never learned how to submit to _____.
 22. _____ Humility is recognizing that one never has all the _____ for every situation in life.
 23. _____ Great men realize their weaknesses, and then compensate for their weaknesses by relying on the _____ of others.
 24. _____ When young people come to the age of making their own decisions, they should carefully follow the counsel of their _____.
 25. _____ The Bible teaches that one should remember his or her Creator in the days of his or her _____.

Chapter 6

≈ Characters Of Dignity ≈

From our beliefs we give birth to our deeds.

Our deeds nurture our habits.

From our habits we develop our character.

It is our character that determines our destiny.

Dignity refers to the development of our character in a manner that results in being respected by others because of our honest conduct of life. It refers to the manner by which we conduct ourselves in our relationships with other people. Similar in meaning to dignity is integrity. **Integrity is the state of being of a sound moral principle.** It is a character of uprightness, honesty and sincerity. The dignified person conducts himself with great integrity.



The Dignified Person Does Good To Others.

As a citizen of the community, we must conduct ourselves with **honesty, diligence and integrity.** These qualities are manifested through speech and behavior. All these qualities refer to the dignity of a person. It should be your goal, therefore, to focus our lives around these qualities so that we can develop our characters. In doing this we will live with dignity in our communities. We will gain respect and honor among fellow citizens when we conduct ourselves

with dignity and integrity.

The general principle for maintaining a dignified relationship with one's fellow citizen is, *"All things whatever you want men to do to you, even so do also to them"* (Matthew 7:12). Men and women who conduct themselves with dignity make this the guiding principle of their lives. **They conduct themselves in their relationships with others as they want others to conduct themselves toward them.** This is the guiding principle by which we must conduct our lives if we seek a better life with others. By following this principle, we will gain great respect, for people will see us as a people of dignity in the community.

It should be the challenge of every person to discover skills for developing a dignified life of integrity. In



People Of Dignity
Respect Others
For Who They Are.

accepting this challenge, we must focus on specific characteristics that God wants us to have in our characters. If we understand and apply each of these personality characteristics to our lives, we will be the dignified person God wants us to be. We will be the type of person our neighbors want

us to be. And in being this type of person, we will be received by all people with whom we associate.

A. Dignity In Our Hearts

Dignity begins in one's heart. In order to conduct oneself with sincere dignity, he or she must first begin with our inner beliefs. True dignity is the manifestation of integrity in one's heart.

1. The dignified person serves others with sincerity of heart. When one works as an employee, he or she may develop grudges against the employer. Because of these grudges, employees sometimes steal things or steal time from the company for which he or she works. This is not the behavior of a dignified person.

Honesty is showing fairness and sincerity toward one's neighbor without lying, cheating or stealing. Serving an employer honestly and with sincerity of heart means that one makes every effort as an employee to make his employer successful. **Dignity is being honest and sincere in what one does in his or her relationship with others.** A manpleaser is one who does something with an insincere heart in order to accomplish a selfish goal. But one who serves with sincerity does his service from the heart in order to serve another.



**Dignified
People
Help Others.**

2. The dignified person is honorable. He or she seeks honorable behavior with all people. Honor means submitting ourself first to God in order to give Him reverence, respect and service. In relation to our fellow man, it means submitting ourselves to the needs of others in order to give service to the needs of others. When we give honorable respect to others, we will seek to serve them. We place ourselves in a position of honor when we show respect to others. This behavior is explained in the Bible by the nature and behavior of the godly person who conducts himself or herself with dignity in the community. As a citizen of our communities, it must be our goal to behave in an honorable manner.

Therefore, putting away lying, let everyone speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry, and yet do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your wrath. Do not give opportunity to the devil. Let him who stole steal no more, but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing that is good, so that he may have something to give to him who has need. Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for edification, so that it may give grace to the hearers. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted and forgiving one another (Ephesians 4:25-32).



**Dignity Makes
Families Proud.**

3. The dignified person has an honest heart.

He or she does not deal in a crafty manner with others. The Bible says of the honest person: *“But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness or handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth, commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God”* (2 Corinthians 4:2).

Those who “walk in craftiness” are those who are not honest with their fellow man. A dishonest person is one who is concealing truth from others for his or her own selfish advantage. A deceitful person is selfish because he or

You will appoint judges and officers in all your gates, that the Lord your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they will judge the people with just judgment. You will not pervert justice; you will not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.

MOSES

she is thinking only of one’s self. In contrast to this type of behavior, the dignified person does not deal with others with hidden selfish goals or purposes. He or she is always honest in all relationships with others.

4. The dignified person behaves unselfishly with others.

Corruption in government and society in general is a curse to the people of any nation. When corruption exists in society, people do not deal honestly with one another. The corrupt person deals selfishly in all matters of business and government in order to receive dishonest money and possessions for himself or herself. **Corruption destroys the moral fiber of society.** It does so because corrupt people always think of themselves when dealing with others. They are always thinking about what they can get out of their relationships with others. Corrupt government officials work in the same manner. They seek to serve themselves.



Greedy people will deal corruptly with others.

They will always have themselves at heart, and thus, will always be seeking to deal falsely with their neighbors. On the other hand, those who are not selfish, and seek to reach out and help others, will deal sacrificially with their neighbors. They will seek to give, not take.

5. The dignified person guards himself or herself from corruption. Recorded in the Bible is an event of some government officials who came to John the Baptist. He instructed them to guard themselves from corruption. He instructed that tax collectors not to take advantage of others because of their office. Soldiers were not to intimidate others because of their position. Government officials were to be content with their wages (See Luke 3:12-14).

**CORRUPTION
KILLS
COUNTRIES!**

The behavior of government officials establishes an example for the citizenship of a nation. Honest and dignified officials who deal honestly and justly with the people will establish an example of how all citizens are to behave. It is very important, therefore, that all civil servants of a country conduct themselves honorably before the citizenship of their country.

Corruption in a government of the people is a sign that people are selfishly using their positions in government as an opportunity to take advantage of the people. Honest government officials who work with integrity will not use their positions in government to take advantage of those who trust them to serve as civic leaders.

6. The dignified person lives with a good conscience among all people. Having a good conscience means that one is able to lay his or her head down at night and sleep in peace. Those who live dignified lives, and thus, conduct themselves with integrity in their relationships with others, will have peace of mind. They will have peace of mind because they know they have done that which is

right in all their dealings with others.

Integrity is conducting oneself with sound moral character in working with others. It is upright living and being honest and sincere in all aspects of our lives. **Men and women with integrity always seek to do that which is right.** By seeking to do what they believe is right, they have a good conscience about themselves in their relationships with God and man.

A LESSON FROM A TRUE LEADER

The newspaper, *The Watchman Examiner*, reported many years ago that the congressman, Henry Clay, was about to introduce a certain bill into Congress. A friend said to Mr. Clay, "If you introduce this bill, Clay, it will kill your chance for the presidency."

"But is the measure right?", Clay asked. And being assured that it was right, he replied, "I would rather be right than be president."

7. The dignified person focuses on that which is good and true in others. The Bible instructs, *"Whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think on these things"* (Philippians 4:8). This is the thinking of dignified people. People of integrity focus their minds and lives on those things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report. They do not focus on evil things and that which is of this world. This is what the Holy Spirit stated in Colossians 3:2: *"Set your minds on things above, and not on things on the earth."*

B. Dignity In Godly Living

The dignity of one's heart is carried out in the behavior of his or her life. It is for this reason that the dignified person can always be identified by his or her integrity in behavior. One must focus his or her behavior on the following principles in order to conduct oneself with dignity:

1. The dignified person conducts his or her life according to godly principles. If we want to know a general definition of God's servant who conducts himself or herself with dignity in the community, then the following statement would be such a definition. Notice the godly conduct that God wants of those who would be His representative in the community.

For an overseer must be blameless as the steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not violent, not greedy of dishonest gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, sensible, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, so that he may be able by sound teaching both to exhort and refute those who contradict (Titus 1:7-9).

"I desire so to conduct the affairs of this administration that if at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside of me."

President Abraham Lincoln

The person who would seek to lead others must maintain qualities in his or her life that manifest a godly nature. This is the person of dignity who seeks to lead others by the example of godly living.

2. The dignified person controls his or her speech. Our speech reveals to others our inward feelings and thoughts. If we have evil in our hearts, this evil will eventually be manifested by what we say. If we have good in our hearts, others will know the goodness of our hearts by the words that come out of our mouths. Jesus said the following:

For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man brings good treasure out of good things. And an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you, that every idle word that men will speak, they will give account for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned (Mt 12:34-37).

The one who cannot control his or her speech, cannot hide the innermost thoughts of the heart. If there is evil in our hearts, then we will speak that

which is evil. We cannot have evil in our hearts without revealing such through our speech.

The wise person never says more than he or she knows. We should conduct our speech according to the Biblical statement, *“Let everyone be swift*

to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath” (James 1:19). This is good advice. The person of dignity guards what he or she says. He or she speaks with caution in order to encourage others to speak, as well as learn from what others say. The more one speaks in a conversation, the less he or she learns from others.

The Bible also gives the following instructions concerning our speech, *“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone”* (Colossians 4:6). The one who speaks in order to intentionally embarrass or offend others is often seeking to exalt himself or herself over others. However, we must always speak in a way that builds others up. We do not build others up by speaking evil of them or telling lies about them.

3. The dignified person respects his or her neighbors. Moses wrote, *“Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Do not defraud. Honor your father and mother”* (Mark 10:19). These

commandments refer to dealing with one's relationship with his or her neighbor by respecting one's neighbor. Those who violate these commandments do not love their neighbors as themselves. They are not people of dignity. The person of dignity, however, will make every effort to live with his or her neighbor by not violating the rights of one's neighbor.



**Our Speech Reveals
Our Hearts.**

*“I have never
been hurt
by anything
I did not say.”*

**President
Calvin Coolidge**

4. The dignified person respects the property of others. It is a principle of mutual respect that one not steal from another. The Bible instructs, *“Let him who stole steal no more, but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing that is good, so that he may have something to give to him who has need”* (Ephesians 4:28).

The one who steals from his or her neighbor does not respect others. **The thief is always selfish.** He or she has no consideration for the hard work of others who labor with their own hands to acquire what he steals from them. **There is no such thing as a dignified thief.**



Dignified People Respect
The Property Of Others.

5. The dignified person will provide for his family. A lazy person is not dignified. There is no dignity in the one who refuses to work in order to support his family. On the other hand, the one who works to support his family and others is to be highly commended for accepting such a responsibility. Even if the wages one earns is low, and the family has little to spare, the dignity of the one who earns a wage is seen in the fact that he is willing to do all he possibly can to take care of his family. In the following words, the apostle Paul revealed the reason why Christians work: *“I have showed you all things, that by laboring as this you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’”* (Acts 20:35).

C. Dignity In Work

There is no dignity in being lazy. If there is work to be done, the dignified person will work. He will assume responsibility for taking care of himself and others. He will assume his or her responsibility of taking care of the family.

1. The dignified person will seek to support himself or herself. It is a principle of dignified living that one diligently work with his or her own hands in order to support himself or herself. The Bible seriously teaches on this subject when it states *“that if anyone is not willing to work, neither let him eat”* (2 Th 3:10).

The dignified person assumes personal responsibility to secure a job in order not to be a burden to others. By working to support oneself, the dignified person sets an example for others to follow, and thus, everyone in the community is encouraged to work.

A good citizen of the community will not live in a way that causes conflict in the community by being a financial burden to others. He or she will work with his or her own hands in order to fulfill all personal financial responsibilities.

Because the dignified person works with his or her own hands in order to supply one's necessities, he or she can deal honestly with one's neighbors. When one can take care of oneself, he or she is not tempted to beg from one's neighbor or steal from one's neighbor.



**Those Who Work
Have Self-Respect.**

2. The dignified person is a fervent worker. Those who serve God will be diligent workers because they live in thanksgiving to God for what He has done for them. This principle of Christian conduct was revealed by the Holy Spirit in 2 Corinthians 4:15: *“For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace that is reaching many people may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.”* Dignified people prefer to be with those who likewise honor and serve God with diligent work.

Diligence is the quality of applying oneself to any task that is undertaken in order to bring about the reason for undertaking the task. Diligent people are driven by their sense of responsibility to

themselves and others. They are disciplined in their behavior. These are people who are determined to do what it takes to accomplish goals in their lives.

If there is work to do, and one does not work, then he or she is not accepting responsibility. An opportunity to work with one's hands is an opportunity for accepting responsibility to care of oneself and others.

3. The dignified person works in order to help the poor. One purpose for our working is to share what we earn with others. In order to show appreciation for our work, we seek to give to others. Only through giving to others do we build our character. Selfish labor leads to a greedy heart. Those who understand that they do not work only for themselves, but also for their fellow citizen, will develop caring hearts. When one has work, therefore, he or she must not forget those who cannot find work. Those who conduct themselves with dignity have compassion on those who are suffering from economic depression. It is always the responsibility of society as a whole to take care of society as a whole. Democracy can exist in a nation only when citizens unselfishly work together in the free economic structure of the nation. Each person must be responsible for providing for himself and his family. But we must also be concerned about those who are the poor among us (See Galatians 2:10).



**One Works In
Order To Help.**

CHALLENGING YOUR MEMORY

Answers To Chapter 6 Questions 1-17

1. first, 2. honorable, 3. reverence, 4. sacrificially, 5. corrupt, 6. advantage, 7. respected, 8. true, 9. hidden, 10. moral, 11. corruptly, 12. fairness, 13. fibre, 14. steal, 15. heart, 16. selfish, 17. integrity

1. _____ Dignity refers to the development of our character in a manner that results in being _____ by others because of our honest conduct of life.
2. _____ Integrity is the state of being of a sound _____ principle.
3. _____ Whatever you want men to do to you, you must _____ do to them.
4. _____ Dignity begins in one's _____.

5. _____ Honesty is showing _____ and sincerity toward one's neighbor without lying, cheating or stealing.
6. _____ A manpleaser is one who does something with a grudging heart in order to accomplish a _____ goal.
7. _____ Honor means submitting oneself first to God in order to give Him _____, respect and service.
8. _____ When we give _____ respect to others, we will seek to serve them.
9. _____ The Bible teaches that one who has stolen must _____ no more.
10. _____ Let no _____ speech proceed out of your mouth.
11. _____ The dignified person does not deal with others with _____ selfish goals or purposes.
12. _____ Corruption destroys the moral _____ of society.
13. _____ Greedy people will deal _____ with others.
14. _____ Those who are not selfish and seek to reach out and help others, will deal _____ with their neighbors.
15. _____ Honest government officials who work with integrity will not use their positions in government to take _____ of citizens.
16. _____ _____ is conducting one's self with sound moral character in working with others.
17. _____ People of integrity focus their minds and lives on those things that are _____.

Answers To Chapter 6 Questions 18-34

1. respect, 2. rights, 3. godly, 4. family, 5. speech, 6. thanksgiving, 7. burden, 8. heart, 9. learns, 10. integrity, 11. responsibility, 12. honestly, 13. giving, 14. hear, 15. inward, 16. dignified, 17. support

18. _____ The person who would seek to lead others must maintain qualities in his or her life that manifest a _____ nature.
19. _____ Our speech reveals to others our _____ feelings and thoughts.
20. _____ Out of the abundance of the _____ the mouth speaks.
21. _____ We cannot have evil in our hearts without revealing such through our _____.
22. _____ The dignified person can always be identified by his or her _____ in behavior.
23. _____ Let everyone be swift to _____, slow to speak, and slow to wrath.
24. _____ The more one speaks in a conversation, the less he or she _____ from others.
25. _____ The person of dignity will make every effort to live with his or her neighbor by not violating the _____ of his or her neighbor.
26. _____ The one who steals from his or her neighbor does not _____ others.
27. _____ There is no such thing as a _____ thief.
28. _____ There is no dignity in the one who refuses to work in order to help his _____.
29. _____ It is a principle of dignified living that one diligently work with his own hands in order to _____ himself.
30. _____ The dignified person assumes personal responsibility to secure a job in order not to be a _____ to others.
31. _____ Because the dignified person works with his own hands in order to supply his necessities, he can deal _____ with his neighbors.
32. _____ Those who serve God will be diligent workers because they live in _____ to God for what He has done for them.
33. _____ Diligent people are driven by their sense of _____ to themselves and others.
34. _____ Only through _____ to others do we build our character.