

**FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES**  
**FOR**  
**BIBLICAL FAMILY COUNSELING**

A Practical Manual For Pastors

Compiled By  
Jerry L. Clark  
Riverwood Bible Church  
5228 Old Canton Road  
Jackson, Mississippi  
U.S.A.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Background Development:**

During the years 1995 to 1997 the author had the privilege to make mission trips to Germany, Russia, and the Ukraine. The purpose of these trips was to lead Pastors Conferences and to teach Bible College students in the area of "Biblical Counseling" concerning marriage and the family. The response to these conferences and seminars was strong. The Pastors and students made the specific request that the author develop a manual which would aid in the teaching of this material in the local churches. Believing God was guiding through these requests, the author developed this manual with the hope that it will prove to be of help to the local Pastors.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this manual is to provide basic Biblical principles for the local Pastor in his effort to provide help to those in the Church he leads. The material is designed to be used in:

1. Private counseling conducted by the Pastor with individuals, couples, and families;
2. Public preaching from the pulpit to the whole congregation;
3. Public teaching in seminars and conferences designed for married couples.

### **The Author:**

Jerry L. Clark is Pastor of Riverwood Bible Church in Jackson, Mississippi, U.S.A. He is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi (1968) and of Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, Texas (1974). He served as Assistant Pastor at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi for five years (1974-1979). This was followed by almost five years in Biblical Family Counseling with Family Foundations in Jackson with fellow minister, Gayden Harrell. In 1984, he became Pastor of Riverwood Bible Church, where he continues to serve. Pastor Clark and his wife, Sharon, were married in 1969. They have four children: Brian, Stephanie, Stacie, and Sarah.

### **Dedication:**

This Pastor's Manual is dedicated to the plan and purpose of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is "Head" of the Church (Ephesians 1:22), the One who has promised to "build" His Church (Matthew 16:18). It is also dedicated to the faithful Pastors who serve the Lord Jesus by "shepherding His sheep", hoping it will bring encouragement and help in their ministries.

## Instructions For Using This Manual

### Introduction:

This manual is designed to be used by Pastors to teach the basic Biblical truths concerning marriage and family living.

1. The first two chapters are extremely important. They lay the foundation for what is taught in the remainder of the manual. **Do not leave these two chapters out unless you know that your people fully understand the material they cover.**
  - a. The first chapter establishes the truth that the Bible is our final authority in all areas of human life.
  - b. The second chapter establishes the counseling process. It answers the question, "What are we trying to accomplish?" Unless we go through each of the steps discussed, no lasting changes will take place in the marriage or family.
2. The remaining chapters of this manual deal with the Biblical principles of family life. Master the material for yourself. Then, teach it carefully to your Church and use it to give counsel to individuals who face problems. When you finish each chapter, remember to remind the people how the new material fits into the "Counseling Model" taught in chapter two. The whole counseling process depends upon:
  - a. Identifying wrong thinking (non-Biblical thinking);
  - b. Clarifying right thinking (Biblical thinking);
  - c. Confronting with the choice to change (wrong to right thinking);
  - d. Helping in the application (living out) of the choice to change.
3. The teaching method is very simple:
  - a. Each major Biblical principle is typed in **bold, dark type**. Teach each major principle clearly to your people.
  - b. Each Biblical principle will be supported from Scripture. Be sure to take the time to have the people look the verses up for themselves.
  - c. Many Biblical principles will be illustrated. Illustrations help people understand how to apply the truth being taught. Attempt to find your own illustrations of the Biblical principles you teach.
4. Whenever possible, ask the people to write down the principles you are teaching. This helps them remember the truth. Also, use a chalkboard or overhead projector when possible.

## Chapter One

# **The Foundation Of Biblical Counseling: Dependence Upon The Word Of God**

*"What Has The Power To Change People?"*

### Introduction:

Modern mankind has rejected the concept of a Creator -- of God who made mankind in His image. When mankind gave up belief in a personal God who "made" all things, mankind made himself god! The "creature" took the place of the "Creator", Romans 1:25. The views and opinions of man/woman took the place of the teaching of God's truth revealed in His Word. Secular, scientific humanism replaced the Bible as mankind's authority for truth.

There is no place where this is more true than in the views and opinions held by modern mankind regarding marriage and the family. "Marriage" is now defined by men and women according to their own desires and purposes. Yet, for the individual Christian and for the Church of Jesus Christ, there must be a difference. We must return to the basic truths of Scripture as our authority for our personal views concerning the whole of life -- especially of marriage and the family.

Does the Bible have the ability to deal with the real problems faced by modern men, women, and families? Scripture makes that claim for itself! Do we accept this claim? Do we as Pastors have confidence that, in His Word, God gives the help we need to face the real problems of life?

The suggestion of this Manual For Pastors is that the Word of God is true -- that it is God's eternal blueprint for life. As such, it provides the guidelines a Pastor must use to help his people.

**Note:** The counseling ministry a Pastor offers his people is not truly "Biblical" unless the Pastor has total confidence in the Word of God for himself! Where do we get our authority to deal with people?

1. Do we get our authority from ourselves?
2. Do we get our authority from the opinions/teachings of our day?
3. Or, do we get our authority from the Creator Himself?

**Observation:** As a minister of the Gospel, the Pastor "speaks" for God. We represent Him. We speak for Him into our generation!

**Encouragement:** Counsel in the "Authority" of God's Word!

## What Does The Bible Claim For Itself?

### I. Basic Principle: The Bible Claims To Be God's Final Authority.

*"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." II Timothy 3:16-17.*

#### **A. It is "inspired" by God.**

1. In the original Greek text, this word means "God-breathed".
2. Meaning: God actually "breathed" out the words of the Bible.  
Its words are His words!
3. Process: God used human authors, but supernaturally guided the words they wrote.

#### **B. It is "profitable".**

1. For "teaching" -- It tells us what to believe as "Truth".
2. For "reproof" -- It shows us where we are wrong or out of step with God.
3. For "correction" -- It shows us what to do about our wrong; how to get back in step with God.
4. For "instruction in righteousness" --It tells us how to receive the gift of God's righteousness and how to live in it.

#### **C. It "equips" the Pastor; makes him "adequate" for service.**

1. The Word of God is the Pastor's "equipment". It is what we need for "every good work" God desires to do through us. (Ephesians 2:10)
2. The Word of God makes the Pastor "adequate" for all he will face in ministry. We will never face a problem which is not dealt with by the Word of God!

## II. Basic Principle: The Bible Claims To Define Who Mankind Is.

### A. Before The Fall: (A "Perfect" Relationship And World)

*"Then God said, 'Let us make man in Our image, according to our likeness; and let them rule over . . . all the earth.*

*And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

*And God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it.'" Genesis 1:26-27.*

1. Man and Woman were made in the "image" of God.
  - a. No other created being was made in God's image.
  - b. How were we made in God's "image"?
    - Man/Woman is a personal being -- we have individuality; awareness of being a person; value as a person.
    - Man/Woman could relate personally to the Creator -- they "walked and talked" together, Gen. 3:8.
    - In the beginning, there was no separation, no broken relationship, between God and mankind.
    - Note: The main focus of life was relationship with God!
2. Man was designed to get meaning from "conquering", "ruling", and "multiplying".
  - Note: The man's focus was "outward" -- on his work.
3. Woman was designed to get meaning from being a "helper", a partner in life, to the man, Gen. 2:18.
  - Note: The woman's focus was on her husband/family.

### B. After The Fall: (A "Broken" Relationship and "Sinful" World)

1. Spiritual Death: There was separation, broken relationship between God and mankind.
  - a. Genesis 3:23-24. *"Therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden . . . He drove the man out."*
  - b. Romans 3:23. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*
2. Psychological, Emotional, and Personality Problems developed for the first time.
  - a. Guilt -- Genesis 3:7.
  - b. Fear -- Genesis 3:8.
  - c. Running from responsibility -- Genesis 3:10, 12.
3. Physical Death became the enemy of all mankind, Gen. 5:5.

### III. Basic Principle: The Bible Claims To Be "Alive"!

*"For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."*

Hebrews 4:12-13.

#### A. It is "Alive" and "Active".

1. The Word of God has supernatural life! It is unlike any other book ever written. It has life within itself. When we read or hear the Word, it is brought to life by the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He (Holy Spirit) brings "illumination" or understanding of the Word.
2. This is one of the most significant principles in the counseling process.
  - The Word of God speaks from within!
 Humanly, we can only speak from without. But, by the supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit, the Word is brought to life from within and brings "conviction" of the Truth.
3. The Pastor must use the Word to penetrate within and accomplish what cannot be done from without.

#### B. It Puts The Issues Of Life Into "Categories".

1. The Word of God is "able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."
  - A "thought" or "intention" is either **Right** or **Wrong!**
2. The Word of God is able to the deepest "thought" or "motive" of life, "piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit."
  - No problem is ever too deep or too complicated!

#### C. It Brings Supernatural "Insight".

--God's wisdom is always complete and accurate because "all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." He will never be wrong!

#### IV. Basic Principle: The Bible Claims To Have Supernatural "Power".

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."*  
Romans 1:16.

##### A. Paul Was Not "Ashamed" Of The Gospel.

--In the sophisticated, philosophical, Greek world of Paul's day, he stood strong for the Gospel -- the "good news" of Person and Work of Jesus Christ as Savior.

##### B. Paul Believed That The Gospel Was God's "Power".

--The Greek word for "power" is dunamis. It means "power" in general, but emphasizes inherent power or being able or capable. The focus is on the power of God inherent in Christ!

##### C. Paul Believed That The Gospel Brought "Salvation".

--The Greek word for "salvation" is soteria. It means "salvation, deliverance, or preservation."

--Therefore, the Gospel "delivers" from the condemnation of sin; (This is justification or salvation)

--The Gospel also "delivers" from the controlling power or slavery to sinful thinking and behavior in the life of a Christian. (This is sanctification or Godly living)

#### V. Basic Principle: The Bible Claims To Produce Lasting Change.

*"Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."*

II Corinthians 5:17.

##### A. To Be "IN CHRIST" Is To Become A "New Creature".

--Every Christian has been placed into Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. (I Corinthians 12:13) We are "in Christ"!

--In Christ we are "new creatures". The Greek word, "creature", means "the sum total of what is created." Therefore, the Christian is entirely new or qualitatively new!

##### B. The Christian Is Undergoing A Supernatural Process.

--"Old Things" are passing away! (The things that characterized my life before Christ)

--"New Things" are coming! (The things that characterize my new life in Christ)

--This is lasting change -- a "real" change -- not just empty words or promises.



## Conclusions

1. If Scripture is our "final authority" -- the pastor has God's authority to deal with the problems people face in all areas of life.

--We should counsel people in God's authority!

2. Unless Scripture "defines" who and what we are as human beings -- secular humanism and scientific evolutionary theory will tell us we are nothing more than the highest form of animal life and that our problems are not really spiritual, but psychological and emotional alone.

--We must teach people they are personal creations of the eternal Creator; that we each bear His "image".

--We must teach people that the real problems of humanity are spiritually based; that we separated from our Creator by our personal sin!

3. If Scripture is "alive" -- we can depend upon the Word of God to do its work in the lives of those we counsel. The Holy Spirit will take the Word we give to people and bring conviction of its truth from "within" -- using their inner thought processes.

--Let the Word of God do its Work! It speaks from inside!

4. If the Gospel is the "power" of God -- It can do what we cannot do! Do not attempt to "convince" people of the Truth; let the Truth do its own work of changing the mind.

--Only God's "power" brings lasting change!

5. When God changes a person by His Word, by His Holy Spirit -- that change will last.

6. Question: Have we lost our confidence in the Word of God?

## Chapter Two

### **A Practical "Model" For Biblical Counseling**

*"How Can I Help A Person Make Biblical Changes?"*

Introduction: The Tension Between Secular and Biblical Counseling.

A battle is being fought in the Western world between those who counsel from a "secular" foundation and those who counsel from a "Biblical" foundation. There are many very genuine counselors and pastors on both sides of this battle.

A "secular" counselor uses one of several basic human approaches in attempting to help people with problems. The common thread of these approaches is that they are based on human wisdom or study, not on the Word of God. The most popular secular approaches have been: Sigmund Freud, Ego Psychology, Carl Rogers, B. F. Skinner, and Existentialism.

In a "secular", non-Biblical approach to counseling, it is assumed that the highest good or the best results are the personal happiness of the individual. Nothing is allowed to stand in the way of the individual "finding personal happiness." Whatever the person thinks will bring happiness, he or she is encouraged to do -- no matter how those choices violate other people or Biblical standards or values. Secular Humanism is the controlling philosophy. Human thinking and values control all decisions and goals.

"Biblical" counseling begins with the Word of God. All counseling is done from its Truth. The goal is to find God's help through faith in or obedience to the principles of life given in His Word.

*"The Bible teaches that if I will obediently abide in Truth in order to become more like God and thus make Him known, the by-product will be my eventual happiness. But neither the goal of the Christian life nor the goal of Christian counseling is an individual's happiness."*

(Dr. Lawrence Crabb, Effective Biblical Counseling, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, USA, 1975, p. 21)

Note carefully: Dr. Crabb says that the goal of the Christian life is not "individual happiness". What, then, is the goal of the Christian life? The Apostle Paul gives the answer in II Corinthians 5:14-15,  
*"For the love of Christ controls us . . .  
 . . . that they who live should no longer live for themselves,  
 but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."*

Thus, the goal of Biblical counseling is to show "love" for Christ by making choices which are pleasing to Him!

This battle between "secular" and "Biblical" counseling will continue to be fought. Most universities and schools which teach psychology and counseling will continue to use secular humanism as their basic approach. Faithful pastors must stand for the Truth in their churches by making their approach to counseling the unchanging Word of God!

Here is a helpful diagram:

### **The Effects Of Humanistic Philosophy**

(Secular counseling usually reflects this non-Biblical thinking)

#### Secular:

1. Philosophy: Secular Humanism.  
"Man"=the measure of all things.
2. Motto: "I am entitled to think, do, say, or feel whatever I want as long as no one gets hurt in the process."
3. Philosophy of Counseling:  
The "goal" of the counseling process is to help individuals find personal happiness.
4. The Counselor's Job: To help individuals understand themselves and to "grow" as human beings.

#### Biblical:

1. Philosophy: Biblical Theology.  
"God"=measure of all things.
2. Motto: "I am called to think, do, or say whatever glorifies God and shows His love to other people."
3. Philosophy of Counseling:  
the "goal" of the counseling process is to help individuals live a life pleasing to God.
4. The Counselor's Job: To help individuals understand God and His will for them and then to grow in spiritual maturity.

## **I. What Is Biblical Counseling:**

--How does a Pastor conduct a counseling session with a person who has a problem? The following is an outline based upon the help God provides the Pastor.

### **A. The Pastor Is To "Listen" In The Power Of The Holy Spirit.**

--The Pastor is powerless on his own -- He needs God's help!

1. Begin the counseling session with **prayer**.  
--Prayer puts the counseling session into God's hands.
2. Claim God's **promises** to provide the needed help and answer to problems. (James 1:5)  
--God desires to show the real problem and bring a lasting solution.
3. Acknowledge the ministry of the **Holy Spirit** -- He is the only One who can guide "into all the truth." (John 16:7-13)  
--Look for any violation of the truth of God's Word.
4. Ask the person to **share the problem** with you -- listen in the enabling power of the Holy Spirit -- He will "open your ears" to what God knows to be true!  
--Note: Be very patient in your listening. Pastors often speak too soon. Sometimes it is necessary to listen for an hour or so before beginning to speak to the problem. Listen until you are sure God has identified the problem and its solution from His Word.  
--Suggestion: Use a notepad as you "listen". Write down any violation of any major principle of God's Word. (The remainder of this Pastor's Manual deals with these major principles -- if you study it, you will know what to look for)

**\*\*Note: A good Biblical counselor is a good "listener"!**

**\*\*Note: People "listen" to us . . . if we "listen" to them!**

## **B. The Pastor Is To "Confront" With The Word Of God.**

--The ministry of the Apostle Paul is the example we follow for the New Testament Church.

### 1. We see Paul's pattern in Colossians 1:28-29.

Speaking of Jesus Christ, who lives in every believer (27), Paul says,

*"And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ."*

-- Paul's ministry was to "**proclaim**" the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.

#### a. **How** did Paul proclaim Him?

1) He "**admonished**" every man.

--This Greek word = noutheteo.

-- It means: "to put into the mind"; "to warn, admonish"

**\*\*I must "admonish" people with the Truth.**

2) He "**taught**" every man.

--This Greek word = didasko.

-- It means: "to instruct by word of mouth";

"to shape the mind of the student".

**\*\*I must "teach" people the Truth.**

#### b. **Why** did Paul proclaim Him?

--To present every man "**complete**" in Christ.

--The Greek word = teleios, which is from teleo.

-- It means: "to complete"; "to reach the end/goal";

"Adult, full-grown, of full age" as opposed to little children. "Maturity; completed growth".

**\*\*I must help Christians come to "maturity".**

### 2. We see Paul's pattern in I Thessalonians 5:14.

*"And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly . . ."*

--This is the same Greek word: noutheteo.

-- It means: "To put into the mind".

### 3. We see Paul's pattern in Ephesians 4:15.

*"But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ."*

**\*\*If I love people, I "confront" them with Truth!**

### **C. The Pastor Is To "Care" With The Love Of Christ.**

--The ministry of the Apostle Paul is again our example in this Age of the Church. After he "listened" in the power of the Holy Spirit, after he "confronted" with the Word of God, He then lovingly "cared" for those who responded to God's help.

#### 1. We see this pattern in I Thessalonians 5:14.

*"And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men."*

--The Greek word "encourage" = paramutheomai.  
 -- It means: "to relate near"; "to speak close to";  
 "to encourage"; "to comfort".

**\*\*The Pastor is to "stay close" to those he counsels!  
 \*\*The Pastor is to be close enough to "care" and  
 "encourage"!**

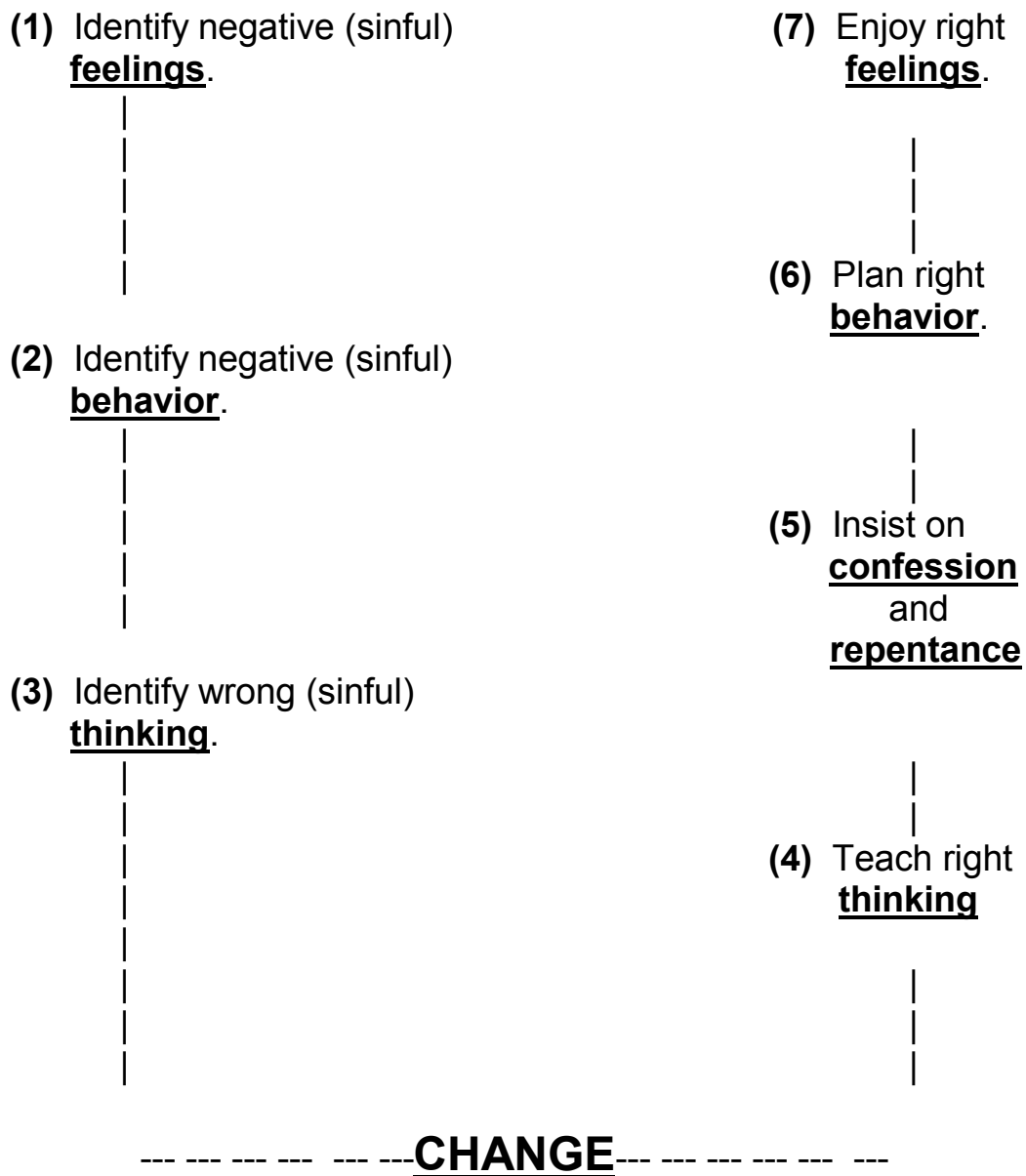
#### 2. **Note:** Most successful counseling requires long-term involvement in the lives of those we have helped.

- a. The Pastor must meet with the needy person as often as it is required.
  - Remember that most "Truths" must be reviewed many times before they are really learned.
- b. The Pastor must attempt to get the person meaningfully involved with the Church Body.
  - Nothing can take the place of the fellowship and encouragement of the Body of Christ.
- c. The Pastor will on some occasions need to form small group meetings within the Church membership which focus on particular needs.
  - It is extremely helpful for men to meet together for prayer and to encourage one another.
  - It is extremely helpful for women to meet together for prayer and to encourage one another.

## II. A "Model" For Biblical Counseling.

--The Following Diagram Or "Model" Is Taken From Dr. Lawrence Crabb's Book, Basic Principles Of Biblical Counseling, p. 105.

--This "Horseshoe" Diagram traces the movement of the person being counseled from the first meeting until the time they have found God's help with their problem.



### III. Explanation Of "Model":

#### A. Summary:

1. The "Model" is based on the observation that --

"Wrong Thinking" leads to . . .

"Wrong Behavior" which leads to . . .

"Wrong Feelings"

**\*\* A Key To Biblical Counseling Is To . . .**

**"Identify Wrong Thinking".**

**(Step Three)**

--"Wrong Thinking" is any thought pattern which does not agree with the basic principles or "Truths" of Scripture.

2. The "Model" is based upon the observation that --

"Right Thinking" will lead to . . .

"Right Behavior" which will lead to . . .

"Right Feelings"

**\*\* A Key To Biblical Counseling Is To . . .**

**Teach "Right" or Biblical Thinking!**

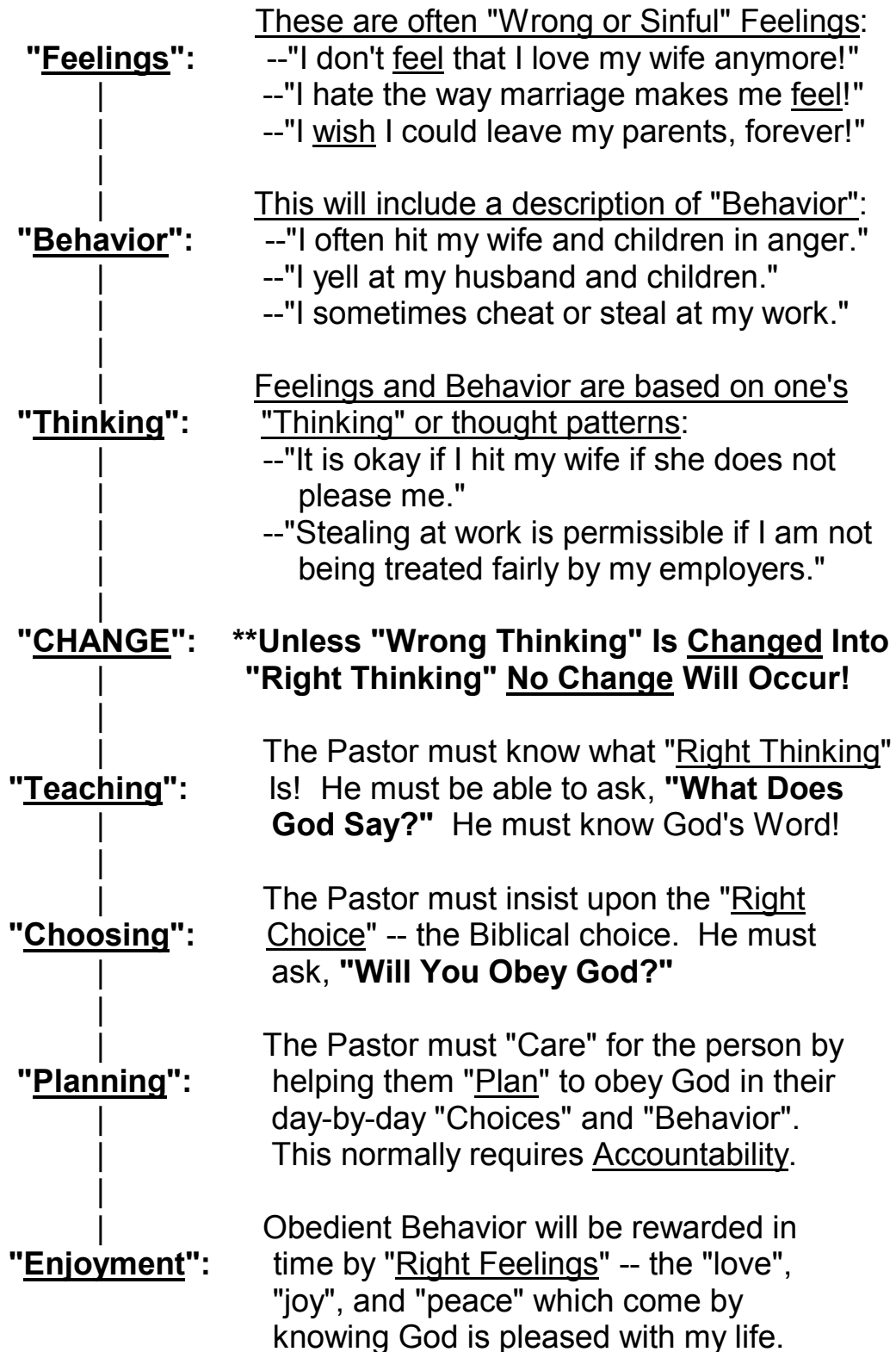
**(Step Four)**

#### B. Key Thoughts:

1. As the Pastor "listens" to the person talk about his/her problem, the Pastor is focusing on step three -- "wrong thinking". The question is, "Where is this person's thinking out of step with Biblical thinking?"
2. **"Change" occurs only when Wrong Thinking can be identified!**
3. Once "Wrong Thinking" is identified, "Right Thinking" or Biblical Thinking can be **taught** to the needy person.



**C. A Step-By-Step "Overview":** When you begin to talk with a person about a problem, they usually begin by sharing their . . .



## Conclusions

1. The material covered in this chapter is extremely important. The ability to use the material contained in the remaining ten chapters is determined by this one chapter.
2. The Pastor's success in counseling depends upon being able to "Identify Wrong Thinking". A problem cannot be corrected until it's cause is correctly diagnosed.
3. The Pastor is not dependent upon his own intelligence, training, or ability alone. God has provided the Biblical Truth which is the standard against which all "Behavior" is measured. The Pastor must "study" and master the Biblical principles needed. He must be able to "rightly divide" the Word of Truth, II Timothy 2:15. The following chapters of this manual deal with the Biblical principles which the Pastor must master to counsel successfully.
4. The Pastor is not alone as He seeks to "Identify Wrong Thinking". God has provided the ministry of His Holy Spirit to "guide" to the Truth. Successful counseling requires faith -- trusting God to use His Word in the power of the Holy Spirit to reveal the problems. Remember, the Holy Spirit "speaks from within"!
5. Not only does Biblical counseling require knowledge of the basic principles of Scripture, it also requires Courage. A faithful Pastor must "speak the Truth" whenever he discerns a problem. Many times this can create problems -- for him personally, or within the Church. It is amazing how often the "Truth" is resisted by those within the Church -- even those in positions of leadership!
6. Biblical counseling also requires genuine Love -- the very love of Christ. The Pastor must "speak the Truth", as we have seen, but He must also do this "in love"! He must be able to separate any personal feelings from the calling God has given Him to love as Christ loves -- unconditionally!
7. Finally, The Pastor must be Patient. He must often deal with those who are immature and undisciplined. He must hold on to hope when they have given up. He must remember that God is the One is "Faithful"; that the Lord Jesus Christ is the "Wonderful Counselor".

## Chapter Three

**Foundation Principles**  
**For**  
**Biblical Family Counseling**

## Part I

God's Blueprint For Marriage:  
*"The Basic Needs Of A Marriage"*

Introduction:A. Two Observations About Marriage:

1. At the time of their marriage, every couple I have ever known planned to be happy. They thought happiness would be theirs.
2. However, in too many marriages, the partners are silently unhappy. Marriage has not brought what they expected.

B. Two Questions About Marriage:

1. Why are so many married couples unhappy?
  - a. Because Satan is real! Every marriage has an enemy!
    - John 8:44 Jesus certainly believed that Satan is real. He said that he is a "liar" and a "murderer". He brings deceit about the Truth. Whatever is alive, he likes to kill.
    - II Corinthians 4:4 The Apostle Paul says that Satan has the ability to "blind" the eyes of those who don't believe God's Truth.
    - I Peter 5:8 The Apostle Peter says that Satan "prowls about" seeking to "devour" -- to bring death.
  - b. Because the world in which we live affects our thinking!
    - Judges 21:25 God warned His People, Israel, not to follow the practices of the nations around them -- that the heathen "cultures" would turn their hearts away from Him.
    - Romans 12:2 The Apostle Paul warns Christians not to be "conformed" to the "world" or the "culture" around them. Christians are to be "transformed" -- we are to be different!
  - c. Because each of us still has a sin nature.
    - Galatians 5:16 The Apostle Paul commands Christians to "walk by the Spirit." He warns that if we do not, we will carry out the "desire of the flesh". We are all self-centered!
2. Where can you find real help for the problems of marriage?
  - The world offers human wisdom; we must offer God's wisdom!

## The Four Basic Needs Of A Marriage

Illustration: The "Hand".

Use your hand as an illustration of the material studied in this chapter. Just as there are four fingers on the normal hand, so there are four "basic needs" of a marriage. Just as there is one thumb on the normal hand, so there is one "basic need" of a man or woman. When the one basic need of a man or woman is added to the four basic needs of a marriage, you have the complete "hand".

### **I. First Basic Need Of A Marriage: "Companionship"**.

*"And the LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone: I will make a helper suitable for him.'"* Genesis 2:18.

#### A. Purpose: Man/Woman were made for each other **Emotionally!**

1. Key Hebrew word: "alone".
2. When God finished each of His other creations, He said, "It is good"! When He finished making the man, He said, "It is not good"! The creation of mankind was not perfect yet -- God was not finished until He made the woman.
3. Note: "Loneliness" is not the absence of people in my life. "Loneliness" is the absence of God-intended relationships!

#### B. Definition: What Is "Companionship"?

1. Companionship is "**Emotional Intimacy**":
  - a. God created man and woman with the capacity for deep emotional relationship -- "Intimacy".
    - First, with Himself. Before sin entered the world (Gen. 3:1-7), man and woman "walked and talked" with God. The creation and the Creator had intimate relationship!
    - Second, with each other. Before sin entered the world, there was no selfishness, hurt, anger, jealousy, unfaithfulness in human relationships!
  - b. After sin separated man/woman from God, they began to struggle for intimacy -- for deep, meaningful relationship.
    - Man/woman lost "intimacy" with God because they lost all relationship with God. ("Sin" brought "separation")
    - Man/woman lost "intimacy" with each other. Selfishness, hurt, anger, jealousy and unfaithfulness began.

2. Companionship is "**Friendship**" -- **Being best friends!**
  - a. In life, there are many different "levels" of friendship. Our friendships range from the surface level to the deepest, most intimate level.
  - b. The marriage relationship is intended by God to be the deepest, most intimate of all human relationships.
  - c. Observation: Most couples think they are "best friends" when they marry. Ask, "**Are we still best friends?**"

C. Requirements: What Does Companionship Demand?

1. Companionship demands "**Communication**".
  - a. Definition: What is "communication"?
    - Communication is "speaking from the heart."
    - It is the desire or willingness to honestly and openly reveal what is in your "heart" or deepest person.
    - It is the desire or willingness to "share" your life.
  - b. Function: Communication is "verbal" and "non-verbal".
    - In "verbal" communication I use words to share what is in my heart and life.
      - \*\*Every marriage has its own spoken "language"!!
    - In "non-verbal" communication I reveal my heart -- my inner thoughts and feelings -- without using any words.
      - \*\*Every marriage has its "unspoken" language!
  - c. Danger: Men often struggle with "communication" in their marriage and to refuse to admit to its importance!
2. Companionship demands "**Cultivation**".
  - a. Definition: "Cultivation" in a marriage is the willingness to work at the relationship to make it healthy and happy.
  - b. Illustration: Failure to "cultivate" a marriage brings the same results as failure to "cultivate" a garden. Both require careful planning, a lot of time and hard work!
3. Companionship demands "**A Calendar**"--**Careful Planning**.
  - a. Definition: A calendar or daily planner is a "tool" which assists in the wise use of time. It is very helpful to couples who have a busy lifestyle.
  - b. Goal: To provide the time necessary for communication.
  - c. Observation: Some use a mental calendar, not physical.
  - d. Observation: We don't always do everything that we plan on our calendar, but we do very little that isn't on them!
    - \*\*Helpful question: "Am I on your calendar?"

## II. The Second Basic Need Of Marriage: "Sexual Union".

*"For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."*

Genesis 2:24

--Note: The sexual part of a marriage is very private -- it should not be discussed openly, nor by the wrong persons. Our discussion is entered into carefully and respectfully and is limited to those things taught in God's Word.

### A. Purpose: Man/Woman were made for each other **Physically!**

1. Key Hebrew words: "one flesh".
2. God designed the physical or sexual part of human life for two clear purposes:
  - a. To procreate the human race;
  - b. To provide the deepest level of human intimacy.

### B. Definition: What is sexual union?

1. Sexual union is "**Physical Intimacy**".
2. The deep "emotional intimacy" of Companionship is pictured by "physical intimacy". One grows out of the other.

### C. Biblical Instructions:

1. Genesis 2:24 -- "leave".
  - A man is to "leave" the primary relationship which controlled his life ("father and mother"). He is to have a new primary and controlling human relationship -- his wife!
2. Genesis 2:24 -- "cleave".
  - A man is to "cleave" to this new relationship. Nothing on earth is to be more important to him. **No one** on earth is to hinder or interfere with this relationship.
    - \*\*A woman gets her "security" from knowing her husband "cleaves" to her.
    - \*\*A man get much of his "self-worth" from knowing his wife values his "cleaving" to her.

### D. Helpful Suggestion:

The sexual area of marriage is similar to a **barometer** which forecasts the weather. The "sexual union" (or lack of it) tells a lot about the overall condition of the relationship.

\*\*Difficulty in the sexual area normally means a lack of "friendship" and "companionship". To help the couple, don't focus on the sexual problems, focus on the need for companionship -- to become "best friends" again!

### III. The Third Basic Need Of A Marriage: "Teamwork" Or "Mutual Help".

*"Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone: I will make him a helper suitable for him.'"* Genesis 2:18

#### A. In Creation, God Gave The Man A "Helper" -- A Partner In Life.

1. Key Hebrew word: "helper"  
 --The word means "one who corresponds to" or "completes"
2. This word paints a picture: Like two pieces of a jigsaw puzzle which fit perfectly when placed together, the man and the woman "fit" perfectly together as husband and wife in the creative plan of God!

#### B. If God Gave Man A "Helper", She Is "Needed" And Important!

1. Problem: Many men do not believe this or think this way.  
 --Many men do not believe they need help!
2. Problem: Many men do not believe they have "weaknesses"  
 --Many men think they need no "input" from their wives!
3. Problem: Many men do not value their wives.  
 --Their wives feel no real significance in life and marriage!
4. Problem: Many men believe that this is what the Word of God teaches--that the woman is not as valuable as the man.  
 --Many men believe this because of the influence of their "culture" or, sometimes, because of their church's teaching.

C. **Note Carefully: The Word of God teaches that men and women are of equal value in God's sight, but they have different "roles" or "responsibilities" in the family. The role of the man is to be the leader; the role of the woman is to be the helper. So, men and women are **EQUAL** in value and significance, but **DIFFERENT** in their function!**  
**\*\*Warning: A man who thinks he is of more value to God than his wife is guilty of the sin of "pride"!**

D. A Helpful Illustration: Hold your hands up, facing each other, with your fingers apart. The "gaps" between your fingers show the "weaknesses" that both a man and a woman have in their lives. One hand is the man; the other, the woman. Both have "gaps" or "weaknesses". We need each other. We were designed by God to work as a "team"-- we are "**Teammates**"!

#### IV. The Fourth Basic Need Of Marriage: "Spiritual Unity"

*"For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother;  
and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."*

Genesis 2:24

##### A. Purpose: A Husband And Wife Are To Be In Spiritual "Oneness".

###### 1. Key Word: "One".

--This Hebrew word brings important insight. We have already seen that it refers to the "oneness" of a husband and wife physically -- sexually. But, the meaning goes far deeper. This word implies the merging of the "total" person. It is a "bonding" together on the deepest level.

###### 2. What is the deepest level of life? Biblically, it is the level of the "spirit". A husband and wife are to be "one" in their spirits before the Lord.

##### B. Definition: What Is "Spiritual Unity?"

-- Spiritual Unity is "**agreement**" about **Who** Jesus Christ is and **Where** He fits into the marriage and family.

###### 1. **Who** is Jesus Christ?

--He is the "Son of God": He is the "God-Man"; fully God and fully man; virgin born; promised Messiah.

--He is "Savior": He paid the penalty of our sins on the Cross. Salvation is "by grace, through faith" -- a free gift!

--He is "Lord": He still rules over all creation; He is Lord over the Church, the Body of Christ; He is Lord over every Christian's life.

**\*\*Jesus Christ is the Person we love;**

**He is the Person to whom we each belong!**

###### 2. **Where** will He "fit" into our marriage and family?

--If He is "Lord", He must be "Lord"!

--He is the One Who controls the whole family. His Word is our "final authority" and "Truth". His Spirit is our "Guide".

--His approval is our family "goal".

**\*\*All decisions come from His authority and will.**

##### C. Statement: "Jesus Christ is the glue that holds everything together in the family!"



## Transition

- A. We have now discussed the "Four Basic Needs" of a marriage:
1. Companionship: "Emotional Intimacy" -- Being "best" friends.
  2. Sexual Union: "Physical Intimacy".
  3. Teamwork or Mutual Help: "Filling the gaps" for one another.
  4. Spiritual Unity: "Agreement" about **Who** Jesus Christ is and **Where** He will fit into the marriage and family.
- B. Illustration: We have used "the hand" to picture these principles.  
 --It is helpful to repeat each principle, holding your hand so each principle is associated with one of the four fingers, until those you are attempting to help or teach can repeat them without difficulty using their own fingers.
- C. Important Observation:
1. The "Four Basic Needs" of a Marriage are the **same** for both the husband and the wife.  
 --This is one reason we use the four fingers of the hand to illustrate them.
  2. In the next point to be studied, the "Basic Need Of A Man or Woman", the material is **different** for the man and for the woman.  
 --This is why we use the thumb to illustrate this material.  
 --So, holding our hand up to show the material we have already covered, the "Four Basic Needs", we now say, "We have studied these fingers, now we are going to add the thumb to the fingers. Notice it will not be the same for the man and the woman."  
 --The four fingers are the same (for a man or a woman), but the thumb is different.
- D. Conclusion To Transition: When we add the "thumb", we will have a summary of the Five Categories of Biblical "truth" which determine the meaning and happiness of a marriage.  
Note: Since the "Thumb" for the woman is different from the "Thumb" for the man, we will number each of them in our outline as point **"V"** -- so that "the Hand" will be complete for each.

## V. The Basic Need Of A Woman: "SECURITY".

*"To the woman He said, 'I will greatly multiply your pain in child-birth, in pain you shall bring forth children; yet your desire will be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.'"*

Genesis 3:16

### A. The Teaching Of This Verse:

-- This verse clearly teaches that the Husband is to "**rule**" over the Wife.

1. The Husband was established as the authority in the home.
2. When God gave the authority to the Husband, it meant that the Wife had to look to him to lead her and to provide for her. He was to lead; she was to follow.
3. With this authority came responsibility.
4. A man is responsible for three things toward his wife:
  - a. Protection -- make her "safe";
  - b. Provision -- meet her basic needs;
  - c. Passion -- make her feel loved; cared for emotionally.

B. When a Husband is faithful to meet these basic responsibilities, his Wife feels "**Secure**". Her Husband is what God intended him to be.

**\*\*This is the Basic Need of a woman -- Security!**

C. When a Husband is unfaithful or unable to meet these basic responsibilities, his Wife feels "**Insecure**".

--Danger: An "insecure" wife will often attempt to take the God-given authority from her husband and "rule" over the family in his place. Ironically, this never brings the "security" the wife is looking for and never allows the man to be the leader God desires him to be!

D. Definition: What Is The "Security" God Intends For A Wife?

1. What it is not: The "false" security of the world -- power, position, possessions, etc.
2. What it is: The knowledge that the "primary" relationships of life are what God intended them to be -- especially her relationship with her husband.

## V. The Basic Need Of A Man: "Self-Worth".

*"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule . . .'*

*And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule . . .'*

*Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it."*

Genesis 1:26,27,28; 2:15.

### A. The Teaching Of These Verses:

1. These verses clearly teach that the man was created in the "**image**" of God. A man is never God, but he is "like" God!
  - Our main "likeness" to God is that we have existence as a Person. He is a "Personal" God; we are His "Personal" creations!
  - Our existence as a "Person" in God's image allows us as men and women to have personal relationship with God through His son.
  - No animal has this right or privilege! No animal was created in "His image". No animal can ever have a personal relationship with the Creator -- only "man", as "male" and "female".
2. These verses teach that, in our "likeness" to God, He gave us **responsibilities** and **privileges** similar to His own.
  - a. Man was instructed to "**rule**", Gen. 1:26,28.
  - b. Man was instructed to "**multiply**", Gen. 1:28.
  - c. Man was instructed to "**subdue**", Gen. 1:28.
  - d. Man was instructed to "**cultivate**" and "**keep**", 2:15.

### B. From faithful obedience to God's instructions, man was to get his "**self-worth**" or his "**significance**".

--Man was to perform acts of obedience which caused him to know of God's pleasure.

--God's "pleasure" was to be the source of man's "**worth**".

**\*\*Note:** When God finished each part of creation, He stepped back and said, "It is good"! A man is created with the same desire -- to know that what he does is "good" -- that it has value and significance!

C. Definition: What Is The "Self-Worth" God Intends For A Man?

1. What it is not: The "false" self-worth or significance of the world -- the worldly "success" of money, possessions, power or pleasure, etc.
2. What it is: The knowledge that a man is what God intended him to be -- that what he is doing on earth will last for eternity -- that he is a "man of God."

D. Helpful Quotation:

*"Every provision of secular man for meeting the real need for personal significance is logically and horribly inadequate . . . In order to enjoy psychological health, people must meet their need for significance. Non-believers (and many Christians, too) do gain non-lasting significance from short-term goals and so function reasonably well. In their moments of honest self-examination, most admit to a sense of 'something wrong down deep.' Lacking explanations or answers, they ignore their deep, quiet uneasiness and redouble their efforts to gain significance from reaching temporal goals."*

(Dr. Lawrence Crabb, Basic Principles Of Biblical Counseling)

## Conclusions

1. We have now completed the "Hand". On the fingers and thumb of the "Hand", we have pictured:
  - a. The "Basic Needs Of A Marriage" -- using the four fingers.  
--Note: These are the same for both husband and wife.
  - b. The "Basic Need Of A Man Or Woman" -- using the thumb.  
--Note: These are different for the husband and wife.
2. Why are these five principles so important?
  - a. Primarily, because they are the Word of God!
  - b. Practically, because, in more than thirty years of personal Christian ministry to families, this author has never dealt with a problem that did not fall into one of these five categories!
3. Helpful Observation: When a marriage is not positive and healthy--
  - a. Without knowing, the husband will attack his wife at the point of her greatest need -- "**security**";
  - b. Without knowing, the wife will attack her husband at the point of his greatest need -- "**self-worth**".

\*\*This pattern of attacking each other at the most damaging place becomes a vicious cycle -- it feeds upon itself, getting deeper and deeper, doing more and more damage!

## Summary Page

-- Keep in mind what we are attempting to do to "counsel" or help people:

1. We are "Identifying Wrong Thinking" . . .

-- which is revealed by . . .

--"Wrong Behavior", and . . .

--"Wrong Feelings".

2. How do we "Identify" the Wrong Thinking?

--We use the Principles of the Word of God.

--the material in the previous chapter, the "Basic Needs Of A Marriage" is a good example.

--these principles allow us to "Identify" the "Wrong Thinking".

3. Having identified the wrong thinking, we now "Confront" with the Truth. All hope of lasting change rests here.

--We "Teach Right Thinking" -- we help the person understand what God says.

--We ask the question, "What does God say?"

4. Then, we "Secure A Right Choice" -- we "Insist On Confession And Repentance."

--this right choice should then be shown by . . .

--"Right Behavior" and . . .

--"Right Feelings".

## Chapter Four

**Foundation Principles**  
**For**  
**Biblical Family Counseling**

## Part II

Satan's Weapons For Destroying A Marriage:  
*"Identifying The Process Of Destruction"*

Introduction:

God is a "good" God! Everything He has ever done is for our "good"! God intended good things to come to man and woman in marriage!

--The Biblical Principles we studies in chapter one are "good"!

They are intended by God to bring meaning and happiness to marriage.

--We have pictured these good things by putting them on the fingers and thumb of our hand. They are . . .

**--the "Good Hand"!**

Tragically, to fully picture what too often happens in marriage, we must also use our other hand. We must call it . . .

**--the "Bad Hand"!**

On our other hand, we want to picture a progression of how Satan attacks and attempts to destroy the "good" things God wants for a marriage.

--Note: Satan is "real"! He is not merely a symbolic representation of "evil". He is a spiritual being, created by God in eternity past who sinned and was cast out of Heaven (See Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-17) Jesus dealt with him personally, face to face, in Matthew 4:1-10 and spoke of him repeatedly. (John 8:44)

**A. An Observation About Our Spiritual Enemy -- "Satan":**

-- He can "take advantage" of us by "schemes" he works against us: *"In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes."* (II Cor. 2:11)

1. Satan can gain the "advantage" in our life -- but, only if we allow him to do so!
2. We should not be "ignorant" of what he is attempting to do!

## **B. Two Observations About Marriage:**

1. When a couple marries, **both the husband and wife have "Expectations" about the marriage.** What are these "Expectations"? They are the thoughts, hopes, or dreams about what the marriage will bring to their lives.
  - These "Expectations" are like an "**unwritten list**".
    - Most couples do not think about having expectations;
    - Most couples could not make a list of their expectations;
    - Most couples are never asked to think about their expectations before they get married.
  - "**Expectations**": **Everybody has them!**
  - Note:** "**Expectations**" **affect every part of our marriage!**
  
2. Where Do We Get Our "Expectations"?
  - a. We get our "Expectations" from our **Family**.
    - Positive: We assume that what was good about the family we grew up in will be true about our marriage.
      - If a girl's father was loving and kind, she often assumes that her new husband will be also!
      - If a man's mother was quiet and gentle with her words and manner, he often assumes that his new wife will be also!
    - Negative: We assume that what was bad or hurtful in the family we grew up in will not be true about our marriage.
      - If a girl's father was cruel and verbally or physically abusive (perhaps due to alcohol), she assumes that her new husband loves her enough not to do any of these things to her!
      - If a man's mother was lazy and did not keep a clean home, he assumes that his new wife not be like his mother!
  - b. We get our "Expectations" from our **Life Experiences**.
    - All the negative and positive **relationships** of life leave us with expectations. This is especially true if we do not marry at an early age, but live on our own as a single adult for a period of time before marriage.

## **Satan's Weapons For Destroying A Marriage**

--Satan uses the "Expectations" that we bring into our marriage as his point of attack. His destruction of a marriage begins with . . .

### **I. First Weapon: "Unfulfilled Expectations".**

A. **Definition**: What is an "Unfulfilled Expectation"?

--An "Unfulfilled Expectation" is the "**Disappointment**" that comes when we experience the reality of our Expectation not coming true!

B. **Development**: How do we normally come to realize an "Unfulfilled Expectation"?

--Early in the relationship or marriage, when our partner does something to "disappoint" us, we speak to them about it or in some way let them know we are displeased.

--Because we are in "love", we assume that if we ask our partner not to do this thing again, he/she will not. We think our request will be the end of the matter!

--Or, we think one or two requests will end the matter!

C. **Recognition**:

--Recognition normally comes when our partner does not change -- the problem or issue continues!

--A Pattern emerges -- we realize there is an ongoing problem!

D. **Statement**: At this point, we think or say something like this . . .  
**"If you loved me, you would not do what you are doing"!**

**\*\*Key**: Notice how the "Unfulfilled Expectation" causes us to question if we are loved!

**\*\*Key**: An "Unfulfilled Expectation" can be identified by filling in this statement . . .

**"If you loved me, you would \_\_\_\_\_!"**



### E. Illustration:

Once a wife came to talk with me at the Church office. She sat down on the sofa. We had prayer for God to guide us to the truth as we talked. I asked her what was wrong. She said, "Pastor Jerry, I have been married for over twenty years, but I think I need to get a divorce from my husband!" I said, "Why do you think you need to get a divorce?" She said, "It's very simple -- he left his shoes in middle of the floor again!" I said, "Wait, now, let me see if I understand. You want to get a divorce from your husband because he left his shoes in the floor?" "Yes", she answered.

Note: I would not have been able to understand this statement if I had not known the importance of "Unfulfilled Expectations". What was this wife saying? She was saying, "I never expected my husband to be messy or sloppy! I didn't grow up in a home like this! I never thought my marriage would be like this. If my husband really loved me, wouldn't he do what I ask him?"

## II. Second Weapon: "Hurt".

### A. Definition: What is "hurt"?

--"Hurt" is the normal emotional response a person will experience as a result of the "Unfulfilled Expectations" of the marriage.

--Note: **Every marriage has some "hurt"!**

(This is due to the fact that both husband and wife still have a "selfish" sin nature which causes failure of true love, care and consideration)

### B. Question: What will I do with my hurt?

--There are two possibilities:

1. I will do what God wants me to do-- "**Cast my hurt on Him.**"

*"Casting all your anxiety (care) upon Him, because He cares for you."* I Peter 5:7

2. I will do what Satan wants me to do--"**Hold on to my hurt.**"

*"Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity."*

Ephesians 4:26-27

C. **Results:**

1. If I obey God -- **the progression stops!**  
-- **Satan is defeated in His attack!**
  2. If I "hold on to my "Hurt" -- **the progression continues!**  
(toward the last three "weapons")  
-- **Satan is in control!**
- Note: This is the "turning point". The progression of Satan's weapons stops at point two, or, continues with Satan having "advantage" of my sin nature.

### III. Third Weapon: "Anger".

A. **Definition:**

--"Anger" is the unavoidable result of my choice to "hold on to my Hurt"!

B. **Warning: This kind of "Anger" is always a sin!**

--We have already studied Ephesians 4:26-27 where the Christian is warned not to allow "the sun to go down on your anger." Why such a warning? Because anger that is allowed to remain as an unconfessed sin (I John 1:9) "gives opportunity" to Satan!

--this Greek word "opportunity" is the word for "a place to stand" -- "a foothold"!

--**All Satan needs is a "place to stand"; a "foothold"!**

C. **Results:** The rejection of God's will -- the choice to allow "the sun to go down on your anger" -- is a **sin!** It allows the development of "Satan's Weapons" to continue. He has a "place to stand". He can control the movement of events toward the final two steps of destruction!

D. **Observation:** "Anger" usually expresses itself in two ways . . .

1. "Verbal Abuse" -- Using our words like a "sword" to hurt!  
*"There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."* Proverbs 12:18
2. "Physical Abuse" -- Hitting or bringing bodily harm in anger!  
--Physical Abuse communicates total rejection!

## IV. Fourth Weapon: "A Wounded Spirit".

A. Definition: What is a "Wounded Spirit"?

--A "Wounded Spirit" is the progressive, long-term, **Death Of The Relationship!**

B. Manifestation: What are the signs of a "wounded spirit"?

1. Emotional: **No "feeling" left.**

--Statement: "I just don't feeling anything anymore!"

2. Volitional: **No "desire" or "motivation.**

--Statement: "I just don't have any desire to try anymore."

C. Scripture: Proverbs 18:19.

*"A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle."*

--This verse refers to two brother who should "love" each other -- but their love has been blocked because of an "offense". One brother (or both) has done something to break the relationship. How serious is this? The verse answers by giving an illustration -- It would be easier to conquer a "strong city" than to get these brothers back together again!

--The verse goes on to say that "contentions" (between people who once had a relationship) are like the "bars" of a castle (fortification) -- it is like being in jail!

D. Observations:

1. A "Wounded Spirit" is a **stage** in the relationship.

--There is no way to predict how long it will take for the "hurt" and "anger" to move to this stage.

2. At the stage of a "Wounded Spirit", the hurtful relationship has **killed** you!

--In the next (final) stage, **you kill the relationship!**

## V. Fifth Weapon: A "Root Of Bitterness".

A. Definition: What is a "Root Of Bitterness"?

--A "Root Of Bitterness" is the stage or point in the relationship where "**Bitterness**" gains final control!

B. Scripture:

*"See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled."* Hebrews 12:15

--Note: This is one of the most important verses in the Word of God -- it is extremely helpful in "Identifying Wrong Thinking" which causes trouble in a marriage.

--The verse makes four important statements:

1. An Appeal: *"See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God . . ."*

--What does it mean to "come short" of the grace of God?"

--The writer is not talking about "salvation" or saving grace in this verse -- He is talking about the grace of God provided for the Christian to live a Godly life. Sanctification or "Christ-likeness" is the issue!

--Put into the realities of a marriage, it means that when my marriage partner does something to "hurt" me, God provides His "all-sufficient" grace for it (see II Corinthians 12:9)! But, because I have chosen to allow "anger" to grow into a "wounded spirit", I also resist the Holy Spirit when He whispers, "Jesus Christ will give you strength to deal with your hurt."

--**I tell God, "No", when He offers His grace!**

--**This leaves me in the power of "self" and Satan!**

2. A Picture: *"That no root of bitterness springing up . . ."*

--What is a "Root of Bitterness"?

--The writer is painting a helpful picture at this point. He is saying that **Bitterness** is like a "Root". What does he mean? Just as a tree puts down a "root-system", so Bitterness puts down "**Roots**"!

--Illustration: Suppose you plant a young tree or "seedling" near your home. During the first year, a small child could put his hands around the tree and pull it out of the ground. But, give that "seedling" twenty years to grow, and the strongest man on earth could put his arms around the trunk of the tree and not be able to pull it out of the ground!

--Point: The lesson is clear -- **Bitterness is like a root!**  
**Allow it to "put down roots" and it gains control!**

3. A Warning: "*That no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble*"

--Bitterness not only is "like a root", it also "springs up"!

--The Greek word used here refers to a plant that "grows up quickly". The emphasis is on speed!

--The Bondage of "Bitterness" comes quickly!

--It is much like an animal trap which is unseen, but makes one totally its slave before it is detected!

--**Note: We must be able to "detect" Satan's weapons!**

4. A Result: ". . . *causes trouble and by it many be defiled.*"

--The marriage and family will be "troubled" by the control of "Bitterness" and, in some cases, moral "defilement" will enter the life of the one who is bitter.

### C. Observations:

1. A "Root of Bitterness" is one of the most dangerous conditions a Christian can face.

a. The condition develops because the Christian has resisted the control of the Holy Spirit.

b. The condition is a "sin" that is unconfessed.

c. The control of the life is placed into the hands of Satan. He has gained the "advantage".

2. Illustration:

Many times through the years, a Christian has come to my office for counseling and said something like this . . .

"Pastor Jerry, I am a Christian. I was reared in a Christian home. I attend a good Church. I know what the Bible says-- that it says I should not leave or divorce my husband.

**But**, I am so unhappy in my marriage, I am going to divorce him, even if I have to disobey God!"

**\*\*Notice** what I call the "**but**" of "Bitterness" -- "I know what God wants, "**but**", I am going to do what I think is best!

**\*\*Bitterness is in control!**

## God's Provision For "Victory" Over Bitterness

Note: In His "grace" God has provided all that we need to defeat the control of a "Root of Bitterness". Remember, only spiritual weapons are powerful enough to defeat Satan's weapons!

*"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."*

II Corinthians 10:3-5

### A. God's Provision: "Forgiveness".

#### 1. The Instruction: Ephesians 4:32.

*"And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."*

- a. The Christian is commanded to "be kind" when in ourselves we would want to be "unkind".
- b. The Christian is commanded to be "tender-hearted" when in ourselves we would want to be "hard-hearted".
- c. The Christian is commanded to be "forgiving" when in ourselves we would want to be "unforgiving".

#### 2. The Meaning: What does it mean to "forgive" the way we were forgiven?

*"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

Romans 5:8

- a. Jesus Christ died for us when we **did not deserve it!**
- b. Jesus Christ died for us **before we could ask for it!**

#### 3. The Application: The Christian is to "forgive" in the same way!

- a. I am to "forgive" when it is **not deserved!**
- b. I am to "forgive" when it has **not been asked** of me!

## B. God's Provision: "Walking By The Spirit".

### 1. The Instruction: Galatians 5:16.

*"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."*

- a. The Christian's life is not under his/her own control -- we are under someone else's control -- the **Holy Spirit**.
  - The word "walk" is the Greek word peripateo.
  - It literally means "to walk about".
  - It figuratively means "to live life; to conduct your life".
  - The command is: "Conduct your life" by the Holy Spirit!
- b. The Christian is promised that he/she can avoid the control the "desire of the flesh" -- sin nature.
  - The word "desire" is the Greek word epithumia.
  - It means "a strong desire or longing".
  - The promise is: "The desire of the flesh" will not control us!

### 2. The Meaning: What does it mean to "Walk by the Spirit"?

- a. The Christian must know that the Holy Spirit "lives" within him/her.
 

*"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own."* I Corinthians 6:19
- b. The Christian must make a choice, moment by moment, day by day.
  - Will I control my own life? Or . . .**
  - Will I yield control to the indwelling Holy Spirit?**

### 3. The Application: What happens when the Christian "yields" the control of life to the Holy Spirit?

- a. The Holy Spirit produces the very life of Christ in us!
  - We do what we would not do on our own!
  - We do what we could not do on our own!
- b. The Christian avoids the consequences of being controlled by "self"!
  - Selfishness does not enslave me!
  - I avoid the progression of "hurt", to "anger", to a "wounded spirit", to a "root of bitterness"!

## C. God's Provision: "Christ In Me".

### 1. The Instruction: Galatians 2:20.

*"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and delivered Himself up for me."*

- a. When Jesus Christ died and rose again, He accomplished something "life-changing" for every Christian. Not only did He free us from the "penalty" of sin (justification), He also freed us from the "power" of sin (sanctification). Every Christian has been "crucified with Christ" -- the power of the old nature (received from Adam), which makes us a slave to sin, has been broken!
- b. Jesus Christ, Himself, now "lives in me" -- I have a new "source" of life! I don't have to get my "life" from me anymore -- I now get my "life" from Him. Jesus Christ is the "source" of the Christian's life!
- c. The Apostle Paul states that his life on earth after being saved was a "faith" life. Day by day he "believed" what God says He has done to free the Christian from sin in human experience.

### 2. The Meaning: What does it mean to have Christ "living" in me?

- a. The Christian does not "live" life out of who he/she is!  
We live out of Who Christ is in us!
- b. The Christian must learn a "faith" life -- one of taking God at His Word. He says He has delivered us from the "power" of sin as well as the "penalty" of sin!

### 3. The Application:

- a. I am no longer a "slave" to sin! It has no right to "control" me.
- b. There is no person or experience that is more powerful than the "victory" God has provided in Christ!
- c. When I experience "hurt" in my marriage, I will feel as though I am "powerless" to resist the "hurt" progressing into "anger", then into a "wounded spirit", then a "root of bitterness".

**\*\*But, I am not powerless! In Christ (as my "source" of life) I can "cast" my hurt upon Him; I can stop the hurt from becoming sinful "anger"!**

*"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."*

Philippians 4:13



## Illustration

The Word of God contains an extremely helpful illustration of how "hurt" in a family relationship will grow to a "root of bitterness" and cause "trouble" for everyone involved over a period of many years.

The illustration is that of Jacob and Esau in Genesis chapter 27. You will remember that these two men were not only brothers, they were twin brothers. At the time of their birth to Isaac and Rebekah, God made it known that the "older would serve the younger." (See Gen. 25:23) This was a reversal of the pattern of that day -- the younger brother was always required to serve the older.

The younger brother was born holding his older brother's heel. As a result, he was named "Jacob" which means, "heel-catcher" or "one who supplants" -- indicating his future character.

Notice that God had prophesied that "the older would serve the younger". We know that when God says something, it will always prove to be true. Now, how God would have done it in this case, we do not know. But, Jacob and his mother, Rebekah, did not wait on God, they did it their way. They did not exercise faith. Therefore, they suffered the consequences of unbelief!

Two events occurred between these twin brothers which caused deep "hurt":

First, Jacob "stole" his older brother's "Birthright", Gen. 25:27-34. The Birthright was very valuable. The oldest boy received: 1) a double portion of the family inheritance; 2) he became the "ruler" or "leader" of the whole family; and, 3) he became the one through whom the covenant promises of God would be fulfilled. Esau did not seem to value these material and spiritual blessings -- He traded his Birthright to Jacob for a bowl of lentil soup!

Second, Jacob "stole" his older brother's "Blessing", Genesis 27:1-45. The Blessing was also very valuable. It was given at the end of the father's life. He would call all of his children to his side and make a "prophecy" to each about the future.

In God's dealing with the Nation of Israel, this Blessing was very important because it was a predication which God caused to come true! Esau did value this! He wanted it very much!

When the time came for Isaac to "bless" Esau, Rebekah instructed Jacob to steal the Blessing by deceit. The second son carefully carried out his mother's plans. They worked to perfection -- the Blessing was given to Jacob!

Almost immediately, Esau came in with fresh game for his father to eat and to receive his Blessing! In horror and disgust, he learned that his younger brother had craftily stolen what was his! He pleaded with his father to reverse the blessing or to give him something in its place. The father acknowledged that the Blessing was irreversible, but did pronounce a lesser blessing on Esau, Genesis 27:39-40.

What was Esau's response?

*"When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, 'Bless me, even me also, O my Father!'"*

*"And Esau said to his father, 'Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father.' So Esau lifted his voice and wept"*

*"So Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to himself, 'The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.'"*

*"Now when the words of her elder son Esau were reported to Rebekah, she sent and called her younger son Jacob, and said to him, 'Behold your brother Esau is consoling himself concerning you, by planning to kill you.'" (Gen. 27: 34, 38, 41, 42)*

In these events, "Satan's Weapons" for destroying a marriage and family are clearly seen:

**"Hurt"---->"Anger"---->"Wounded Spirit"---->"Root of Bitterness"**

Notice how quickly the "Bitterness" developed! Notice how "natural" it was to Esau! His only "consolation" in the events was to plan to kill Jacob! When you are "deeply hurt", the only thing that feels "right" is to be "Bitter"!

God brought a **Gracious** end to this story by reconciling the two brothers after twenty years. "Bitterness" does not go away -- even after twenty years! It is removed only by God's love! When God brought Jacob back to Canaan from Haran, Esau was coming with 400 men to kill him! (Genesis 32:6) During the night, Jacob "wrestled" with God, and God changed his name and his character! (Genesis 32:24-32) By dealing with Esau in a new way --by giving rather than taking -- Jacob was reconciled to his brother.

**\*\*Only the unconditional love of God conquers "Bitterness"!**

## Conclusions

1. We have now seen both the "**Good Hand**" and the "**Bad Hand**". It is extremely important to review this material until those we are attempting to help have an understanding of both "hands".
  - a. The "**Good Hand**" --The good things God intended for marriage.
    - 1) Companionship: Emotional Intimacy; being "best" friends.
    - 2) Sexual Union: Physical Intimacy.
    - 3) Teamwork or Mutual Help: "Filling the gaps" for each other.
    - 4) Spiritual Unity: Agreement about "Who" Jesus is and "Where" He will fit into the family.
    - 5) Security: The basic need of a woman.
    - 5) Self-worth or Significance: The basic need of a man.
  - b. The "**Bad Hand**" -- The destructive progression of Satan.
    - 1) Unfulfilled Expectations: The "disappointments" which every marriage experiences.
    - 2) Hurt: The emotional response to these disappointments.
      - Turning Point: A choice must be made!**
      - Obey God: "Cast" my hurt upon Him!
      - Disobey God: "Hold on" to my hurt!
    - 3) Anger: The unavoidable result of "holding on to my hurt"!
    - 4) Wounded Spirit: The stage where the relationship "dies".
    - 5) Root of Bitterness: The control of bitterness -- Rebellion!
2. We are attempting to "Identify Wrong Thinking" so we can confront with the truth by "Teaching Right (Biblical) Thinking".
3. The "**hope**" of **lasting change** rests in God showing the person we are counseling what He has provided for them in Christ -- "**victory**" over our helpless slavery to "self" and Satan!
  - God has provided these "weapons" for the Christian:
    - a. "Forgiveness": Choosing to show Christ's love in the same way He showed it to us.
    - b. "Walking by the Spirit": Learning to "yield" to His control.
    - c. "Christ in Me": Believing He is my new "source" for living!

## Chapter Five

**Foundation Principles**  
**For**  
**Biblical Family Counseling**

## Part III

Understanding Human Behavior:  
 "Why Do People Act The Way They Do?"

Introduction: The Probing Question Asked By Hippocrates -- "Why Do People Act The Way They Do?"

*More than 400 years before Christ, Hippocrates, the brilliant Greek physician and philosopher, propounded the theory that there are basically four types of temperament. He erroneously thought that these four temperament types were the result of the four body liquids that predominated in the human body: "blood"; "choler" or "yellow bile"; "melancholy" or "black bile"; and "phlegm". Hippocrates gave names to the temperaments that were suggested by the liquids he thought were the cause: the Sanguine --blood; Choleric--yellow bile; Melancholy--black bile; and Phlegmatic--phlegm. To him, these suggested the lively, active, black, and slow temperaments.*

*The idea that temperament is determined by body liquid has long been discarded, but strangely enough, the four-fold classification of temperaments is still widely used. Modern psychology has given many new suggestions for classification of temperaments, but none has found more acceptance than those of ancient Hippocrates.*

(Tim LaHaye, Spirit-Controlled Temperament, Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois, USA, p. 10)

**A. The Bible Teaches That Every Person Has A "Sin Nature".**

1. This nature is "separated" from God by spiritual death.  
 "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins . . ." Ephesians 2:1
2. This sin nature is in "rebellion" against God and desires to be "free" of His control.  
 "But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised." 1 Corinthians 2:14

**B. Mankind Has Observed That The Basic Nature Of Human Beings Is Manifested Outwardly In The Form Of "FOUR BASIC TEMPERAMENTS".**

1. Every person has a "Basic Temperament"!
  - a. This temperament is the way my "sin nature" shows itself in and through my personality.
  - b. Normally, we are unaware of the ways our basic temperament manifests itself and affects other people.
2. The mark of this "Basic Temperament" is selfishness!
  - a. Our temperament exerts pressure on others to be like us.
  - b. Our thinking is that if other people really love us, they will agree with us and give us what we want.
3. **Note**: The "Four Basic Temperaments" are **not** taught directly in Scripture -- they are human observations!

**C. Illustration: "How Can I Understand My Wife?"**

Several years ago, a businessman in our community called my home to say that he was having problems in his marriage. He asked to come over and talk about the problem. When he arrived, with frustration he said, "I can't understand my wife!" He told of years of friction between them due to the fact that they were totally different in almost every part of their life. Not only did he struggle to understand her, he also felt tremendous pressure from her to see and do things the way she did. In recent weeks, his wife had threatened to leave him and seek a divorce.

We talked for more than three hours. In that time, I helped this husband understand the material in this chapter dealing with the "Four Basic Temperaments". When I finished he exclaimed, "Now, for the first time in more than twenty years, **I think I understand my wife!**"

- D. Testimony**: The material in this chapter has been equally helpful in my own family. My wife, Sharon, was given a copy of author Tim LaHaye's basic book entitled, Spirit-Controlled Temperament. She found it so helpful, she read all of the books written by Tim LaHaye and his wife, Beverly. These books helped my wife understand me!

## What Are The Four Basic Temperaments?

- As the Temperaments are listed, remember that they are not part of the Christian's new nature, but part of the old nature.
- This explains why every has a basic temperament -- it is an expression of the sin nature.
- It is also helpful to notice that each of us is a blend of two or more of the basic temperaments. Most of us are a 60/40, 70/30 blend of two of the temperaments.
- We want to identify our "primary" or "controlling" temperament.

### I. The "Sanguine".

#### A. Strengths:

1. "Warm" -- likable, personable, sensitive, emotional.
2. "Happy" -- enjoys life, lives in the present, very optimistic.
3. "Friendly" -- enjoys people, hates solitude, has many friends, enjoys being the "life of the party"!
4. "Outgoing" -- likes to meet people, "extrovert".
5. "Talkative" -- likes to talk; great story-teller and entertainer.
6. "Carefree" -- loves to tell jokes, little concern for future.
7. "Compassionate" --very caring, tender, genuinely concerned.

#### B. Weaknesses:

1. "Restless" -- spontaneous, impractical, disorganized, undisciplined, unproductive.
2. "Weak-willed" -- has difficulty saying "no", especially morally.
3. "Undependable" -- has difficulty following through on tasks, often "forgets" commitments, deadlines.
4. "Egocentric" --talks about self, wants to be center of attention.
5. "Loud" -- calls attention to self, disregard of others.
6. "Exaggerates" -- loses focus on truth, enhances the "story"!
7. "Emotional Instability" -- often feels sorry for self, cries easily, inwardly "fearful", "outbursts" of anger, quick repentance.

#### C. Vocations: In normal life, you will often find the "Sanguine" as

1. Actors
2. Salesmen
3. Public speakers

#### D. Greatest Need: Personal "Discipline"!

- Biblical Example: Peter -- Before Pentecost, he tended to "speak first; think later"! (see Matthew 16:22-23)

## II. The "Choleric".

### A. Strengths:

1. "Confident" -- sure of self and abilities, independent.
2. "Goal-oriented" --well organized, single-minded, focused.
3. "Determination" -- strong will-power, tenacious, bold.
4. "Active" -- energetic, always busy, planning, "doing"!
5. "Practical" -- dislikes waste in time, energy, money.
6. "Leader" -- quick thinking, decisive, forceful, will quickly volunteer, good under pressure and adversity.
7. "Optimistic" -- adventuresome, courageous, pioneer.

### B. Weaknesses:

1. "Self-sufficient" -- independent, no need of others, "loner".
2. "Cold" -- inconsiderate, cruel, emotionally independent.
3. "Domineering" -- takes control, rejects other authority.
4. "Proud" -- attitude or actions of "superiority", no apology.
5. "Hot-tempered" -- quick, violent anger, sarcastic, uses "disapproval" as a weapon.
6. "Uncompassionate" -- uncaring, unemotional, no sympathy, sees emotional concern as "weakness".
7. "Revengeful" -- holds a "grudge", retaliates for injustice.

### C. Vocations:

1. Executives
2. Leaders
3. Generals
4. Builders
5. Producers

### D. Greatest Need: Genuine "Love"!

--Biblical Example: Paul -- Before salvation, he allowed nothing to get the way of reaching the "goal"; emotion was seen as a "weakness"; he was "proud"! (see Acts 9:1-2)

### III. The "Melancholy".

#### A. Strengths:

1. "Sensitive" -- strong emotional nature; creative thinking; appreciates "beauty", artistic.
2. "Analytical" -- detailed, reflective, deductive thinking, philosophical.
3. "Perfectionist" -- high standard of "excellence", idealistic, high expectations of others; introspective.
4. "Gifted" -- natural ability, musical, artistic, creative, versatile.
5. "Loyal" -- true, faithful, life-long "friend", devoted to people and issues or causes.
6. "Dependable" -- true to word, exact, precise.
7. "Self-sacrificing" -- drawn to "causes" and movements, lofty purposes.

#### B. Weaknesses:

1. "Self-centered" -- self-contemplation, self-examination.
2. "Moody" -- sensitive emotional nature, introvert, gloomy, hard to like, unpredictable.
3. "Pessimistic" -- accurate analysis of "reality" leads to negative thought patterns, deeply fearful, depression, despair.
4. "Idealistic" -- impractical, day-dreamer, escape reality.
5. "Unfriendly" -- introvert, reserved, doesn't "trust" others, suspicious, rarely volunteers.
6. "Critical" -- idealistic, perfectionistic standards produce negative, judgmental spirit and attitudes.
7. "Unforgiving" -- detailed, analytical memory; harbored animosity, bitterness, hatred.

#### C. Vocations:

1. Artists/Writers
2. Musicians
3. Teachers/Professors
4. Inventors
5. Philosophers
6. Architects

#### D. Greatest Need: Conquer "Fear"!

--Biblical Example: Moses -- Before the "burning bush", he was immobilized by personal fear -- inferiority! (Exodus 3:10-11)



## IV. The "Phlegmatic".

### A. Strengths:

1. "Calm" -- slow, easy -going, unexcited, uninvolved, works well under pressure, level-headed.
2. "Humorous" -- witty, "dry" sense of humor, popular.
3. "Happy" -- cheerful, good-natured, positive.
4. "Dependable" -- punctual, organized, fulfills obligations.
5. "Practical" -- conservative in all areas, emotionally, energy, financially, politically.
6. "Diplomatic" -- a good listener, objective, neutral, a "detached observer", a peace-maker.
7. "Efficient" -- neat, orderly, precise, high standards of accuracy.

### B. Weaknesses:

1. "Unmotivated" -- slow, lazy, unconcerned.
2. "Uninvolved" -- hesitant, prefers "sidelines", a "spectator" in the game of life.
3. "Indecisive" -- reticent, vacillates between possible outcome of involvement, fearful.
4. "Negative humor" -- habit of "teasing" others, especially as a "self-defense" tactic against involvement.
5. "Stubborn" -- usually opposes any kind of change, feels "safe" with life as it is.
6. "Selfish" -- very self-protective, asks "what will this require me?"
7. "Stingy" -- financial cautiousness, selfishness, asks "What will this cost me?"

### C. Vocations:

1. Accountant
2. Teacher
3. Diplomat
4. Scientist
5. Technical

### D. Greatest Need: "Power" For Involvement.

--Biblical Example: Abraham -- Experienced major delay in life before entering "the Land" because he was cautious, fearful, indecisive. Only after his father died did he enter the Land in faith. (see Genesis 12:1-4; Acts 7:2-4)

## Summary Of Four Basic Temperaments

<u>Temperament:</u>	<u>Strength:</u>	<u>Weakness:</u>
<b>I. <u>SANGUINE:</u></b>	--Warm --Happy --Friendly --Outgoing --Talkative --Carefree --Compassionate -- <u>Basic Need:</u> <b>"Discipline!"</b>	--Restless --Weak-willed --Undependable --Egocentric --Loud --Exaggerates --Instability
<b>II. <u>CHOLERIC</u></b>	--Confident --Goal-oriented --Determination --Active --Practical --Leader --Optimistic -- <u>Basic Need:</u> <b>"Love"!</b>	--Self-sufficient --Cold --Domineering --Proud --Hot-tempered --Unloving --Revengeful
<b>III. <u>MELANCHOLY:</u></b>	--Sensitive --Analytical --Perfectionist --Gifted --Loyal --Dependable --Self-sacrificing -- <u>Basic Need:</u> <b>Conquer "Fear"!</b>	--Self-centered --Moody --Pessimistic --Idealistic --Unfriendly --Critical --Unforgiving
<b>IV. <u>PHLEGMATIC:</u></b>	--Calm --Humorous --Happy --Dependable --Practical --Diplomatic --Efficient -- <u>Basic Need:</u> <b>"Power"!</b>	--Unmotivated --Uninvolved --Indecisive --Teasing Humor --Stubborn --Selfish --Stingy

## Helpful Observations

1. Remember that our "Basic Temperament" **is not** part of our "New Nature"; it is part of our "Old Nature".
2. Therefore, **everyone** has a "Basic Temperament".
3. Our "Basic Temperament" is the way our **sin nature** is revealed through our human personality.
4. No person is totally **one** Temperament. We are usually a **blend** of two or more of the four Temperaments.
5. The best time to **identify** a person's "Basic Temperament" is in the late teen or early adult years. During this time, most individuals leave the authority and structure of their parent's home and are "free" to be themselves. Early adulthood also comes before the realities of life "mellow" the rough edges of our Temperament.
6. It is common for an individual **not to be able to identify** his/her own "Basic Temperament". It is true, that, "I cannot see myself"!
7. The "Temperament" that most strongly resists the idea that the "Four Basic Temperaments" even exist is the **Choleric**. They often think that a discussion of the "Temperaments" is just an "excuse" concocted to avoid becoming like a Choleric! Each of us thinks that, "The world would be okay if it were like me!" But, this is especially true of the **Choleric** -- they really do think that they are healthy ones -- it's everyone else who has the problem!

## Helpful Suggestions

1. If you struggle with identifying your Temperament:
  - a. Ask your marriage partner. (They almost always know!)
  - b. Ask your parents or friends. (Those who know you, know you!)
2. **Do not** begin to attempt to identify the "Basic Temperament" of everyone you know! This material is intended for your own benefit. If a person is not **prepared** by the events of life to appreciate this material, he/she will not profit from your diagnosis!

## Conclusion

In the wisdom of His Word, God summarizes the "Basic Need" of each of the "Four Basic Temperaments" in **one** verse!

***"For God has not given us a spirit of timidity:  
but of power, and love, and discipline."*** (II Timothy 1:7)

- |                                              |                                               |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1. No " <u>Fear</u> " -- <u>Melancholy</u> ! | 3. " <u>Love</u> " -- <u>Choleric</u> !       |
| 2. " <u>Power</u> " -- <u>Phlegmatic</u> !   | 4. " <u>Discipline</u> " -- <u>Sanguine</u> ! |

## Chapter Six

**Foundation Principles**  
**For**  
**Biblical Family Counseling**

## Part IV

Understanding Human Behavior:

*"Why Do Christians Act The Way They Do?"*

Introduction:

A. In our previous study, we were reminded that every person has an "Old Nature" or "Sin Nature". This "Old Man" is separated from God by sin and lives in a constant state of rebellion against God. We also observed that our "Sin Nature" manifests itself in habitual patterns of behavior called the "Four Basic Temperaments".

**--This explains why people act the way they do!**

B. In this chapter, we want to focus on the Biblical "truth" that the Christian is a very different person than the non-Christian!

What makes the Christian act the way he/she does?

1. Every Christian has a **New Nature!**

*"Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." II Cor. 5:17*

a. The "new creature" genuinely **loves God!**

We love Him because He loved us first. Our love is always a "response" to His love! We love Him, but only because He loved us first. (II Corinthians 5:14; I John 4:10,19)

b. The "new creature" gets deep meaning out of **sharing** the love of Christ with other people! It is a "new" motivation!

We no longer live for ourselves, but for Him. (II Cor. 5:15)

2. Every Christian has received the **Indwelling of the Holy Spirit!**

*"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own." I Cor 6:19*

a. The indwelling Holy Spirit **motivates** the Christian to **show** love "for" Christ. (Romans 8:15)

b. The indwelling Holy Spirit **motivates** the Christian to **show** love "for" other people. (I Corinthians 12:7)

**--This explains why Christians act the way they do!**

## I. Christians Have A Strong "Inner" Motivation Which Affects Everything They Do.

--This Inner Motivation Is Their "Spiritual Gifting".

A. Every Christian Has A "Spiritual Gift".

*"But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."* I Cor. 12:7

B. What Is A "Spiritual Gift"?

*" . . . the manifestation of the Spirit . . . "* I Cor. 12:7

C. What Is The Purpose Of "Spiritual Gifts"?

*" . . . for the common good."* I Cor. 12:7

D. Who Decides Which "Spiritual Gift" I Get?

*"But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills."*  
I Cor. 12:11

E. How Many "Spiritual Gifts" Are There?

Note: There is much division of opinion in answer to this question. One thing is clear -- God has given many "gifts" to His children and to His Body, the Church.

Note: There are several ways to categorize the "Gifts". Each is equally correct. The categories are often determined by what is being emphasized.

--One of the most helpful ways to place the "Spiritual Gifts" into understandable categories is as follows:

1. The "**Manifestational**" Gifts: I Corinthians 12:8-11.  
--These were the "miraculous" or "sign" gifts which God gave to the early New Testament Church.
2. The "**Ministry**" Gifts: Ephesians 4:11.  
--These are the "leadership" gifts given to the Church.
3. The "**Motivational**" Gifts: Romans 12:6-8.  
--These are the "personal" abilities given to all Christians.

## II. The "Motivational Gifts" Of Romans 12:6-8.

### Background:

- Every Christian has been "gifted" by God with a Spiritual Gift. This "gifting" enables us to serve Him. This "gifting" motivates us. This "gifting" determines the way we view all of life. From it, we form our convictions. From it, we express our opinions.
- Understanding a Christian's Spiritual Gifting will explain much of what they do and say. It is very helpful to understand in a marriage and family. It is very helpful within a Church Body.
- As we study the "Motivational Gifts" of Romans 12:6-8, remember that every Christian has one of these God-given motivations functioning with them.

### \*\*"Spiritual Gifts" Explain Why Christians Act The Way They Do!

### Approach:

- There are seven "Motivational Gifts" listed in Romans 12:6-8. We will study each of these.
- We will observe four things about each gift:
  - Observations one and two will be "positive":
    1. What does this "gift" give a Christian a desire to do? This "desire" is the motivation of the "gift".
    2. What is the ability that is given with the "gift"? Each brings its own enablement for service.
  - Observations three and four will be "negative":
    3. What is the inability of the "gift"? What is it that this particular gift cannot tolerate?
    4. What is the frustration of each "gift"? What statement would best describe what is being "thought" and "felt" by the Christian with this gift?

## The Motivational Gifts

### 1. The Gift Of "PROPHECY":

(This is not the O.T. gift which was to "foretell the future.")

#### a. Positive:

- 1) The "Desire" of this gift: To **declare** the Truth!  
--This Christian is motivated to "speak" God's truth whenever and wherever possible. (This is their "heart"!) See Acts 20:20-21.
- 2) The "Ability" of this gift: To **recognize** or **discern** the Truth!  
--This Christian is enabled to "see" or "sense" both Biblical Truth and general truth in all areas of life!  
--This Christian is not afraid to "confront" people verbally!

#### b. Negative:

- 1) The "Inability" of this gift: To **tolerate** any lack of "Truth".  
--This Christian is concerned, or even angered, whenever people fail to speak or act in the Truth.
- 2) The "Frustration" of this gift: **"Don't you understand . . . the only thing that can really help people is to make them deal with what God says!"**

### 2. The Gift Of "SERVICE":

#### a. Positive:

- 1) The "Desire" of this gift: To **show** the love of Christ by giving **help** to people in need!  
--This Christian is motivated to "love" people the way Jesus did -- by meeting their needs. (This is their "heart"!) See John 13:35.
- 2) The "Ability" of this gift: To **recognize** the needs of people!  
--This Christian is enabled to "see" where people have outward physical and practical needs.  
--This Christian will not wait to be "asked" for help; they will "initiate" the help--they just show up with what is needed!

#### b. Negative:

- 1) The "Inability" of this gift: To **tolerate** Christians who do not help others -- those who show no concern!  
--This Christian will criticize those who don't help others.
- 2) The "Frustration" of this gift: **"Don't you understand . . . people must see the love of Jesus as well as hear it!"  
How will they know He cares if we don't?**

### 3. The Gift Of "TEACHING":

#### a. Positive:

- 1) The "Desire" of this gift: To **document** or **validate** the Word of God by "detailed" study.
  - This Christian is motivated to "dig" into the Word for its eternal treasure and to teach others. (This is their "heart"!) See II Tim 2:15.
- 2) The "Ability" of this gift: The desire and skill to do the **detailed, long-term study** required to "rightly divide" the Word of Truth.
  - This Christian is enabled to "analyze" and "interpret" the Scriptures. They focus on "sound doctrine".
  - This Christian normally has many books, even a library, devoted to Biblical research and is diligent in reading.

#### b. Negative:

- 1) The "Inability" of this gift: To **tolerate** lack of accuracy or doctrinal purity in the teaching or preaching of God's Word.
  - This Christian will not accept anything that is taught until they "study it" for themselves. If they differ with those who are teaching or preaching, they become critical of them. See II Cor. 4:2.
- 2) The "Frustration" of this gift: **"Don't you understand . . . people cannot be saved or grow spiritually unless they hear the 'unadulterated' Word of Truth."**

### 4. The Gift Of "EXHORTATION":

#### a. Positive:

- 1) The "Desire" of this gift: To **encourage** other Christians to "walk in the light" and to "grow in the knowledge" of Christ!
  - This Christian is motivated to "motivate" others in the Lord! They want to get involved with others, to walk along beside them, to catch them when they fall! (This is their "heart"!) See Acts 20:18-19.
- 2) The "Ability" of this gift: To be **sensitive** to and **identify** areas of needed spiritual growth in the lives of others.
  - This Christian devotes much time and energy in the lives of others. They are involved in many relationships outside their own marriage and family.
  - This Christian likes to give gifts of encouragement -- helpful books and literature on spiritual growth.

#### b. Negative:

- 1) The "Inability" of this gift: To **tolerate** their follow-Christians who have no desire or willingness to "grow" spiritually.
- 2) The "Frustration" of this gift: **"Don't you understand . . . where the people in our Church should be spiritually?"**



## 5. The Gift Of "GIVING":

### a. Positive:

- 1) The "Desire" of this gift: To **provide** the financial means to carry on and to advance the cause of Christ.
  - This Christian is motivated to take what God has given to them and to give it to others! (This is their "heart"!) See II Corinthians 8:1-4.
- 2) The "Ability:" of this gift: To make the hard **choice** to take what could be used for themselves and to **give** it to others!
  - This Christian is disciplined in financial matters.
  - This Christian often lives on "little" or does not live on the level which would be possible to them.
  - This Christian has a unique ability to discern where their financial gifts would do the most good.

### b. Negative:

- 1) The "Inability" of this gift: To **tolerate** Christians who don't give sacrificially! To **tolerate** Churches and Christian ministries which do not use God's money efficiently!
  - This Christian can be very "judgmental" about how other Christians use their money!
- 2) The "Frustration" of this gift: **"Don't you understand . . . what could be done for Christ if Christians just used their money to glorify God!"**

## 6. The Gift Of "ORGANIZATION":

### a. Positive:

- 1) The "Desire" of this gift: To **organize** the people of God to effectively "fulfill" the plan and purposes of God.
  - This Christian is motivated to be an administrator --to be used in the "behind the scenes" organizational framework.
  - This Christian is not motivated by a desire for power or public recognition! (This is their "heart"!) See I Pet. 5:1-4.
- 2) The "Ability" of this gift: To function as an **efficient manager** of God's people!
  - This Christian can "see" where people can "fit" into getting the task accomplished.

### b. Negative:

- 1) The "Inability" of this gift: To **tolerate** inefficient management within the Church which hinders the cause of Christ!
  - This Christian can "offend" others in the effort to get things done efficiently or in a "Christ-honoring" way!
- 2) The "Frustration" of this gift: **"Don't you understand . . . what God's people could do if they worked to their potential?"**

## 7. The Gift Of "MERCY":

### a. Positive:

- 1) The "Desire" of this gift: To **show** the love of Christ by being "sensitive" to and providing "help" for the **inward hurts** of people in need.
  - This Christian is motivated to help people see that the love of Christ for them is the answer to the inner needs of their life. (This is their heart) See Eph. 3:16-19.
- 2) The "Ability" of this gift: To **feel the hurt** of other people.
  - This Christian is able to "sense" where people are hurting, often saying, "Is something bothering you? May I help?"
  - This Christian is "sympathetic" to a person's inner feelings.
  - This Christian is "patient" with the failures of Christians.

### b. Negative:

- 1) The "Inability" of this gift. To **tolerate** the insensitivity and impatience of some Christians with those who are hurting!
  - This Christian will question the "maturity" those who speak the Truth of the Word, but fail to show the "love" of Jesus.
- 2) The "Frustration" of this gift. **"Don't you understand . . . people must sense the love of Christ in us before they can believe that His love can help them!"**

## III. How Do You Recognize Your Spiritual Gift?

1. You must be "**growing**" spiritually!
  - a. Since these gifts are given by the Holy Spirit, a Christian must be learning to "walk" by Him, in order to discover His gifting. (Gal. 5:16)
  - b. Since these gifts are given by the Holy Spirit, a Christian must be learning to be "filled" by Him, in order to discover His gifting! (Eph 5:18)
  - c. Note: An "underdeveloped" spiritual life leads to an "underdeveloped" and little used spiritual gift!
2. You must be meaningfully "**involved**" in the Body of Christ since these gifts are given for the "common good" of Christians. Lack of "involvement" in the mission and purpose of the Church lead to difficulty in identifying spiritual gifts.
3. You must be "**responding**" to any ministry opportunities God's places in front of you. Involvement in Christian ministry will give opportunity for you gift to be seen.
4. You must be "**listening**" to other members of the Body of Christ. They will often recognize your gift before you and will sometimes make comments about how God has gifted you.
 

Note: Be sure to ask your Church leaders what gift they see!

## Conclusions

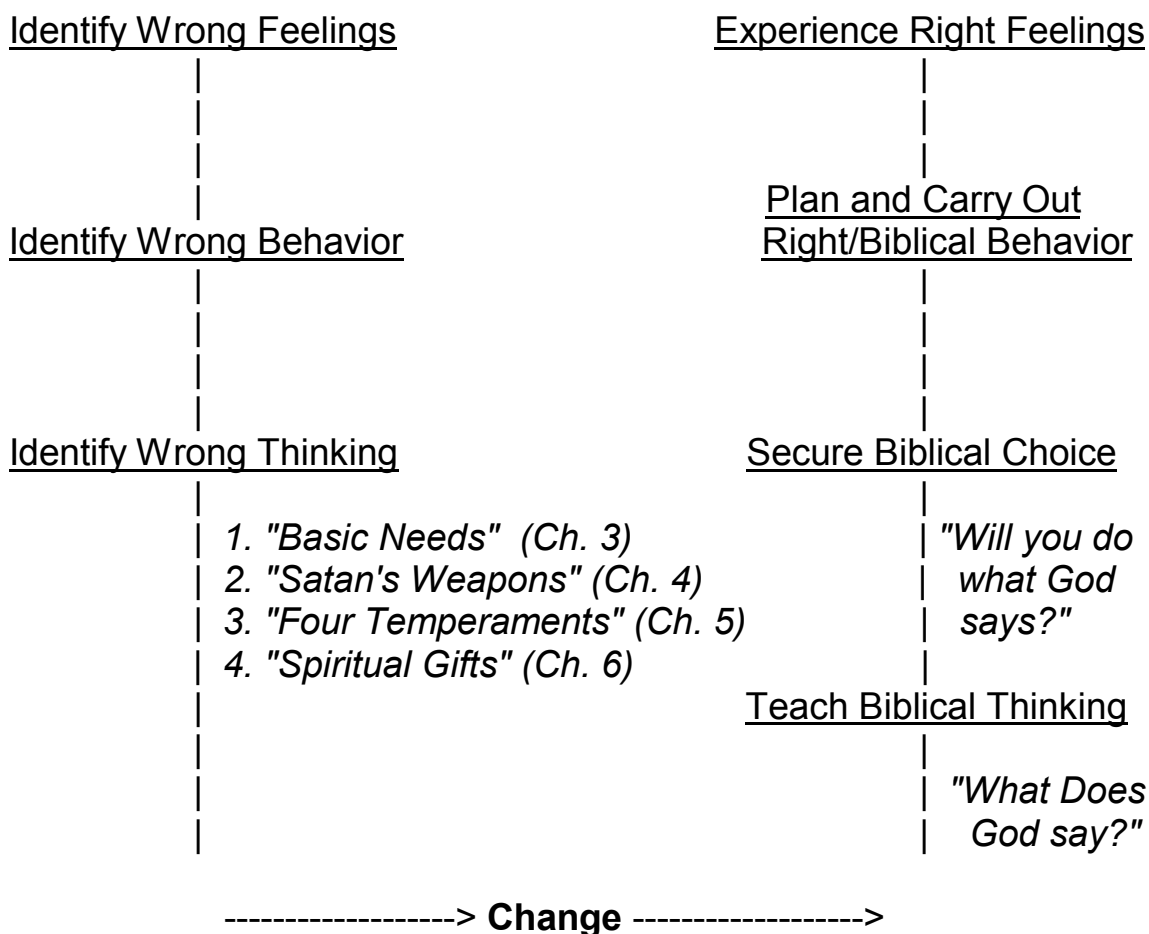
### Why do people act the way they do?

1. Every person has a "**sin nature**" -- which is expressed through their personality. This sin nature is selfish! Its focus is always on what is beneficial or pleasurable to "self"! It is helpful to notice that this sin nature manifests itself in one of four categories -- one of the "Four Basic Temperaments". In a marriage and family, much insight can come from knowing the Temperament of the person to whom I am married.
  - \*\*A non-Christian possesses no other nature -- this is the only nature that can be manifest through the personality!**
  - \*\*When a Christian is not "walking in the Spirit", this is also the only nature which can be manifest!**
  
2. Every Christian has a "**new nature**" -- which is expressed in and through their personality. However, this new nature is the "life" of Christ living in them by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This nature is like Christ -- it is characterized by His love. Rather than living for "self", the new nature lives for Christ. In living for Christ, the in-dwelling Holy Spirit, gifts each Christian with an individual "spiritual gift". This gift determines the way we see everything in our whole world. Therefore, it is extremely important within a marriage, family or Church to understand an individual's spiritual gift.
  - \*\*Our spiritual gift is like a pair of "eyeglasses" we put on -- all of life is seen through the lenses of these glasses!**
  - Question: How do you see your wife? Children? Church? world?
  - \*\*If we want to be effective husbands, fathers, and pastors, we must remember that we are looking through spiritual "eyeglasses"!**
  
3. One of the most common sins among Christians is the pride of assuming that, "Everyone should be like me!" Or, "I am right in the way I view things -- anyone who disagrees is wrong!"
  - \*\*The Biblical truth is that God has purposed that we be very different from one another -- even in our marriages!**
  - \*\*We are to value each other as God has purposed!**

## Transition Page

Review: The Importance Of Lawrence Crabb's "**Model**" For Biblical Counseling:

--Note: We are looking for "Wrong Thinking" that is the basis of problems within the life and marriage. This wrong thinking grows out of not knowing the Biblical truths we have studied in chapters 3-6.



John 8:32  
 "Know truth . . . make free"

## Chapter Seven

# Foundation Principles For Biblical Family Counseling Part V

Biblical Guidelines For The Husband:  
*"How Can I Be The Husband God Wants Me To Be?"*

Introduction: The Importance Of The "Five Biblical Priorities Of Life".

- We have used the "Hand" in two ways in our study:
1. To picture the **good hand** -- the "Basic Needs Of A Marriage", in chapter 3.
  2. To picture the **bad hand** -- "Satan's Weapons To Destroy A Marriage", in chapter 4.
- We need to use the "Hand" again! It will help us lay the background for the remaining chapters of this Pastor's Manual. On the fingers and thumb of one hand, let's illustrate the **"Five Biblical Priorities Of Life"**.

### A. What Are The "Five Biblical Priorities Of Life"?

1. **Jesus Christ**: The "first" priority of a Christian's life!

*"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you."*  
Matthew 6:33

2. **Marriage Partner**: The "second" priority of a Christian's life!

*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her."*  
Ephesians 5:25  
*"Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord."*  
Ephesians 5:22

3. **Children**: The "third" priority of a Christian's life!

*"And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."*  
Ephesians 6:4

#### 4. **Body Of Christ**: The "fourth" priority of a Christian's life!

*"And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-25*

#### 5. **Work**: The "fifth" priority of a Christian's life!

*"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."  
"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve." Colossians 3:17,23-24.*

### B. **What Are The "Consequences" For Failure To Hold These Priorities?**

1. I will have **wrong priorities**! A "false god" will rule my life!
  - Every person has a "god" -- something rules his/her life!
  - If I am not ruled by the true "God" -- a false "god" will rule!
  - What are some common "false" gods?
    - a. "Self"
    - b. "Possessions"
    - c. "Position" (social)
    - d. "Power"
    - e. "Success"
    - f. "Pleasure"
    - g. "Bitterness"
  
2. I will have **blind spots** in my life -- I will make poor decisions!
  - In John 18:37-38, Pontius Pilate reveals the "priorities" of his life. His "god" was his work -- above all else, he wanted to succeed as a soldier, to have Rome's approval. In the process, he did not hear the warnings of his wife, Matt. 27:19. He was "blind" to the issues of eternity!
  
3. I will allow **spiritual deception** to enter into and to influence my family!
  - Note: What I "love", I pass on to my children to be "loved"!

**\*\*The "Five Biblical Priorities Of Life" Are The Framework Or Skeleton For Understanding The Major Relationships Of Life.**

--The major relationships of life: Husband -- Wife;  
 Parents -- Children;  
 Church -- Christian to Christian;  
 Work -- Christian to world.

**\*\*Almost all of the "major problems" of life grow out of one or more of these major relationships!**

## **Biblical Guidelines For The Husband**

--The second most important issue in a Christian husband's life is his **WIFE!**

--This priority is summed for a husband in **two** basic commands:

### **I. The Husband Is Commanded To "LOVE" His Wife.**

*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the Church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless."* Ephesians 5:25-27

#### **A. The "Command":**

1. The command of these verses is undebatedly clear!
2. The husband is to "love" his wife!
3. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the Church!
  - We see the words and we have some mental definition of what they mean.
  - But, our definition is often inaccurate or inadequate!

## B. The "Problem": We don't have the ability to love as God loves!

--There are two kinds of "love".

### 1. Human Love:

a. Greek phileo = "to have common interests with" someone; "**brotherly love**".

b. Greek eros = "love"; "**sexual desire**"; in Greek mythology, Eros, the "god of love", son of Aphrodite; to the Romans, "Cupid".

### 2. Divine Love:

--Greek agapao = "to love"; "to take interest in" someone;  
When used of God: "**unconditional, sacrificial self-giving**"! (John 3:16)

--**Key**: We don't have "agapao" in and of ourselves. It is the gift of God to us; the work of God in us!

## C. The "Meaning": "**Unconditional Commitment**"!

--The Husband is to have an "Unconditional Commitment" toward his wife.

--The Husband does not have this kind of "love" within himself!

--The Husband must draw "Unconditional Commitment" from the life of Christ within him!

1. "Unconditional Commitment" means that the husband is **not allowed** to place **any conditions** upon his commitment to his wife!

**\*\*There can be no "ifs": "I will love you if you do what I expect or if you are a "good" wife to me!**

2. "Unconditional Commitment" means that the husband is to **give himself** to meet the "needs" of his wife!

**\*\*A husband is to focus on his wife "needs", which are essential, not her "wants", which often can be non-essential!**

3. Biblical Illustration: The "love" of Jesus, **Mark 10:42-45**.

--agapao does not "lord it over" others;

--agapao defines "greatness" as servanthood;

--agapao seeks to "give" life for the true needs of others!



## D. The "**Results**": What Will Happen When I Obey God?

### 1. My wife will **Grow Spiritually!**

- a. Christ's goal in "loving" the Church, Eph. 5:25, was to . . .
  - Sanctify her!**
  - the word "sanctify" means "to set apart"; "to make holy".
  - this was the true need of the Church -- to be "set apart" from sin and "set apart" to Christ.
  
- b. This must be the goal of the Husband, to see his wife . . .
  - Sanctified!**
  - This is the greatest "love" a husband can have for his wife
    - to see her "set apart" to the Lord!
    - to see her living victoriously over sin!
    - to see her being used by God for His glory!
  
- c. How does a husband accomplish this goal?

--Key: The "Word" of God!

Ephesians 5:26 speaks of Christ's ministry to the Church:

*" . . . having cleansed her by the washing of water by the word . . ."*

- The Word of God performs a special ministry in the heart of every Christian
  - it **sanctifies!**
  - it **sets us apart to Christ!**
  - it **cleanses!**
- The Husband must lead his wife in regular exposure to the Word of God!
  - A wife does not need for her husband to **preach** to her, but rather to **share** with her from the Word God has given to his own heart!
- The Husband must see that his wife has "private" time to be in the Word for herself.
  - A wife is tremendously encouraged when her husband helps make it possible for her to spend quiet time in God's Word.
  - "Like newborn babes, long for the pure (unadulterated) milk of the Word, that by it you may grow . . ."* 1 Peter 2:2

## 2. My wife will **grow personally!**

### a. Christ had a very personal goal in "loving" the Church,

*" . . . that He might present to Himself the Church in all  
her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing;  
but that she should be holy and blameless." Eph. 5:27*

--Notice: The Church, Christ's Bride, has her own **glory!**

--Jesus Christ made it possible for His bride  
to be without "spot or wrinkle or any such  
thing"!

--Jesus Christ made his Bride "**beautiful!**"!

--Notice: Her "beauty" was primarily **inward!**

*" . . . but that she should be holy and blameless."*

### b. The goal of the Husband must be to see his wife . . .

--**Beautified!**

--To see that she focuses on "inner beauty"!

--To see that she has no "spot" or "wrinkle" --no character  
flaws, deficiencies or immaturities which limit her true  
personal "beauty"!

### c. How does a Husband accomplish this goal?

--Key: "Patient" Prayer.

1) A Husband makes a serious mistake when he puts  
"pressure" on his wife to change.

2) Lasting change is God's "work" -- only He can do it!

3) What the wife needs is "**patient encouragement!**" --  
for her husband to have the ability to give God "time"  
to do His work in the wife!

4) One of the best sources of this "patience" is **joint-  
prayer** -- seeking God together!

--Note: "Joint-prayer" is extremely encouraging to a  
Christian wife. She feels God's strength and  
her husband's support!

3. My marriage will be **unified!**
  - a. When a husband "loves" his wife with the love of Christ, **unity** comes to the relationship!
  - b. The Husband's **love** will encourage the wife to **respond!**  
 --Promise: Very few women will fail to "respond" to love that is **Christ-like!**
  - c. The Husband's **love** will encourage the wife to **respect!**  
 --Promise: "Respect" is the heart of a Christian woman's love!

## **II. The Husband Is Instructed To "UNDERSTAND" His Wife.**

*"You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered."*  
 I Peter 3:7.

### **A. The "Command":**

1. The command of this verse is undebatedly clear!
2. The husband is to "understand" his wife; he is to live with her "according to knowledge"!  
 --Greek word: gnosis = "knowledge";  
 from ginosko = "to know experientially".
3. This understanding has to do with the fact that the woman is a "weaker vessel". (The important thing is to "understand" her rather than to be "critical" of her!)
4. The instruction to understand is followed by the instruction to "grant her honor" as a "fellow heir".  
**\*\*Note: The result of "understanding" my wife is to "honor" her -- to see her as God does!**
5. Finally, the verse gives a **warning!** A Christian husband's ability to "pray" for his wife will be hindered if he does not . . .
  - a. Understand her;
  - b. Honor her.

## B. The "Problem": Most men do not understand their wives!

--Men struggle to "understand" their wives because . . .

1. They had little or no **Family Training**:
  - a. There was not a Biblical "role model". The father in the home did not teach the son how to **love** and **understand** women.
  - b. In many cases, the "role model" or "father figure" taught negative or harmful patterns!
2. They had little or no **Biblical Training**:
  - a. Many men were reared in non-Christian homes and received no "Truth" about the family!
  - b. Many men have attended Churches which have not taught "Truth" about the family!
    - Many Churches do not teach men to "honor" women in the way God intended. As a result, many women have been guilty of rebellion toward the Biblical teaching of submission.

**--Whatever the cause, the result is the same: Many husbands do not "understand" their wives!**

## C. The "Meaning": "Intimate Awareness"!

1. "Intimate Awareness" of her **Physical Needs**!
  - a. These "physical needs" are not sexual in nature. We are referring to things in the life of a wife that are outward -- in her "physical" world.
  - b. The "physical responsibilities" of women vary greatly around the world and from culture to culture. A man must ask God's wisdom in defining how to show his wife sacrificial love in her "world"!
  - c. Illustrations of "physical needs":
    - Repair jobs around the house;
    - Daily responsibilities that exhaust her physically;
    - Domestic cares that prevent her from having any "free" time--especially to spend with the Lord.
    - Situations which cause her to fear for physical safety, where a man's presence makes a difference.

## 2. "Intimate Awareness" of her Emotional Needs!

- a. Every woman has inner "emotional" needs. In the beauty of God's creative design, He caused most women to have a sensitive nature -- one especially helpful in motherhood. But, this sensitive nature can be the basis of inward variations in mood, perspective, and preference!
- b. Every wife needs the "security" of being understood by her husband. She must feel that she can share what is in her heart without running the risk of his rejection!  
**\*\*He must never make light of what is of concern to her!**
- c. Illustrations of "Emotional Needs":
  - Concern about the children in the family;
  - Worry about the financial needs of the family;
  - Concern about relationships within her maiden family;
  - Worry about her health;
  - Concern about her job or a relationship at work;
  - Concern about relationships or issues in the Church;
  - Uncertainty about her relationship with her husband.

## 3. "Intimate Awareness" of her Spiritual Needs!

- a. Every Christian woman has "spiritual needs". These grow out of the fact that she is spiritually alive and desires to be pleasing to her Savior.
- b. Every Christian woman must . . .  
*"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*  
 II Peter 3:18
- c. Illustrations of "spiritual needs":
  - To have assurance of salvation;
  - To have meaningful involvement in a Church;
  - To learn how to study God's Word for herself;
  - To have time to spend in "quiet" with the Lord;
  - To develop a personal prayer life;
  - To develop a prayer life with her husband;
  - To learn how to share spiritually with her husband;
  - To learn to "walk by faith".
  - To learn how to respond to "spiritual opposition";
  - To learn how to conquer "fear" or "anger".

#### D. The "**Means**": How Can I Do What God Instructs? How Can I Have "Intimate Awareness" Of My Wife?

1. To be **aware** of her "Physical Needs": **Make A List!**
  - Ask your wife to make a "list" of the things she needs done in her "physical" world.
  - Before you argue or refuse to do what she puts on the "list", take the list to God -- **pray over it!**
  - When you give the "time" and "energy" of your life to your wife, you will be "loving her as Christ loved the Church"!
  
2. To be **aware** of her "Emotional Needs": **Learn To Listen!**
  - Ask God to make you "sensitive" to your wife's inner needs.
  - Tell her that you have set aside some time for her, and that you have realized your need to **listen** carefully to her!  
(Be careful, this might be such a shock to your wife that she will have a heart attack!)
  - Tell her when this time will be and follow through on it -- do what you have promised! (You can be sure that "something" will happen to attempt to cancel or interrupt the time)
  - Do not interrupt your wife as she **shares** with you! **Listen!**
  - Take the inner concerns of your wife to the Lord in prayer-- it will be extremely meaningful to her!
  
3. To be **aware** of her "Spiritual Needs": **Read And Pray!**
  - Tell your wife that you want to develop the habit of . . .
    - Reading the Word with her;
    - Praying with her.
  - Tell your wife that you want to experience the "bonding" of spiritual union with her!
    - That you want "oneness" on the deepest level!
  - Follow through on your words; keep your promises! This will prove to be extremely meaningful to both of you!

#### E. The **Results**: What Will Happen When I Obey God?

1. My wife will have a growing **respect** for me as husband!
2. My wife will have a growing **response** to me as husband!

## Chapter Eight

**Foundation Principles**  
**For**  
**Biblical Family Counseling**

## Part VI

## Biblical Guidelines For The Wife:

*"How Can I Be The Wife God Wants Me To Be?"*Introduction:A. Observations About Women In The Modern World:

1. The "modern" world places intense pressure upon women.
  - a. "What does it mean to be a woman?"
  - b. "How can I find personal happiness?"
2. The "answers" given to these basic questions are not based upon Biblical Truth, but upon "secular humanism".
  - a. Biblical "truth" is revealed -- it does not originate from mankind as a source, but from God Himself!
  - b. Secular "humanism" originates from mankind -- it is the sum of man's human reasoning about human existence!
3. From a Biblical point of view, most women in the "modern" world are being deceived! They are believing what they are being told about . . .
  - a. What it means to be a woman:
    - That since men and women are "equal", they should be the same in every way. In a "fair" society, there should be no differences in masculinity and femininity. The goal is a "unisex"!
  - b. How to find personal happiness!
    - Happiness for a woman is defined a seeking to be "equal" with men in terms of "personal rights".
    - Marriage and children are not "allowed" to stand in the way of personal achievement and advancement!
    - The assumption is that, when women are as "free" and "successful" as men, they will be happy and fulfilled!
4. The Bible and its "teachings" are very offensive to most "modern" women!

## B. Observations About Women From Scripture:

1. Men and women are of **equal value** to God, Genesis 1:27.

*"And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created Him; male and female He created them."*

- Both** the man and woman were required to reveal the "image" of God.
- Therefore, they share an **equality** of value before God.  
(There is a "diversity" of responsibility, but "equality" of value)

2. There should be **no competitive jealousy** between man and woman, Genesis 1:26.

*"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness . . .'"*

- The Hebrew word, "Us" reflects the **Trinity** -- the fact that the Eternal God exists as **One God** in **Three Persons!** He is the great **Three in One!**
- Notice:** There is no **jealousy** in the Trinity, the "Godhead"! Yet, there is great diversity!
  - The Father has never left Heaven; no man has ever seen Him; no "sin" has ever come into His presence!
  - The Son left Heaven and took on "flesh" as a man; He lived a sinless life among men; He was falsely accused, unjustly convicted and brutally crucified after taking mankind's "sin" upon Himself!
  - The Holy Spirit ministered to the Son during His earthly life; He came to "indwell" Believers after Pentecost; He empowers, guides, convicts and protects Believers until Jesus comes again.
- This is great **diversity**, but there is **no jealousy or competition!**

**\*\*God has designed marriage with total equality, but with great diversity!**

- Man and woman are **equal**;
- But, there is **diversity** in their **role responsibilities!**



3. After the "Fall", women struggle with the "desire" to take the **place of leadership** within the family, Genesis 3:16.

*"To the woman He said, 'I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you shall bring forth children; yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.'"*

--God created woman with a position of **great influence!**

Her influence can be either "positive" or "negative".

a. Positive:

--After the "Fall" of mankind into sin and separation, God chose for the man to "rule" over the woman.

--He placed His sovereign choice for the woman into her heart by causing her to "**desire**" three things:

- 1) To have a man's protection -- producing "safety";
- 2) To have a man's provision -- producing "security";
- 3) To have a man's passion -- producing "significance"!

--It is, therefore, **legitimate** and **appropriate** for a woman to desire to have a man to give her these three basic needs.

b. Negative:

--However, after the "Fall", both the man and the woman were separated from the life of God by "sin" -- both now had a "sin-nature" which caused them to constantly "**desire**" to be free of God's will and control. Each now "**desired**" to control their own lives.

--This had a special effect or consequence in the life of the wife. Not only did she now "**desire**" to be free from God's control, she also wanted to be free from the man's control!

--Her "**desire**" was for the husband -- for his position of authority or control over her and the family!

--This interpretation of Genesis 3:16 is supported by the use of the same Hebrew word ("desire") in Genesis 4:7. In that verse, God is warning Cain that "sin" wants to control him -- to "master" his life! But, God reminds Cain that he has a real choice in the matter. He does not have to be ruled by sin! He can be "free" by obeying God -- by bringing the sacrifice for sin that God demanded instead of the sacrifice he insisted God should accept.

**\*\*A woman must know that her sin-nature will "desire" to control her husband and family. This is a sin!**

**\*\*The "influence" of a wife on the husband is powerful! She will be a positive or negative influence!**

## Biblical Guidelines For The Wife

### I. The Wife Is Commanded To "SUBMIT" To Her Husband.

*" Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the Church, He Himself being the Savior of the Body. But as the Church is subject to Christ, so also husbands in everything."*  
Ephesians 5:22-24

#### A. The "Command": Look At The Key Words In These Verses.

1. "**Be Subject**" = Greek hupotasso = "to place in an orderly fashion under".
  - a. It is the combination of two words:
    - hupo = "under";
    - tasso = "to order".
  - b. Therefore, it means "to place in an orderly fashion under".
  - c. Originally, it showed one's relationship to superiors, either compulsory or voluntary submission.
  
2. "**Head**" = Greek kephale = "the head, the top, the superior."
  - a. This is the designation of the position of authority.
  - b. This same word is used earlier in this letter, Eph. 1:22.  
*"And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church."*
  - c. No Christian will argue with the fact that Jesus Christ is "**head**" over His Body, the Church. In the same way, the husband is "**head**" over the wife in the family!
  
3. "**In Everything**" --
  - a. This word defines the extent of the wife's submission -- it is to be in "everything" -- in every part of the marriage!
  - b. The only exception to this command is when a husband asks his wife to "disobey" God -- to sin.  
**\*\*Submission never means a wife is to commit "sin"!**

## B. The "Meaning": What Is Submission?

### 1. It is an "Attitude":

- a. This Biblical attitude is expressed by the statement:  
 "I recognize my husband to be the "**God-appointed leader**" in our marriage and family."  
 --Key: God "appoints" the husband with His authority!
- b. This Biblical attitude is expressed by the statement:  
 "I believe God will "**use**" my husband to give "**guidance**" to our marriage and family."  
 --Key: God "directs" through the choices of the husband."
- c. An Illustration: The "Chair" of God's appointment!  
 God instructs the Christian to be in "submission" to **all** human authority. (Romans 13:1) God says that **all** human authority is "established" by Him for His purposes -- that it is the "minister of God". (Romans 13:4) This **includes** human authority that is evil as well as that which is good! Therefore, the Christian must honor those who "**sit in a seat**" of human authority -- even if that person is not honorable! As a Christian who lives in America, I must honor the person who has been elected to serve as the President of the U.S.A. -- even if I do not like him! I must honor the **seat** in which he sits! I must honor the authority God has given him!

**\*\*A Christian wife must honor the seat her husband occupies -- even if he is not the husband he should be. This is to be her attitude!**

### 2. It is a "Choice":

- a. This Biblical choice is expressed by the statement:  
 "I **choose** to allow my husband to make the "final" decisions for our family."  
 --Note: A Christian husband should be "wise" enough to ask his wife's opinion **before** he makes a final decision!
- b. This Biblical choice is expressed by the statement:  
 "I **choose** to allow God to be the "point of pressure" in my husband's life -- God will correct him when he is wrong!"  
 --Note: A husband will normally **blame** his wife when he makes a wrong decision if she has been "on his back" about the decision!

3. Summary: Biblical "submission" is part of a Christian wife's **faith!** She believes what God says about her husband! She trusts God to use him as He has promised -- to bring guidance and protection to the family! She is not asked to be in "submission" to her husband on the basis of her thinking or her "feelings", but on the basis of her trust in God!

**\*\*Biblical submission is a step of faith and obedience!**

### C. The "Results": What Will Happen When I Obey God?

1. The wife will **grow spiritually!** (See Hebrews 11:6)  
--Since "submission" requires faith, every woman who learns submission will be growing in her faith!
2. The wife will experience **personal peace!** (See John 14:27)  
--Inward, personal "peace" always comes as the by-product of faith. So, rather than being controlled by anxiety or anger, God's peace controls the heart!
3. The wife will be **protected** from a **"root of bitterness"!**  
--Her choice to be in "submission" will stop the progression we studied in chapter 4 -- "Hurt" will be cast upon the Lord, rather than moving to "Anger", a "Wounded Spirit", and then a "Root of Bitterness"!
4. The Husband will come **"under God's hand"!**  
--The wife's "submission" will free God to deal with the husband -- even when he makes poor or wrong decisions!
5. The Husband will be **attracted** to the "inner spirit" of the wife who is controlled by God's peace!  
--A woman's true "attractiveness" is brought out in her by a spirit of submission.
6. The children will see proper **role models** in the home!  
--The spirit of submission will allow the children to see real "femininity" and "masculinity" in the parents!

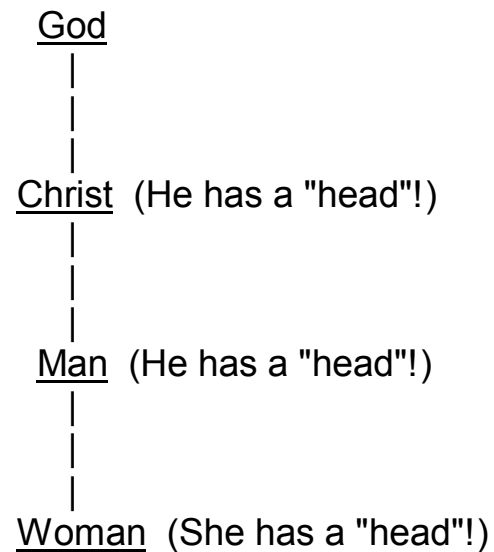
## D. Two Helpful Observations:

### 1. God Does Not Ask The Wife To Do Something He Does Not Ask The Man To Do!

- Many women "object" to the teaching of submission. They object because they think God is asking them to do something He has not asked the man to do! They say, "I have to submit to my husband, but God doesn't say anything to my husband!"
- This statement is wrong! God does not ask the wife to do anything that He has not **already** instructed the husband to do!

#### a. The Passage: I Corinthians 11:3, 7-12.

--God's Design For **Authority**.



#### b. The Principle: Man has a **Head**--the Lord Jesus Christ!

**\*\*God does not ask a woman to do anything other than what he has asked of the man --Submission!**

**\*\*Both man and woman have a "head"!**



## II. The Wife Must Develop "INNER BEAUTY".

*"In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands, so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. And let not your adornment be merely external -- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God."* I Peter 3:1-4

### A. A Powerful "Promise":

-- One of the most exciting "promises" of God's Word is given in the first verse of this chapter.

1. The Family Situation: A wife is married to a man who is "disobedient" to the Word. The wife desires to see her husband "won" to the Word.
2. The Question: How does she see him "won" to the Word?

--Note: Most wives give the wrong answer!

3. The Answer: She "wins" him "**without a word**"!  
*". . . Even if any of them are disobedient to the Word, they may be won without a word . . ."* (I Peter 3:1)

--Note: Most wives attempt to "win" their husbands to Word by using "words"!

--Note: "Words", no matter how sincere, usually only drive the husband away from the Lord!

4. The Solution: God's way to "win" the husband is totally different from a wife's "human" thinking. (See Isaiah 55:8)

**\*\*God instructs the wife to focus on her "behavior!"**

*". . . they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives."* (I Peter 3:1)

5. The Promise: A wife's Godly "behavior" is **powerful**!

## B. The "Powerful Behavior" Of A Christian Wife :

--Notice the exact instructions given by God through Peter.

### 1. No "Verbal Abuse":

a. "Verbal Abuse" is one of the most common "sins" that a Christian wife can commit against her husband!

b. "Verbal Abuse" is the sinful use of the tongue to cause hurt to another person.

*"There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."* Proverbs 12:18

--Negative: The tongue can be used like a "sword" -- the intent is to hurt or to kill!

--Positive: The tongue can be used like a surgeon's knife -- the intent is to help or to heal!

c. "Verbal Abuse" is unavoidable when a Christian is not "walking by the Spirit", Galatians 5:16. The sinful "deeds of the flesh" will control us -- "enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions," Galatians 5:20.

### 2. No "Outside Interests":

a. When a wife's relationship with her husband is not what it needs to be, she will be tempted to turn her emotional attention, or even her physical attention, to another man or relationship!

b. This "outside" interest or relationship can develop in many ways, in many places, even in the Church!

c. The second verse of this passage instructs,  
*". . . as they (the husband) observe your chaste and respectful behavior."*

d. A Christian wife "sins" against her marriage whenever she allows herself to enter into any "emotional" or "physical" relationship outside her marriage that takes the place of her husband!



### 3. Develop "Inner Beauty":

- a. Verse four says that a wife's **power** does not rest in the "external" adornments of her life,
  - like "dresses",
  - or "jewelry",
  - or "braiding the hair";
 but, in the "**hidden person of the heart**"!
- b. Her **power** rests in her "**inner beauty**"!
  - Note: Every woman can have "inner beauty"!
  - It has nothing to do with "outer beauty"!
- c. Definition: "Inner beauty" is the attractiveness and appeal of a woman when she is controlled by the love of Jesus Christ! His attractiveness becomes her attractiveness!  
**\*\*Every Christian woman has the beauty of Christ living within her!**
- d. Key: This is a Christian wife's "**secret weapon**"!
- e. Development: How does a Christian woman develop "inner beauty"?
  - 1) "Inner beauty" is Christ Himself! To see Him is to see the most attractive Person who lives!  
**\*\*Spending time with Christ in His Word enables us to see Him and others to see Him in us!**  
 (See II Corinthians 3:18)
  - 2) "Inner beauty" is the natural by-product of spiritual growth.  
**\*\*Spiritual growth requires "death to self" and drawing upon His life as our source of life!**  
 (See Galatians 2:20)
  - 3) "Inner beauty" is the result of "**walking by the Spirit**", Galatians 5:16, which produces the "**fruit of the Spirit**", Galatians 5:22-23.
- f. Summary: There is nothing sinful about a Christian wife being clean, neat, and naturally attractive -- to the glory of God! But, this is not the source of her greatest **power**. Her greatest power is the "**hidden person**" deep within her heart! It is the **inner beauty** of Christ controlling her!

#### 4. Develop "A Gentle And Quiet Spirit":

- a. Verse four talks about an "imperishable quality"-- a "gentle" and "quiet" spirit!
  - An "imperishable" quality is something that never loses its quality or power!
  - A "gentle" and "quiet" spirit never loses its power!
- b. Question: "What did your husband see in you in the beginning of your relationship?"
  - Did he see a "gentle" and "quiet" spirit?
- c. Question: "What does he see now?"

#### C. The Biblical "Illustration": Sarah, wife of Abraham.

1. To illustrate the principle of "powerful behavior" on the part of a wife, Peter is led by the Holy Spirit to the Old Testament story of Abraham and Sarah.
2. Peter calls Sarah a "holy" woman who "hoped in God" -- she had a personal walk with God -- a walk of faith!
3. Sarah also has a spirit of "submission" toward her husband. (See I Peter 3:5-6)
  - a. She "obeyed" Abraham!
  - b. She called him "Lord"!
4. What was the result in Sarah's life? Was her submissive behavior powerful? Did she have inner beauty?
  - a. In Genesis 12, Abraham left the "land of Canaan" because of a famine and went into Egypt. As they came into Egypt, Abraham asked Sarah to "lie" about him -- "Say that you are my sister!" Why did Abraham ask Sarah to tell a lie? Sarah was so "beautiful" that he feared the Egyptians would kill him and take her! (See Genesis 12:10-20)
  - b. How old was Sarah when this happened? She was 65 years old! (See Genesis 12:4 where Abraham was 75 and we know he was 10 years older than Sarah)

- c. In Genesis 20, the same thing happens again! Abraham decided to go into Philistia to settle in Gerar near King Abimelech. In fear that Abimelech will take Sarah away from him, he deceives the King, saying, "She is my sister." Only by God's gracious intervention did Abraham escape from this serious deception.
- d. How old was Sarah when this happened? She was **89 years old!** (See Genesis 17:1 where Abraham was 99)
  - How do you explain her "beauty" being so great at ages 65 and 89 that other men wanted to take her from her husband?
  - The only acceptable answer is to suggest what Peter is saying in his illustration -- Sarah had **inner beauty!** It is powerful at any age!

**D. A Personal "Illustration":** The "Big" Man and "Little" Woman.

One of the largest men ever to visit my office was brought by his wife -- a very small woman. She had called and made the appointment for them. I had never met them. When he came in my door (he could barely come in the door!) he looked down at me and in a forceful voice said, "I guess you know I am not here because I want to be! My wife made me come!" (I wondered how that "little" woman could make that "big" man do anything!) Then he continued to speak down to me in anger, "You have ten minutes -- then I am leaving!" I said, "That's fine. Just give me the ten minutes!" So, he sat down on the sofa beside his wife.

For five minutes, I listened and talked to her. Then, for five minutes, I listened and talked to him. At the end of ten minutes I asked if he wanted to stay -- he stayed for over two hours!

Why did he stay? His thinking was that since his wife had arranged the appointment, all I would do is take her side in marital problems, and spend all my time telling him what he was doing wrong! Perhaps his wife was expecting the same thing! But, what I actually did was to talk to both of them! Both were doing things wrong in their marriage, so I immediately knew that I must speak to both sides of the problem.

The husband stayed because I didn't blame him with everything! I confronted the wife with her side of the problem. Her side of the problem was this -- although she was a "little" woman, she had a "big" mouth. And she knew how to use her words like to sword to bring deep hurt and anger! She was a Christian, but her faith in Jesus Christ did not control her use of her tongue! She was guilty of constant "verbal abuse"!

I must compliment this wife. When I confronted her about this "sin" in her life as a Christian, she readily "confessed" it! She also was willing to learn and to admit how damaging "verbal abuse" is to a husband.

The husband could not believe what he was seeing! His wife was accepting her part in their problems! And when he saw her openness and honesty, he changed his whole attitude and began to be open and honest about his failures in their relationship! Then the wife couldn't believe what she was seeing!

The couple stayed for more than two hours that day, and they continued to come months into the future. Toward the end of my counseling with them, this huge man said something I will never forget. He said, "You know, when my wife was on my back, I refused to listen to her or to God! But, when she got off my back, God got on it!" He had to deal with God at that point -- His wife was no longer in God's way -- she was now cooperating with God! God was now the "point of pressure" in her husband's life!

#### **E. The "Consequences" For Failure: What Happens When A Wife Does Not Develop "Inner Beauty"?**

1. She will drive her husband away!
  - Her inner hurt and bitterness will cause her to lose her "inner beauty"!
2. She will open her life to "spiritual" dangers!
  - She will often be attracted to follow wrong spiritual leaders and movements. Her husband will not be free to be used by God to provide spiritual protection.
3. She will open her life to "physical" dangers!
  - She will often be found at places where she should not be and doing things she should not be doing. The choice to "be" where her husband is brings God's protection to her.
4. She will lose her testimony!
  - Her children will not learn this principle for their future life.



Chapter Nine  
**Foundation Principles**  
**For**  
**Biblical Family Counseling**

Part VII

Biblical Guidelines For Children:

*"How Can I Understand My Children And Give Them  
 What They Really Need?"*

Introduction:

A. There Is Great **Confusion** In The Modern World About Children!

1. They are seen as an "**option**"!

--Most husbands and wives think they are under no obligation to have children. This directly contradicts the command of Genesis 1:28, ". . . *Be fruitful and multiply . . .*"

--Most couples ask these questions:

- a. Do they fit my lifestyle?
- b. Do they fit my plans for the future?
- c. Do they fit my family budget?

2. They are seen as a factor which can be **eliminated**!

--Most husbands and wives believe that life begins at birth rather than conception. Therefore, for them, it is not a "moral" issue to abort an unwanted pregnancy!

- a. Basic Question: "When does life begin?"

Biblical Answer: "Life begins at conception -- the 'fetus' is a living being, an unborn baby!"

- b. Basic Question: "Who has the choice about giving birth?"

Biblical Answer: "Only God, the "Creator", has the right to end a pregnancy!" (It is not a "woman's right or choice")

3. They are progressively seen as the **property** of the Government!

--If there are no "moral" issues in the birth of a child, if there is no creative act of a "Creator", then a child is just one more piece of material existence which can be taken by the State authority or government and used for its purposes!

- a. Basic Question: "Who owns a child?"

Biblical Answer: "Children are gifts of God to parents."  
 (A child is a stewardship before God)

- b. Basic Question: "Who decides what a child is taught?"

Biblical Answer: "The parents are responsible to God!"

## B. There Is Also An Alarming Amount Of Confusion In The Church!

### 1. Based on a "misunderstanding" of Proverbs 22:6.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go,  
Even when he is old he will not depart from it."*

- a. Many Christians interpret this verse to teach that it is the responsibility of the Church to "train up" a child.  
(The Church is involved in training a child, but the first responsibility belongs to the home -- the parents!)
- b. Christian parents who interpret this verse in this way feel that if they "force" their children to be involved in the Church when they are young, they will follow Christ when they are older. (This is one reason so many young adults stop going to Church when they leave home or reach a certain age! Yet, these parents say, "But, I brought them up in the way the Bible says!")

### 2. Based on a rigid "law" or "legalistic" approach to childrearing.

- a. A "law" approach means that the training of a child is defined by a list of "rules" or "standards" that often are administered in harshness or anger.
- b. These parents have the mistaken idea that because they "imposed" God's Law on their children, the children will "love" and "follow" God when they are adults.

## C. Biblical Observations About Children:

1. A child is part of the parent for a lifetime!
2. A child can be part of parents greatest joys!
3. A child can be part of parents greatest sorrows!
4. A child will be part of the responsibilities under investigation at the "judgment seat of Christ", II Corinthians 5:10. Parents will answer to Christ Himself about the rearing of their children.

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."*

## I. What Are The Basic Purposes Of A Child?

*"Behold, children are a gift of the LORD; the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; they shall not be ashamed, when they speak with their enemies in the gate."*

Psalm 127:3-5

### A. A Child Is A "Gift" From God! (Not something "bad"!)

1. A gift is a "good" thing!
  - When one person gives a true "gift" to another person, it is an expression of love and concern. It is intended to be of help or encouragement -- a **blessing!**
2. A child is a "good" thing!
  - God's purpose is that a child be a **blessing!** Each child is a "gift" from His heart to our life!
3. Note: If we fail to see a child as a "good gift", we misunderstand God's purpose!
4. A child is a "heritage"!
  - The Hebrew word translated "gift" also means "heritage". A heritage is the "inheritance" received from one's family. It is the continuing, ongoing benefit of being part of a family.
  - Therefore, the "gift" of a child is part of the process of God sharing His "wealth" with us. He is sharing what really is important in life!

### B. A Child Is A "Reward" From God! (Not a "liability"!)

1. A reward is an "added" blessing!
  - It is something of "value" which is "extra"! It is given because of proper conduct or performance.
2. In the "perfection" of the Garden of Eden, God gave an "extra" blessing to Adam and Eve -- children! This principle continues after the entrance of "sin" into the world. Children are still an "extra" blessing from God and should be seen in this way by parents.



## C. A Child Is Like An "Arrow"! (Aimed at a "target"!)

### 1. The Historical Significance:

#### a. An arrow was used for "**Provision**"!

--In the hand of a skilled hunter, an "arrow" was used to kill animals to provide food for the family.

--The family's survival depended on its use!

#### b. An arrow was used for "**Protection**"!

--In the hand of a skilled soldier, an "arrow" was used to kill enemies which threatened the city or nation.

--The family's survival depended on its use!

### 2. The Spiritual Significance:

#### a. An arrow was always **aimed at a target!**

#### b. In similar fashion, a child is **aimed at a target!**

##### 1) In the life of the mother:

--A mother learns to "give her life" through the bearing and rearing of children!

##### 2) In the life of the father.

--A father learns the Biblical "priorities" of life through being responsible toward his children!

### 3. **Warning:** Parents can "sidestep" God's arrows!

#### a. One parent (or both) can reject the child God sends to them!

Some common causes are:

--The child in some way does not meet the parent's hopes or expectations!

--The child has some limitation -- mental or physical!

--The child is very "different" from the parents!

--The child is very "difficult" to deal with!

#### b. God asks that parents be **responsible** to the children He sovereignly chooses to give to them!

--Any "sidestepping" of children is **irresponsibility** and **disobedience** toward God!

#### c. This is devastating to the child because of rejection and crippling to the parents because of missing God's "tool" to work in their lives!

## D. A Child Provides "Future Security"!

1. Parents are instructed to have a **quiver** that is **full**!
  - a. The quiver was the leather pouch which held the "arrows".
  - b. The more "arrows" a man had in his quiver, the better prepared he was to provide and to protect.
  - c. Note: God determines the number of "arrows" in a quiver -- He determines the number of children!
    - God allows some couples to have no children -- their quiver is "full" by God's definition!
    - God allows some couples to have many children -- their quiver is "full" by God's guidance!
  
2. Parents receive **future provision and protection** from children.
  - a. The Hebrew text paints a clear picture in the verse!
  - b. The promise is that the man whose quiver is "full" will not be "ashamed" when he is forced to deal with his "enemies" in the gate.
  - c. The city gate was the place where all types of business was conducted:
    - Normal buying and selling were transacted there;
    - Disputes were settled there!
  - d. The picture is this: A man is called to settle a dispute with an "enemy". The man does the normal thing -- he says, "Meet me in the gate!" I'll bring my **sons** and you bring your **sons**!" Guess who won the argument??? The man with the most **sons**!!!
  
3. Even today when many nations have "social" or "government" security programs "guaranteed" to its citizens, and some families have insurance and investments for the future, **children** are still the **best guarantee** for **future security**!
  - Biblical Principle: Parents are to "provide" for children in their youth; children are to "provide" for parents in their old age!

## II. What Are The Basic Needs Of A Child?

### A. "Security":

1. Every child is born with a question: "Am I wanted?"
2. Every child is born with an "invisible radar" attached to their forehead! You can't see it, but it is there! You can't hear it, but it is "beeping"! **"Do you want me? Do you want me?"**
  - This "radar" is sensing the reality of the parents acceptance of the child!
  - This "radar" readout is incredibly accurate! It is almost impossible to deceive a child about this question.

### B. "Self - Worth":

1. Every child is born with a second question: "Do I have personal value?"
2. Every child is designed by God to develop "self-worth" or "significance" out of the security of the home!
  - Remember, children are rarely wrong in their "reading" of their parents.
  - If the parents truly love and accept them, they will have the most important ingredient in forming "self-worth".
  - If the parents do not love and accept them, they will have some degree of struggle with "self-worth" and will often spend much of their future attempting to be "worth" something to someone!

### C. "Structure" (Discipline):

1. Every child must be taught the answer to the questions, "What are the boundaries of life?" and, "What are the guidelines everyone must follow or suffer consequences?"
2. Proverbs 22:15 states,
  - "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;  
The rod of discipline will remove it far from him."*
  - Children must be protected from the natural lack of discipline and structure inherited at birth.

### D. "Truth":

1. Every child must be taught the answer to the questions, "What lasts forever?" and, "What brings lasting meaning and purpose?"
2. Only the revealed Word of God can allow a child to learn,
  - "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth . . .  
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . ."* Matt. 6:19-20
  - Eternal "truth" is not natural; it must be learned!

### III. How Do Parents Provide These Needs?

#### A. Proverbs 22:6.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go,  
Even when he is old he will not depart from it."*

1. **A Promise:** This verse implies a powerful principle -- that parents are the **most important influence** in the life of a child!

**\*\*This influence is based upon the person I am!**

2. **A Danger:**

-- We have already discussed the common misunderstanding or misinterpretation of this verse.

- a. some parents think that the "influence" they have on their children comes from the things they "teach" verbally -- that their words make the impact.
- b. This is incorrect because it is not the "words" of a parent which leave a lasting mark on the child, but rather the inner character of the parent!
- c. Remember, we cannot deceive our children. They always know who and what we really are!

**\*\*The danger then is that what we are is sometimes in conflict with what we say!**

--A common expression warns,

**"What you are speaks so loudly,  
I can't hear what you say!"**

3. **Key Words:**

- a. **"Train up":**

- 1) Hebrew word = chanak.

- 2) Meaning: There are two equally correct translations.

- a) To "train up" means to "initiate"; to "teach".

The root word means "a ground-breaking ceremony", therefore, "to start something"!

**\*\*A common practice of this day was to place sugar or honey on the palate of a child to "initiate" or "stimulate" sucking or eating!**

- b) To "train up" means to "narrow" or "press in".

A clear picture is painted by this meaning -- like a river which is directed by its two banks, so direction is provided by the presence of two parents, on each side of the child, "narrowing" the way!

**b. "Way he should go":**

--This Hebrew phrase can be translated in two ways:

- 1) The first translation is the one given above --  
*" . . . train up a child in the way he should go."*  
 --the emphasis of this translation is on "**the way**"  
 a child should go . . . God's "goals" or "objectives"  
 for life.  
 --the parents are to "train" in **God's goals for life!**
- 2) The alternate reading or translation of the Hebrew  
 text is --  
*" . . . train up a child according to his way."*  
 --the emphasis of this translation is on "**the way**"  
 of the child . . . the "way" God has made the child!  
 --the parents must "recognize" God's **design** in each  
 child. All children are different! Each has his/her  
 own "unique" design! This design will fit God's  
 purpose for the child.

**\*\*Danger:**

- Parents often fail to recognize God's design of their  
 child --they think "all children are the same" and  
 miss God's design in their child!
- Parents often have their own agenda for their child --  
 they expect the child to fit into their "plans" or  
 "expectations"! This is selfishness!
- Parents often do not trust God -- that His plans and  
 purposes for the child are "best"! This is unbelief!

**4. Application:**

- a. It is extremely important for parents to work together--  
 to be in agreement in the rearing of their children. Both  
 parents are required to "narrow" the way of the child--  
 to "press in" so that the child is directed toward God's  
 goals in life.  
 --When this "training" is not given, the child is left  
 without needed direction and comes under negative  
 "self" guidance or "outside" influence.
- b. It is extremely important for parents to recognize God's  
design in each of their children. Too often parents reject  
 a child who is "different" from them or different from what  
 they wanted the child to be. This destroys the "self-worth"  
 of the child and hinders God's purpose for the child.

## B. Ephesians 6:4.

*"And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger;  
but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."*

### 1. A Key Person:

- a. Both parents are responsible for meeting the "needs" of their children, however, the "**father**" is given the primary responsibility. He is the leader in the rearing of the children.
- b. The "**mother**" is to be in submission to the leadership of the father. She is a key to harmony in the home and to "consistent" discipline for the children.
- c. The input of the mother is vitally important! A wise father will not attempt to rear the children without the insight and input of the mother. She has a special, God-given, ability to know what is "good" for her children.
- d. In most families, the mother will spend more **time** with the children, but the father is responsible for what happens in the home, even when he is not present. This demands full cooperation and communication between the parents!
- e. Note: When the husband is "absent" from the home due to death or divorce, God gives a special measure of "**grace**" to the Christian wife who looks to Him for help. The local Church or "Assembly", where the family is involved, bears special responsibility toward mothers attempting to rear children without a father.

*"This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world."*

James 1:27

### 2. The Specific Instructions:

- a. "Bring them up in the discipline . . ."
- The Greek word "discipline" ("nurture") = paideia.
- The meaning: "Training by act and discipline."  
Originally, it meant "instruction of children".  
"It evolved to mean chastening, because all effectual instruction for the sinful children of men includes and implies chastening, correction." (Zodhiates)
- This word implies that the **father** takes the appropriate steps of corrective action to "train up" his children!

b. "Bring them up in the discipline and **instruction** . . ."

--The Greek word "instruction"("admonition") = nouthesia.

--The meaning: "To put into the mind" by training.

"The training by a word of encouragement when it proves sufficient, but also by a word of remonstrance, reproof, blame, as required." (Zodhiates)

--This word implies that the **father** uses his **words** to give **encouragement** when it is needed, and **reproof** when it is needed!

3. **Summary**: The father gives guidance to his children by . . .

a. Formal Instruction: The father "teaches" his children the truths of Scripture and life in a planned and structured way. He seeks to "put in the mind" the facts of truth!

b. Informal Instruction: The father "teaches" his children the truths of Scripture and life in an unplanned and unstructured way. He takes advantage of the "teachable moments" in a child's life.

4. **The Implied Principle**: Ephesians 6:4 "implies" an unbreakable commitment, an unconditional commitment, on the part of the parents for the children.

--Statement: "There is nothing you can do to break or stop my love for you!"

--Warning: A parent must mean this statement when it is said or implied to the child. Many children will "test" our commitment to them before they become adults or before life is over!

--Encouragement: There is no better picture of the love of God than the true love of a "father"! This is why God is called our "Father" (Eph 1:2) and why we are encouraged to call Him "Father" (Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6).

## 5. The Danger: To permanently damage a child!

### a. Ephesians 6:4.

*"And, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath . . ."*

#### 1) Key word:

-- "provoke" = parorgizo = "to anger alongside"  
"to enrage, anger, provoke"

--This word is the combination of two Greek words:

--para = "near", "from beside", "the vicinity of"

--orgizo = "to provoke, enrage, exasperate"

--So the combination means "to anger alongside"!

#### 2) The danger: To wound the spirit of a child!

*"A joyful heart is good medicine,  
but a broken spirit dries up the bones."*

Proverbs 17:22

*"The spirit of a man can endure his sickness,  
but a broken spirit who can bear?"*

Proverbs 18:14

**\*\*A child is born with a God-given need to have the love and acceptance of both father and mother. When a father "breaks the spirit" of a child, that child replaces the need for love and acceptance with hurt and anger!**

--Statement: "The way you have treated me is proof that you do not love me -- therefore, I owe you nothing!"

**\*\*Remember, a "wounded spirit" always turns into a "root of bitterness" in time!**

### b. Colossians 3:21.

*"Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart."*

1) Key word: "exasperate" = erethizo = "to stimulate to anger"; "to provoke".

2) The danger: To cause a child to "lose heart"!

--"lose heart" = athumeo = "to be spiritless"  
"to be disheartened"

3) Statement: "I give up! There is no need to try!  
Nothing I do will ever please you!"



## **IV. What Family Patterns "Break The Spirit" Of A Child?**

### **A. Discipline In Anger:**

--This Communicates: **Rejection** of the person!

1. When a child does wrong, the child needs correction! The wrong behavior or attitude must be corrected! This includes a "spanking" when it is needed (Proverbs 23:13)
2. However, the discipline of a child must not be done in **anger!** Discipline in anger causes a child to forget the real issue (the wrong behavior) and to remember the anger of the parent!

**\*\*Discipline in anger is a "sin"! It requires "forgiveness"!**

### **B. Inconsistent Discipline:**

--This Communicates: **Uncertain standards** by the parents!

1. "Inconsistent Discipline" means that the parents discipline in one way on one occasion, and another way on another occasion. Or, one parent disciplines in one way and the other parent in another way for the same offense.
2. Either of these patterns by the parents is **confusing** to the child. The child is caused to question if wrong behavior is wrong every time or if it is excusable on some occasions!

**\*\*Parents must be in "agreement" on family discipline!**

### **C. Family Favoritism:**

--This Communicates: **Lack of personal worth** to the child!

1. All children are different! Some are easier to love or to deal with than others! We tend to accept the children who are "like" us and to be distant to or to reject those who are not "like" us!
2. The Christian parent must know that each child is of **equal** value and ask God's help in dealing with each without **favoring** one over the other!

**\*\*How often I have heard an adult say, "My father/mother never loved me as much as my brother/sister!"**

#### D. A Double Standard:

--This Communicates: A **lack of integrity** in the parents' life!

1. A "double standard" means that the parents have one set of rules or expectations for themselves and another set for the children.

--Illustrations: Certain behavior is allowed to the parents, but not to the children!

Certain words are used by the parents, but wrong if the children use them!

Children are expected to go to Church, but one or both parents do not go!

2. A "double standard" is **confusing** to children. They have to question if there are any "absolute" standards in God's Word. Is Biblical behavior expected of all Christians, young and old? Or, is there one expectation for adults and another for children and young people?

**\*\*Children are very aware of "fairness" and "integrity" in their parents. They know that if something is "true", it is true for everyone -- for parents and children!**

#### E. Unfulfilled Promises:

--Communicates: **Lack of personal worth** to the child!

1. Most children deeply desire the time and attention of their parents. When a parent, especially the father, makes a **promise** to the family or to an individual child, that promise is taken very seriously -- the child builds his/her expectation around the promise of the parent. Most children will begin to "live out" the promise -- they can't wait for the time to come! They "dream" about how much fun it will be!

2. In the activities and demands of life, many parents "forget" the promise they have made. To "forget" the promise is to "forget" the child! Sometimes the parent remembers the promise, but allows something to "push" the promise aside! To allow something else to be more important than keeping the promise is seen as **rejection** by the child!

--Note: We are not referring to a "one-time" failure to keep a promise; we are talking about an established "pattern"! Children will forgive a infrequent failure!

**\*\*A promise made to a child builds their "self-worth"; a promise broken causes them to question "self-worth"!**

## **F. Failure To Love Marriage Partner:**

--Communicates: **Insecurity** to the child!

1. The greatest human source of "security" for a child is the love of the parents -- their love for one another!

--The love of the parents for the child is very important.

Every child needs to know he/she is loved by the parents!

--However, the deepest security for the child is based in the stability of the parents' relationship -- their love for one another. While a child rarely can express this in words, the child has an unconscious sensitivity to the reality and stability of the parents relationship.

2. When the child is aware that Mother and Father love each other, he/she will have the needed foundation for security in life. If the child senses that Mother and Father do not love each other, the foundation of security will be deficient or entirely missing!

**\*\*Warning: Every child naturally desires for the parents love each other.**

-- **When they do, it allows a balanced love and identification with both Mother and Father.**

-- **When they do not, it causes the child to be caught in the middle, to progressively be forced to choose one parent over the other. Since God did not intend for a child to be put in this position, it leaves emotional scars for a lifetime! Often there is imbalance in the love and identification with the Mother or Father! The "hurt" of this imbalance leads to a "wounded spirit" which, in turn, leads to "bitterness" and "rejection"!**

--Note: In the Western world, where it is increasingly popular for couples to divorce for little or no reason, much damage is done to children by the division of the marriage and the home. I have often heard a teenager express this thought, "I understand that my Mom and Dad didn't love each other, but, why couldn't they have loved me enough to stay together?"

## V. What Are The Steps To Healing A "Wounded Spirit"?

### A. When I Realize I Have Hurt My Child:

1. I must **"confess"** my sin to God!

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*  
I John 1:9

--"confess" = homoiogeo = "to speak the same"  
= "to say the same thing"

--Meaning: To "agree" with God -- to "say what He says" about my sin! (See Psalm 51 and 32)

2. I must **"confess"** my sin to the one I hurt -- my child!

*"In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men."*  
Acts 24:16

a. Paul knew that a "blameless conscience" began with confession of sin to God. He followed the instruction of I John 1:9 to get God's "forgiveness" and "cleansing".

b. A "blameless conscience" "**before men**" was also very important to Paul. He knew it was the basis of a powerful testimony! He desired that no person be able to point an accusing finger of blame at him. So, he attempted to keep a "clear" or "blameless conscience" **with men!**

**\*\*When Paul sinned in a human relationship, he first sought God's forgiveness, then he sought the forgiveness of the person he had offended!**

**\*\*When parents sin against their children and "break their spirit", the parent must first seek God's forgiveness, then the child's forgiveness!**

--Note: This seems very foreign to our human minds! It goes against the way we think! Yet, it is one of the most powerful principles in God's Word.

- c. Suggestion: The following statement is helpful in asking the forgiveness of someone I have sinned against.

"God has shown me  
how wrong I was when I \_\_\_\_\_.  
Will you forgive me?"

### 3. I must **change the hurtful behavior!**

--My sincere words of asking forgiveness will seem empty and meaningless if I do not follow them up with new patterns of behavior.

--How?

*"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh . . .  
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."*

Galatians 5:16, 22-23

--Note: The control of the Holy Spirit in my life produces the "fruit" of the Holy Spirit! These nine characteristics reveal the life of Christ in me!

**\*\*In the place of the "hurtful" behavior, the "fruit" of the Holy Spirit is produced showing Christ's "love"!**

**\*\*Christ "in me" makes me a different person in my home and family!**

## **B. When I Am The Person Who Was Hurt By Parents:**

1. I must **"confess"** that my hurt is a sin, if I am holding on to it!

*". . . do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity."*  
Ephesians 4:26-27

2. I must recognize the **"danger"** of a **root of bitterness!**

*"See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble and by it many be defiled."*  
Hebrews 12:15

--God gives "grace" to forgive the sins of our parents so that we do not become "enslaved" by bitterness!

3. I must **obey** God and **forgive** those who have hurt me!

*"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, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."*  
Ephesians 4:31-32

--Remember, we are to "forgive" the way we were forgiven

--when it is **undeserved**;

--when it has **not been requested!**

--This includes our parents! (Or others in our family!)

--Statement: "Heavenly Father, I choose to forgive (the person who hurt me) in the same way YOU forgave me -- they do not deserve it and they have not asked for it -- I do it in YOUR love and the power of YOUR name!"

4. I should consider taking an **action step** to demonstrate forgiveness!

*"Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us . . ."* Ephesians 5:1-2

--God's love for mankind was "acted out" among us by the life and death of the Son of God!

--God's love and forgiveness in me must be "acted out" to be seen by others.

--An **action step** is very powerful! What would I be doing in relation to the person I have forgiven **if** there had been no "hurt" of "disappointment"? Would I be visiting them? Would I be talking to them on a regular basis? Would I give gifts or do helpful things? These are the things I should do to show true forgiveness!

## **VI. What Are The Consequences When Parents Fail To Provide What Children Need?**

- A. Children will live "**foolishly**"! Proverbs 22:15.  
*"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;  
 the rod of discipline will remove it far from him."*
- B. Children will experience "**hurt**" and "**failure**"! Ephesians 6:3.  
*"That it may be well with you . . ."*
- C. Children might experience an "**early**" death! Ephesians 6:3.  
*". . . and that you may live long on the earth."*
- D. Parents will experience "**grief**" / "**shame**"! Proverbs 29:15.  
*"The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who  
 gets his own way brings shame to his mother."*

## **VII. What Are The Benefits When Parents Provide What Children Need?**

- A. Children will "**obey**" their parents! Ephesians 6:1.  
*"Children, obey your parents in the Lord , for this is right."*
- B. Children will "**honor**" their parents! Ephesians 6:2.  
*"Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment  
 with a promise).!"*
- C. Children will "**prosper**" in their personal lives! Ephesians 6:3.  
*"That it may be well with you, and that you may live long  
 on the earth."*
- D. Children will bring "**delight**" to parents! Proverbs 29:17.  
*"Correct your son, and he will give you comfort;  
 He will also delight your soul."*

Chapter Ten  
**Foundation Principles**  
**For**  
**Biblical Family Counseling**

Part VIII

The Christian's Relationship With The Church:  
*"Where Does The Church Fit Into Family Life?"*

Introduction:

A. An Observation: In the "Five Biblical Priorities" of life, the last two are often very neglected!

--Remember the Five Priorities?

1. Jesus Christ;
2. Marriage Partner;
3. Children;
4. The Body of Christ, the Church;
5. Work.

--The majority of this Manual for Pastors has focused on the first three of these "Priorities".

--The remainder of this Manual for Pastors will focus on the last two of these "Priorities".

--This Chapter will focus on the "Church".

B. A Question: What is the "Church"?

--The "organized" Church exists in many forms around the world. It is not the purpose of this chapter to discuss or to debate these various forms of organization, function or expression.

--The only question under discussion is, "What does the New Testament say about the Church?" Each Pastor is encouraged to follow his own convictions based upon the Word of God!

--The overall suggestion of this chapter is that the Christian family cannot be spiritually healthy without proper relationship with the Body of Christ, His Church. Thus, the Christian father must understand the place of the Church in the life of his family!



The "Church" is a fulfillment of a **promise** Jesus made to His disciples in **Matthew 16:18**.

--Jesus Christ made this staggering promise to those men:

**"I will build My Church;  
and the gates of Hades  
shall not overpower it."**

1. Jesus Christ said the "Church" would be something **He** did -- it would be His work!
2. Jesus Christ said the "Hades" or Hell itself would not be able prevent what He promised to do -- "build" His Church!
3. The Greek word "Church" = ekklesia.
  - a. ekklesia comes from the Greek verb ekkaleo and means "to call out".
  - b. ekklesia was a common word in the Greek world of Paul's day and meant "those called out or assembled" in the public affairs of a free state; or a body of free citizens "called together" by a herald. The ekkletoi (the "called out" people) constituted the ekklesia (the "assembly"). **Key:** These people "assembled" of their own free will -- they came together because they desired to do so!
  - c. Therefore, as the Apostle Paul used this Greek word in the New Testament, the Church is the ekklesia, the "assembly" of those God has "called out" of the world unto Himself. He is the "Herald" -- by His Holy Spirit, through the Gospel, He is "assembling" a **called out people!** The "Church" is God's **called out people!**
4. This promise is being fulfilled around the world today! Dear fellow-pastor, wherever God has placed you, we are servants of Jesus Christ in His precious Body, the Church! It is our privilege to serve His Body
  - to "feed" His sheep, John 20:15-17!
  - to "guard" the flock from "savage wolves" as Paul instructed in Acts 20:26-32!
  - to "labor" as Paul did "until we may present every man "complete" (mature) in Christ, Colossians 1:28!
5. The "Church" is the **Body of Christ** -- the place of safety, security, and stability for the Christian and his family in these turbulent days! **No family can be as strong and healthy as God intended without proper involvement in a local "Assembly" or "Church"!**

## I. What Is The Christian's "Relationship" With The Church?

A. Every Christian is a "**Member**" of Christ's Body -- the Church!

*"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."* I Corinthians 12:13

1. Every Christian is a member of Christ's true Body, the Church, because we were placed into **Him** by the Holy Spirit. This is what Paul means by the phrase "in Christ"! To be a Christian, a person must be "in Christ"! To be "in Christ" is to be part of His Body!
2. This is the **Universal Church** which includes all Christians who have been saved since the beginning of the "Church" and all those who will be saved until the end of this "age"! Jesus Christ, Himself, is the "Head" of the Church, Ephesians 1:22; 5:23.

B. Every Christian should be a "**Member**" of a **Local Church**!

*"And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near."* Hebrews 10:24-25

1. There is a clear command here: "Do not forsake the assembly of the Believers!"
  - If you are a Christian, you are to "assemble" with other Christians.
    - In the positive: Gathering with other Christians will "encourage" you! It will help you!
    - In the negative: Failing to gather with other Christians will deprive you of "encouragement"--an encouragement which will be greatly needed as we approach "the day"!
2. This is the **Local Church** which includes Christians in one one geographic area who are of "like mind" in the Lord! The local Church is lead by Jesus Christ through "appointed" human leadership -- "Elders" and "Deacons", II Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9.

## II. What Is The "Attitude" Of This Relationship?

--The Word of God is clear that two things should characterize the Christian's attitude toward the Church and its leaders:

### A. "Honor" (Respect).

*"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching."*  
I Timothy 5:17

1. "Elders" = presbuteros = An "elder"; an "older" person or a person of "maturity".
2. "Rule well" --
  - a. A Church leader has God-given authority to "rule" over local Assembly.
  - b. A Church leader or "elder" is to be faithful to God's calling to "rule" over or "oversee" the local Church -- providing Godly wisdom.
3. "Worthy of double honor" --
  - a. All Church leaders are to receive "honor" because of the God-appointed position they hold.
  - b. Those "work hard" at preaching and teaching are to receive "double honor"!
  - c. Notice that a faithful pastor is to "work hard" at . . .
    - "preaching" -- the declaration of the Gospel;
    - "teaching" -- the careful, detailed study of God's Word.

### B. "Love" (Appreciation).

*"But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work."* I Thess. 5:12-13

1. "Appreciate" -- those who "diligently labor" in their oversight.
2. "Have charge over you" -- the authority of God-appointed leadership is stressed again!
3. "Give you instruction" -- the main focus of leadership is stressed again!
4. "Esteem them very highly in love" -- the end result of faithful service in the Church!

**\*\*Note: Failure to hold this attitude toward the leadership in the local Church brings serious damage within the family!**

### III. What Are The "Responsibilities" Of This Relationship?

--Note: The "Responsibilities" of being part of a local Church are actually "Privileges"!

--The Responsibilities / Privileges of a Christian toward Church leaders are summarized in three words:

#### A. "Support" -- Financial.

##### 1. I Corinthians 16:1-2.

*"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the Churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come."*

--Principle: The Christian is to support the local Church as God "prosper" him/her -- as God enables!

##### 2. II Corinthians 9:6-8.

*"Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed."*

--Principle: God is not honored by giving that is "forced" or "demanded". He is honored by giving from the love of the heart! The "motivation" is the issue, not the "amount"!

#### B. "Support" -- Personal.

*"Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses. Those who continue to sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also may be fearful of sinning."* I Timothy 5:19-20

##### 1. "Do not receive an accusation" --

a. Many "accusations" are made against Church leaders. Some come from without the Church; some come from within!

b. The command in this verse is clear: "Do not receive" the negative report or rumor unless it is supported or proven by more than one witness.

##### 2. Principle: **Trust** your leaders until you have evidence to stop!

### C. "Submission"-- To Leadership.

*"Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you."* Hebrews 13:17

1. The Command: "Obey" your local Church leaders!
2. The Command: "Submit" to your local Church leaders!
3. The Responsibility: The leaders of a local Church will "give an account" -- to Christ Himself! (See I Peter 5:1-4)  
**\*\*Note: It is a very serious matter to be a leader in the Church, the Body of Christ!**
4. The Warning: "Let them do this with joy and not with grief!"

**\*\*Note: If Church leaders are not allowed to "watch over" the Body of Believers, it will prove to be "unprofitable" for the rebellious Christian!**

## IV. What Are The "Benefits" Of Right Relationship?

### A. "Spiritual Growth": Colossians 2:7.

*"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude."*

1. Notice the progression of "spiritual growth":

"firmly rooted" ----> "built up" ----> "established"

. . . in "your faith"!

2. How?

"Just as you were instructed!"

3. Principle: "Spiritual growth" will occur when leaders give Biblical "instruction" and Christians "submit" to it!

**B. "Guidance":** Hebrews 13:17.

*"Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you."*

1. Local Church leaders are given authority and responsibility to "**watch over**" the Assembly of Believers.
2. The members of the local Assembly are commanded to "**Let them do this!**"
3. When Christians choose an attitude of "**submission**" to their local Church leadership, God is free to use the leaders to give "**guidance**".

**\*\*Note:** Church leaders do not "**tell**" or "**command**" the members what to do -- they are used to **clarify** the will of God for the members and families of the local Church. They **final decision** and **responsibility** belong to the individual Believer.

**C. "Protection":** II Timothy 4:2-4.

*"Preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths."*

1. Faithful Church leaders "**preach the Word . . . reprove, rebuke, and exhort!**"
2. As they do, they realize that the members of their Church are always under the deceptive attacks of Satan and the evil world-system in which we live!
3. But, if the individual members and families of the Church follow the faithful teaching of the leaders, they will be **protected** from the deceptions of Satan and false doctrine.

**\*\*Note:** This "protection" is especially important against wrong leaders and groups that are often not even Bible believing Christians!

## V. What Are The "Causes" Of Wrong Relationship?

### A. "Pride":

1. An attitude of "Pride" against Church leaders is often expressed by these statements:
  - a. "I do not need to listen to the leaders of my Church because **I am more spiritual than they are!**"
  - b. "I do not need to listen to the leaders of my Church because **I know more than those men!**"
2. Note: Submission by Church members is very similar to the submission of a wife to her husband -- she submits because God tells her to do so, not on the basis of who is more "spiritual" or "knows more"!

### B. "Unbelief":

1. A spirit of rebellious "unbelief" is often expressed by the statement:  
**"I don't believe that God can use those men to give me guidance or protection!"**
2. Note: Just as it takes "faith" for a wife to believe God can use her husband to give guidance and protection to the family, so members of a Church must "believe" that God can use the leaders of their Assembly to give guidance and protection!

### C. A "Wounded Spirit":

1. Remember, a "wounded spirit" is caused by the hurt and anger of being **disappointed** by someone or something we trusted. So, a "wounded spirit" toward Church leaders is often expressed in these ways:
  - a. "I will not follow the leadership of those men because **they disappointed me** when I trusted them before!"
  - b. "I will not follow the leadership of those men because **they were not fair with, or, they did not help** my friend in the Church. **Look at what they did to them!**"
2. Note: Church leaders are not "perfect", but God will use them if their "imperfections" or "mistakes" are **forgiven** by the members of the Church.

## VI. What Are The "Consequences" For Improper Relationship?

### A. Hindered "Spiritual Growth":

--When Church leadership is neglected or rejected, it will often be directly reflected in level of the Christian's spiritual growth.

--Note: It is very difficult to be spiritually healthy or balanced without proper relationship with Church leadership!

### B. Lack Of "Wisdom":

--When there is a lack of spiritual growth, the resulting lack of spiritual maturity will prevent God-intended "wisdom".

--Note: Spiritual "wisdom" is not based on how "smart" we are humanly, but rather how much of God's Word we have "treasured" in our heart, Psalm 119:11.

### C. Poor "Decisions":

--When there is a lack of Biblical wisdom, it is almost impossible to make "wise" decisions!

--Note: Correct Biblical decisions -- ones that "please" God -- can be confirmed by Godly Church leadership!

### D. "Wrong" Decisions:

--When there is lack of spiritual maturity, many of a Christian's decisions will not only be "poor", they will be entirely "wrong"!

--Note: Human thinking and worldly values will characterize the decision-making process -- Christians will be just like unbelievers in their decisions!

### E. No "Protection":

--The God-intended "protection" given by submission to Church leadership will be missing. The individual Christian and family will be almost defenseless against Satanic deception!

--Note: Most Christians follow or submit to some human leader or group of leaders. **If the proper leaders are not being followed, wrong ones will be!**

### F. "Wasted" Time and Energy:

--Wrong leaders and movements do great damage. If nothing else, they lead to "wasted" years and "wasted" energy in following what proves to be "false"!

--Note: What blessings and privileges false leaders steal!

### G. "Damage" to Children:

--Our children will grow up to "disrespect" Church leadership!

--Note: They will miss the "role model" of parents who understand what God has provided through the Church!!



Chapter Eleven  
**Foundation Principles**  
**For**  
**Biblical Family Counseling**

Part IX

Biblical Guidelines Concerning Our "Work":

*"Understanding The Importance Of Work In The Totality Of Life."*

Introduction: Practical Observations Based On The "Five Priorities" Of Life.

1. God has provided a "**walk**" with Himself; many Christians do not know how to enjoy the privileges of this relationship of grace!
2. God has provided a "**design**" for marriage; many Christians are unaware of it and miss its benefits!
3. God has given "**guidelines**" for rearing children; many parents are not aware of the help God provides!
4. God has provided a "**resource**" for the Christian in the local Church; many sincere Believers do not utilize this source of help and encouragement!
5. God has chosen to use the responsibility of "**work**" to develop basic maturity and testimony; many Christians fail to grow in these areas due to unbelief and irresponsibility!

## **I. Work Is Part Of The "Perfection" Of God's Creative Design.**

A. "Work" Is Part Of God's **Perfection**, Genesis 2:15.

*"Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate and to keep it."*

1. "Work" was given by God to mankind before the "**fall**"!
  - a. Too often, people assume that "work" was given by God as part of the penalty placed upon mankind after the entrance of sin.
  - b. However, "work" (cultivating and keeping the creation) was part of God's perfect plan for meaningful living. He gave work to mankind before sin came -- while creation was still "perfect"!
  - c. Therefore, "work" is part of God's eternal plan for life!

2. "Work" was "**penalized**" by God after sin entered, but this did not remove "work" from its God-intended purpose. (See Genesis 3:17-19)
  - a. After the "fall", all creation came under the "curse" of sin. Mankind was still required to work, only now, the principle of the "curse" came upon all of man's work.
  - b. "Thorns and thistles" now plagued mankind's work. Any successful product of his/her hands came through "sweat" -- nothing happened with natural ease!
  - c. Even modern computers and technology are afflicted by the principle of "thorns and thistles"!
  
- B. "Work" Allows A Person To Understand "**Responsibility**" Before God, Genesis 2:15.
  1. Man was commanded to "**cultivate**" the Garden;
  2. Man was commanded to "**keep**" the Garden.

**\*\*Note: God always clearly defines mankind's responsibility before Him. He lets His creation know what is expected or required! This allows a man or woman to know that they are pleasing to God!**
  
- C. "Work" Build An Individual's "**Self - Worth**", Genesis 1:31.
 

*"And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good."*

  1. Note carefully that God evaluated Himself! He evaluated His own work! He said it was "very good"! This would suggest that God has self-worth or self-image! His, of course, is perfect!
  2. Mankind gets the desire for positive self-worth or self-image from God, Himself! If sin had not entered the world, we would have had perfect self-worth or self-image like the One Who created us! We are created in His "image"!
  3. Human "self-worth" or "self-image" has now been touched by the curse of sin!
    - a. The "world-system" in which we live appeals to our "sin-nature" and attempts to get mankind to define themselves by human or worldly standards.
    - b. The Christian is instructed to get his/her worth or image from God's "will" for their lives. (See Romans 12:1-2)

## **II. Work Enables A Man To "Provide" The Needs Of His Family.**

*"But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever."* I Timothy 5:8

- A. A man is instructed to "**provide**" the basic needs of his family.
  1. Any man who is attempting to "provide" should be given Biblical respect.
  2. From this he should get Biblical "self-worth" or "self-image".
  3. It is important to distinguish between basic "needs" and the "desires" or "wants" of life.
  
- B. Failure in this responsibility causes a lack of "**respect**":
  1. Personal respect -- for himself;
  2. Marital respect -- from his wife;
  3. Family respect -- from his children.

## **III. Work Allows A Christian To Support The Cause Of Christ.**

- A. The local Church where he/she is a member.  
(See I Corinthians 16:1-2)
  
- B. The missions outreach to the world. (See Romans 10:14-15)

## **IV. Work Demands That A Christian Learn A Walk Of "Faith".**

- A. A Christian worker is to show Christ-like "**submission**" to his/her employer, I Peter 2:18-19.

*"Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly."*

1. The command of these verses goes directly against human thinking! We would never think that the proper response for a slave is "submission". Nor would we would never think that it is right to show a positive and submissive attitude toward an "unreasonable" employer!
2. "**Faith**" in God's Word is required for the Christian to obey this command. Our focus cannot be on the human beings involved or on the human situation!
3. What is God's purpose:
  - a. To build our "**testimony**" and show the unconditional love of Jesus Christ to those who do not deserve it!
  - b. To build our "**faith**" and conform us to the image of Jesus Christ!

B. A Christian worker is to show Christ-like "**behavior**" and "**attitude**" in front of his/her fellow-workers, I Peter 2:23.

*"And while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously."*

## V. Consequences For Failure:

--What happens when a man/woman is not faithful in their work?

A. Loss of **purpose** and **fulfillment**.

--Biblical "self-respect" comes from being responsible at work!

B. Loss of **family respect**.

--Wife and children lose respect because basic needs are not provided!

C. Loss of **public testimony**.

--Friends, family and fellow-workers will not see Christ in him!

D. Loss of **job!**

--Often, the irresponsibility at work will cost a man his job!

## **VI. General Principles About Work:**

### **A. Work for God's Glory!**

#### 1. I Corinthians 10:31.

*"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."*

#### 2. Colossians 3:23-24.

*"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ you serve."*

### **B. Be Thankful for your Work!** Colossians 3:17.

*"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."*

### **C. Be Submissive to those in Authority!** I Peter 2:18-19.

*"Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. For this finds favor, it for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly."*

### **D. Be Content with your work!** I Timothy 6:6-9.

*"But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction."*

### **E. Do not work to gain Power or Position!** Mark 10:42-45.

*"And calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, 'You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. But it is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.'"*

### **F. Trust God for Advancement and Reward!** I Peter 5:6-7.

*"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time."*

Chapter Twelve  
**Foundation Principles**  
**For**  
**Biblical Family Counseling**  
 Concluding Summary

Introduction: This Manual For Pastors has attempted to establish three simple, but profound, principles concerning the counseling process.

**1. The Bible is the "Word of God" -- His eternal Truth.**

- a. All that we believe or teach must be based upon God's revelation of Himself in His Word. The Scriptures are the "source" of thinking and behavior that is acceptable and pleasing to God.
- b. The Word of God is "alive" -- it has the ability to penetrate the human mind and heart . . .  
 --to identify the real problems, and,  
 --to enable real and lasting change!

**2. The Word Of God "Establishes" The Counseling Process.**

- a. God's Word must be the "tool" or "instrument" we use to help individuals and families facing difficulty. Thus, the Word of God establishes the **counseling process**.
- b. The counseling process is not "Biblical" if the Word of God is not allowed to provide the **principles of "Truth"** which define the changes which are to be made.

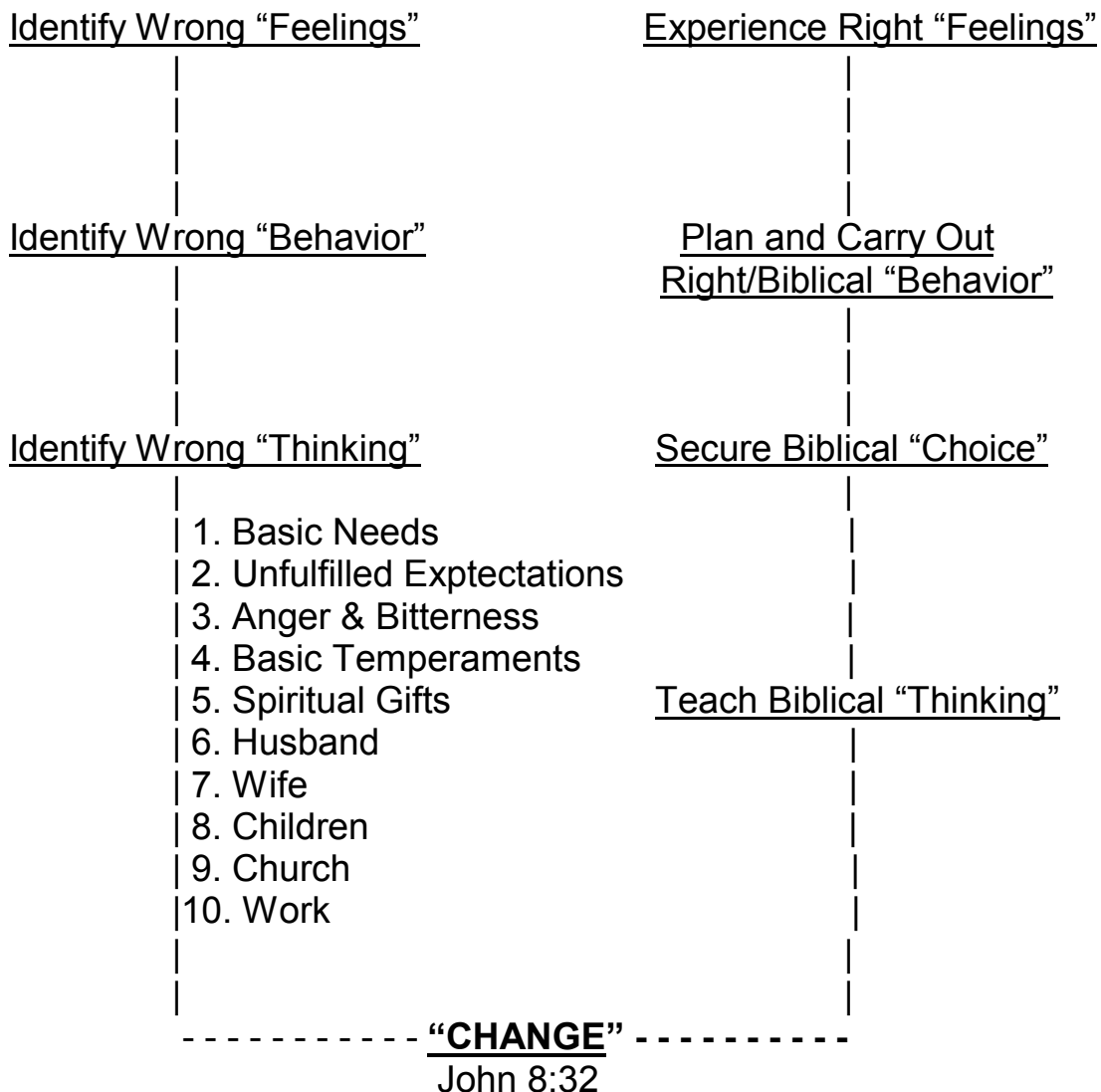
**3. God Desires To Use The Local Pastor As His "Voice" In The Counseling Process.**

- a. The Pastor must have **confidence** that he is "enabled" by God to bring real help to people.
- b. The Pastor must **be faithful** to see that his approach to the ministry of counseling is based upon "Biblical" principles, not upon human thinking.

## Review Of The Counseling "Model"

The "Counseling Process" Is Summarized By The Horseshoe Diagram Of Dr. Lawrence Crabb.

**Key:** Notice that I have inserted ten areas of "wrong thinking" which were discussed in chapters 3-11. The "Key" to successful Biblical counseling is "teaching" Biblical Thinking to replace Wrong Thinking and insisting upon the "choice" to obey what God has said!



## Summary Of The Counseling Process

The following is an "overview" or summary of what we are attempting to do in the counseling process:

- A. We are "Identifying Wrong Thinking" . . .  
 --which is revealed by . . .  
     --"Wrong Behavior", and . . .
- B. How do we "Identify" the Wrong Thinking?  
 --We use the Principles of the Word of God:  
     1. The Basic Needs Of A Marriage;  
     2. Satan's Weapons: Hurt, Anger, Bitterness;  
     3. God's Weapons: Forgiveness; Obey Holy Spirit;  
     4. The Four Basic Temperaments (Sin Nature);  
     5. The Spiritual Gifts (New Nature in Christ);  
     6. God's Instructions To The Husband;  
     7. God's Instructions To The Wife;  
     8. The Purpose And Needs Of Children;  
     9. The Importance Of The Church;  
     10. The Importance Of "Work".  
 --These Biblical principles allow the Pastor to "identify"  
     Wrong Thinking!
- C. Having identified the wrong thinking, we now "Confront" with the Truth! All "hope" of lasting change rests here!  
 --We "Teach Right Thinking" -- We help the person understand what God says!  
 --We ask the question, "What does God say?"
- D. Then, we "Secure A Right Choice" -- We "Insist On Confession And Repentance."  
 --This "Right Choice" should then be shown by . . .  
 --"Right Behavior" followed by . . .  
 --"Right Feelings"!