

## OUR HOMES NEED CHRISTIAN HUSBANDS

Several years ago, former Vice-president Dan Quayle was inexorably criticized for bemoaning the lack of moral values in our country and specifically targeting the entertainment industry for much of the demise. Now it seems that presidential candidates seeking the nomination of their respective parties are eagerly jumping on the bandwagon of “faith and family.” Christians know that the Bible is the only source that provides genuine instruction for quality homes. We trust that this article and subsequent ones will be a blessing to your family.

In the home, as in all of life, husbands should follow the example of Christ. Jesus’ love for His bride, the church, is extraordinarily beautiful. Paul writes about this divine relationship in Ephesians 5:21-33. At the same time, he compares the relationship between husband and wife with that of Christ and the church. Three lessons come to mind as we consider the passage.

**First, a husband must be willing to leave.** “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh” (v. 31). This same admonition was given to man at creation (Gen. 2:24), and will continue until the end of time. Often in a wedding ceremony, a minister may call upon us, not only to leave father and mother, but to forsake all others. No relationship, with the exception of God, should supersede the relationship a man has with his wife. Children, friends, or business associates should never be placed above her. Her feelings, desires, and needs should become his own.

**Second, a husband must be willing to lead.** God has placed headship in the home with the husband. “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and He is the savior of the body” (v. 23). God demands order for the stability of society. Someone must be the final authority in making decisions. Because man is to be the leader in the home, this does not make the woman inferior,

any more than Christ is inferior to the Father (1 Cor. 11:3); it just means that the husband is to be the head. How sad today to see so many delinquent husbands and fathers who can neither make proper decisions nor take the spiritual lead in their homes.

**Third, a husband must be willing to love.** “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for it (v. 25). What an amazing love was the love of Jesus! He willingly laid down his life for His bride (Acts 20:28). No less is expected of a husband. To some, love is just a mushy feeling or an inexpressible emotion. However, love is commanded of God. A husband has no option but to love his wife. When a man properly loves his wife, he will go far in winning her praise and admiration and will help provide a place of warmth for his entire family.

Each young man contemplating marriage should consider this divine arrangement through a careful study of God’s Word. If the principles contained therein are followed, he will cause his bride to be a most joyous young lady. In turn, he will find his home to be satisfying, peaceful, and truly a foretaste of heaven above. That has been God’s desire all along.

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**Barry M. Grider** *from Christian Worker*

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## HOW DOES MY INFLUENCE AFFECT OTHERS?

One of the great powers in life is the power to choose. We choose what we will eat. We choose to put into our bodies those things that can harm us, things such as alcohol, drugs, or tobacco. We choose to obey the laws of the land or break them. We choose whom we will date, and the one we will marry or not marry. And the list could go on and on, but have you ever stopped to think how your choices might affect others? This is an important question every Christian must seriously consider.

The greatest decision we will ever make in our lives is the choice to obey the gospel and become a New Testament Christian. However, with that choice we are to live a faithful life and a life that will influence others for good. In fact, if we

look to the Scriptures, Paul told Timothy he was to be an example (1 Timothy 4:12). What was he to be an example in? His example was to be one of righteousness, one that characterized what Christianity is all about.

If you take the Lord’s name in vain, use curse words, or speak down of another person, are you setting a good Christian example by your “words”? If you involve yourself in drunken parties, rebel against parents and authority, or involve yourself in any conduct unbecoming of a Christian, are you setting a good example to others in Christian “conduct”? If you bully others, make fun of others, make enemies of others, speak down to others, or refuse to help others in need, are you showing the Christian attitude of “love”? If you carry an attitude of negativity and pessimism, are you being a proper example in “spirit”? If you proclaim to be a Christian but continually miss worship, fail to stand up for Christ, share Him with others, or act as a hypocrite, are you setting a good example of Christian “faith”? If you participate in fornication, adultery, or partake in drugs, drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, or chew tobacco, are you setting an example in “purity”?

The point being, we must think about the things we do as Christians. So many fail to stand back and look in the mirror and understand the things they do may affect others in a way that would turn them away from Christ. Ask yourself if someone imitated you, would they be imitating Christ? Do not let yourself be caught in the trap of thinking that the things you do in life will not affect others, because they indeed will. We are living sacrifices (Romans 12:1, 2). Use your influence to win others over to Christ and not turn them away. Your salvation and the salvation of countless others depends on it.

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**Andy Heavin** *from Sapulpa Bulletin*

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*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*  
**Matthew 5:16**

## ILL

**Sunday:** Janice Carter (PM), Monica Nemechek (PM).

**Wednesday:** Lindsey Brown.

Bob Adams is scheduled for an outpatient procedure on December 20. Lindsey Brown had outpatient tests last week and is awaiting the results. Allen Scott continues to recuperate at home and is slowly making progress.

**Those battling cancer:** Jamal Abyad, David Cole, Ledgia Campbell and Betty James. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

## HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## OUT OF TOWN

Wilba Hopkins is in Springfield, MO this weekend. Trent Thrasher was in Fulton, MO last weekend.

## MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, December 9 following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend and help to work on our 2008 budget.

## SATURDAY SEMINAR

There will be a Saturday Seminar at 39<sup>th</sup> Street in Independence, MO December 15 on the theme "*Getting To Know God.*" Details are in the flyer in the foyer.

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 44; Sunday PM, 33; Wednesday PM, 32.

### Words of Wisdom

*"Too many couples marry for better or worse, but not for good."*

*"We have been so anxious to give our children what we didn't have that we have neglected to give them what we did have."*

## Those To Serve

December 9, 2007

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Cole**

### MORNING WORSHIP

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Steve Brown**

**SONG LEADER..... George Thomas**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Joel Nelson**

**PRESIDE.....Jared Nelson**

**ASSIST.....Jeff Nemechek**

**ASSIST.....David Parish**

**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter**

### EVENING WORSHIP

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Trent Thrasher**

**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson**

**LORD'S SUPPER.....Jared Nelson**

### WEDNESDAY 12th

**SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson**

**INVITATION .....Jared Nelson**

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM

Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM

Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM

Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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