

**5-9-21 Message**  
**THE MYSTERY BEHIND A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY**

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Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife [see] that she reverence [her] husband.

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Ephesians 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

Ephesians 6:3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

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

Intro:

When talking about marriage, the Apostle Paul says this is a great mystery, but there is a spiritual and hidden secret behind a successful marriage and family.. This morning I want to talk to you about the Mystery Behind Every Successful Family..

Families are in turmoil in our country. Divorce, alternate lifestyles, live in relationships, broken homes, etc.. This morning I want to unveil before your minds what the Bible calls the mystery behind God's blueprint for a successful marriage and family. It is God that designed the family, and it is God that holds a family together.

Colossians 1:16-17 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

He holds all things together and he is that one that also holds together a marriage, or family!

Today is Mother's day. In the day that we live our wacky society is having a hard time trying to figure out how transgenders can celebrate Mother's day and Father's day..

Here are some headlines:

Some have said, we should change the name of Mother's day to Guardian Day to reflect gender neutrality..

A SUPERMARKET has started selling gender-neutral Mother's Day cards - as Happy You Day - in an attempt to be more "transgender inclusive".

Today the insanity of the transgender movement, comes face to face with a holiday like Mother's day, and these wackos, start hyperventilating, as they come face to face with the reality that there has to be a male and a female, in society when it comes to having children.

The world is totally ignorant to this mystery that Paul is talking about in this passage. This morning I want to talk to you about:

## ***THE MYSTERY BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL FAMILY***

Ephesians 5:31 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.

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

### ***I. THE MYSTERY STARTS WITH A HUSBAND AND A WIFE..***

Every home must start with a marriage between a man and a woman, and every man or woman except Adam and Eve, will come from a man and a woman.

The world is trying to change all this and it is nothing but confusion.

It is God that designed a marriage, it is God that made a man and a woman, and ordained these to be the back bone of a family.

The most basic element of our society is that of a husband and a wife. Today we celebrate Mother's day, but really the family started not with a woman, but first came the man.

Paul says, this is a mystery but the reason God designed it that way was because God had in mind before the world was ever created that he would send his Son Jesus Christ into the world to purchase to himself a group of people called the church. So in God's mind, the church came first, then he designed a marriage to be a reflection of the church.

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Consider the design of the Husband and Wife is to be a reflection of Christ and His Church.

### ***1. THE HUSBAND IS TO BE A REFLECTION OF CHRIST ..***

Christ is the head, of his church, he is the one that leads, and teaches his church. He gave his life for his church. He loved his Church.

There is a famine in the land of good godly fathers, and husbands. The reason for this is because men do not know Christ, neither are they like Christ.

The mystery behind a successful marriage and family is Christ..

***Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.***

There are few happy homes today. Divorce is rampant, couples are unhappy, children are not happy. There is disunity in our homes. The whole reason is simple..

It must start with a Godly husband who knows Christ and wants to be like Jesus Christ.

The secret to a successful family is wrapped up in knowing and loving Jesus Christ.

## **2. THE WIFE NEEDS TO ALSO LOVE JESUS CHRIST AND DESIRE TO OBEY CHRIST..**

This is the mystery behind a godly mother and wife. The mystery behind a good marriage is Jesus Christ. As the husband loves and follows Christ, and the wife, loves and obeys Christ. Then here will be a successful marriage.

IT WILL WORK..

IT HAS TO WORK..

IT WILL PRODUCE A GOOD MARRIAGE AND FAMILY!!!

## **3. EVERY FAMILY STARTS WITH A GOOD MARRIAGE..**

The secret and mystery behind a good marriage is this bond, this unity, that exists. This love, relationship..

### **A. Love is a mystery to people in this world. Because Love only comes from God..**

***1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.***

We don't know how to love, only through Christ, can we learn how to love. Love is of God.

The world says, if two people love each other, who are we to tell them they are living in sin if they are male and male lovers, or female and female.. etc. This is confusion... The world calls this love, the Bible calls it lust..

Romans 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

Romans 1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, **burned in their lust** one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

God commands every man to love his wife, THIS IS LOVE:

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Ephesians 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Ephesians 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

Ephesians 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Ephesians 5:31 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.

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Without God, without Christ, we do not know how to love.

Marriage today can be a blessing or a cursing, in Christ it is a blessing, in the world it is a curse.

The Bible says, this is a mystery, but when talking about the secrete to a successful marriage it must start with Jesus Christ. THIS IS A GREAT MYSTERY.. But I speak concerning Christ and his church.

The Love that God commands us to have is a mystery to the world!

### ***B. THE WIFE IS THE KEY TO THE MYSTERY BEHIND A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY..***

Though the husband is the leader, and God made Adam first, still it is the woman who creates the Atmosphere, and creates a good spirit in the home.

The Spirit of the home is in the lap of the mother. Rarely have I seen a home where the husband can out do the influence of the woman of the home.

She is the influencer of the home for good or for bad.

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Ephesians 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in every thing.

A godly woman creates a spirit of submission in the home.

Every mother, every wife, should be a reflection of the Holy Spirit in the home.

Now this is a mystery.

A mystery is something that has been hidden but now is revealed. From the beginning of time, way back in the garden God had in mind sending His son into this world to draw to Himself a group of people called the church. When God said this:

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

God said, "Let us make man in our image in our likeness..

### **THIS IS THE MYSTERY..**

God made mankind, in his image, and in his likeness..

Every Godly marriage, every successful marriage is a picture of God.

There are three persons that are called God in the Bible,

### **The Father..**

### **Christ God's only begotten Son..**

### **And the Holy Spirit..**

There are three types of people that make up a family..

A Father, the husband,

A Mother, the influencer and keeper of the home..

### **Children**

A Child, the one that proceeds from the Father and Mother, and will someday depart and make up another family.. This is pictured in Jesus Christ who left heaven and came down to earth to purchase to himself a spiritual bride His church.

There are three persons that are one essence..

I John 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

I John 5:8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

The Unity that is found in God in heaven, is the unity that God wants for every home and marriage. This is a perfect harmony, and perfect union. A perfect love relationship.

People who do not know God cannot have a good marriage,

So there is a blessing for loving God and conforming to this mystery.

The Ultimate Blasphemy, is when the world thinks they can pervert this picture and expect there to be a loving relationship.

Since we have liberated the gays, legalized homosexual marriages, have you ever seen so much hate in our society.

Yet in the name of love, these people are being accepted and lauded. How is it there is more hate, more violence, more rioting?

THIS IS A MYSTERY.. the Bible says, the key to a good marriage is found in Christ...

Today is Mother's Day, and when it comes to raising children, the mother is the key. She has the power of influence in the home.

I have never yet seen a husband able to out do the influence of the wife or mother with the children.

I Timothy 2:11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

I Timothy 2:12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

I Timothy 2:13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

I Timothy 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

I Timothy 2:15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

A woman who has a sweet submissive spirit will cause a sweet spirit in the home. Her place is in the home, in the home she rules, and has power and influence. On her knees lies the future leaders of the world. Future mothers..

She is the key!!!! This is a mystery.

### **She is like the Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit: Is called the comforter.. Mom is the comforter of Home..

The Holy Spirit: Is called our teacher.. Mom is the teacher of the Home...

The Holy Spirit: Convicts, or convinces.. Mom will convict

The Holy Spirit: Empowers, and it is moms that make their homes powerful..

The Holy Spirit: Influences, and leads in the background.. Moms influence..

The Holy Spirit: Is pictures as the incense in temple.. Mom's are the decorators and spirit of their homes..

The Holy Spirit: Gives life, we are born again by the Spirit.. the mother give birth to the children of the home..

The Holy Spirit: Is our intercessor, Mom is the intercessor for the children how many times does she go to her husband on behalf or her children..

The Holy Spirit: Gives light to our hearts, the Bible says of the virtuous woman, Proverbs 31:18.. her candle goeth not out by night.

The Holy Spirit: Never draws attention to self but testified of the Father and the Son, A mother's success is wrapped up her husband and her children.

The Holy Spirit: Is the second person of the trinity.. The wife, is a physical picture of the Holy Spirit in the marriage and the home...

## ***II. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS MYSTERY IS THE REASON FAMILIES ARE DYSFUNCTIONAL IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY..***

This formula works, and produces godly children and good fruit.

Sin and Rebellion against God has caused the opposite to happen to families.

In our country today we see homes are dysfunctional, children are unruly, and it all stems from families who are not putting Christ first.

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife [see] that she reverence [her] husband.

### ***THE BLESSING AND CURSING OF FAMILY IN OUR NATION IS BASED OFF OF THIS MYSTERY***

Consider, the first murder occurred in Genesis over a family quarrel: Cain and Able, Cain's envy and ill feelings towards his brother brought on the violence:

Murders, Adultery , heartaches.. all entered this world because of sin..

Sin and rebellion against God are the greatest enemy of the family..

Yet God made the family to be a blessing.. when he made Eve and brought her to Adam ... God pronounced that first marriage as being good..

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, [It is] not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

A man without a family is not a good thing..

Today .. in this fallen world .. marriage children.. family all are meant to be good.. yet for many .. that which God intended for a blessing has become a cursing..

#### **FAMILY A BLESSING AND A CURSING**

#### ***1. SINFUL MEN SO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS MYSTERY AND HAVE MADE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY A CURSING..***

I had one fellow who was separated from his wife said to me, that when God gave Eve her name he said, she shall be called woman .. woe unto man..

Note that is not what God meant but right after the fall Adam blamed the woman for all his problems..

Genesis 3:12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest [to be] with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

Genesis 3:13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What [is] this [that] thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

God intended the woman to be a help meet.. in Adam's job of keeping the garden..

All the problems that happened in the garden happened because Eve got independent of that purpose and explored other things to fill her time..

A marriage is a blessing when the two work together as God intended them to..

A marriage is a cursing when the husband and wife follow the world and Satan..

The world is miserable and failing in their marriages and marriage is a cursing to them..

Before I was saved.. and in the world and part of the world.. the advice all the married people would give me is STAY SINGLE.. Reason why is that they were all miserable.. and their homes were a mess..

If you follow the world's pattern for a home you will get the world's results..

PATTERN: In the Garden.. Eve was created to be a help meet to Adam.. Satan... enticed Eve to seek independence.. and another purpose..  
Ye shall be as gods..

The blessing comes when two are working together for the same purpose..

The cursing comes as two go their own ways.. and serve two different purposes.

A marriage is a blessing as the husband fulfills his Biblical role and the wife fulfills her Biblical role..

A marriage becomes a cursing as the husband and wife each pursue unbiblical pursuits and sin..

How many times I have seen people come to church thinking it will be a good luck charm to straighten out their marriages. What they do not realize that only by giving their heart and lives to Christ can their families be salvaged.

The mystery behind these blessings is to be like Christ and love Christ!

In Sunday School we have been reading about the blessings and cursings pronounced in Deuteronomy for obedience!

Our nation is going to receive a cursing for what they are doing in desecrating the image, and mystery that is behind the success of every marriage and family.

We think that we can simply decide for ourselves what makes a marriage. The argument goes that if two people love each other who is anyone to say how they decide to live is right or wrong? If they want to co-habitate and have sex who are we to say it is wrong? If they believe it is ok for them to get married who are we to say they shouldn't?

As if right or wrong is up for grabs. Basically what society is saying is that the Biblical definition of marriage is archaic and wrong. God is wrong.

The problem with this kind of thinking is that historically God has destroyed any people that have followed this type of reasoning because marriage is not up to us to define. Just like when men mess with splitting atoms and there is a nuclear reaction so too messing with marriage has a chain reaction morally that has devastating results and effects. The ones that are affected the most are the children. The acceptance of homosexual relationships, has caused the transgender movement. Children are now in total confusion. A transgender 11 year old boy is upset because he learned that he can never be a mother someday! On and on it goes. Out the door must go celebrating Mother's Day and Father's Day lest we offend people who are super sensitive about these things. We need to redefine words that are male or female exclusive. On and on it goes until everything is so bizarre that our society just implodes with political correctness.

Did you know.. that Caesar Augustus.. purpose for the whole world to be taxed was because he was seeking moral reform in the empire..

Marriage was down.

Roman citizens were having less children.

Immorality was at an all time high.

He outlawed adultery.. and made divorces more difficult to get..

He decided to reward those who had children with special tax benefits..

He was smart enough to know that the moral decay was destroying Rome from within. Our leaders are too stupid to understand this! All they care about is being voted into office.

Now some conjectured.. that the tax.. which was really a census was ordered and that caused Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem was part of this reform. Caesar Augustus wanted to see if his reform was working and wanted to see how the population was doing and how families were doing. The backbone of any society is the family. If families are not thriving a nation is not thriving. To redefine the family is to purposely inject a moral cancer into society itself. This is what cancer is. Cells that don't fit into the body take over the body. Your body's defense system tells these freak cells to die off and self destruct but something goes wrong and the perverted cells reproduce quicker than the healthy cells. These perverted cells proliferate and in turn destroy the whole body. A moral cancer has invaded our society and the mechanisms that are ordained to contain it instead of retraining this are encouraging it and protecting it. It is only a matter of time before these cells consume the whole body. Our world is in stage 4 moral decay! The problem is that there is no Caesar Augustus, to say, enough is enough we need moral reform.

Marriage is actually a blessing when you are doing it God's way..

A husband and wife.. who are serving the Lord together.. will be blessed...

The wife is to be the help meet...

As a husband and wife work together like Priscilla and Aquila.. God blesses their marriage..

Since the day we got married my wife and I have served in ministries together in churches. This is why we have been together now 46 years!

Ephesians 5:31 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.  
Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Do you realize the reason there is such a thing as marriage is because of Christ and his church?! In God's mind that is what takes precedence!.. Our marriages are but a temporary arrangement to reflect this great mystery.

Our families are a platform to perpetuate this picture of Christ and his church. When we fail to teach our children to love Christ, they in turn will receive the curse.

The Key to having a good family is wrapped up in our relationship with Christ and his church. This is the mystery!!! Paul said, when talking about marriage "This is a mystery but I speak of Christ and his Church.

### **III. YOUR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE CHURCH IS A REFLECTION OF YOUR HOME AND YOUR HOME IS REFLECTED IN YOUR CHURCH RELATIONSHIP**

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife [see] that she reverence [her] husband.

As the Church so the family, as the family so the Church,

#### **THIS IS A MYSTERY**

##### **1. *A person's relationship with Christ and His Church will in time affect their marriage and their family***

Years ago I was an interim Pastor of a little church. I was working in Sugarman's as a salesman, and met a man who once attended this church. I asked him to come back to the church and he said never. I asked why. He began to mention all kinds of people that he had a problem with. Every person he mentioned no longer attended the church. I told him that, and he said it didn't matter. Now if all the people were gone that he was bitter against why was he still bitter? It was simple he was bitter against Christ.

Bitterness is a cancer, a cancer that will consume your family.

Jesus gave a parable about this in Matthew chapter 18:22-35

In the parable a certain king was reckoning with his servants and he found one servant owed him 10,000 talents. A talent of gold or silver is the largest denomination of money that a person could owe. Let us assume it was silver because if it were gold it would be in the trillions of dollars. If silver it would be in the millions.

A talent is anywhere from 75lbs to 100 lbs.. so  $10000 * 75 = 750,000$  lbs of silver or 375 tons of silver  $750,000 * \$400$  per pound = \$300,000,000 Three hundred million dollars

Then this fellow goes out and finds one of his servants that owes him 100 pence. This was about \$10,000 dollars or less.. where as 300 million ..

$300,000,00 \div 10,000 = 30,000$

So what this other servant was forgiven was 30,000 times worse than what he was not willing to forgive.

So this fellow who would not forgive wound up destroying his own family. One day his two sons were having a quarrel and the older brother came into his younger brother's bedroom and the younger brother got mad at him and shot him dead.

So the father's and mother's bitterness towards people in the church overflowed into their own family.

### **THIS IS A MYSTERY**

2. Many times those who have unstable marriages are unstable in the church,
3. Where there is bitterness and unforgiveness in the Church so there is in the home!
4. Any problem in the home is a spiritual problem! Which will be reflected in the Church!

Easily offended  
Bitterness  
Defiance  
Infidelity  
Covetousness  
Fighting  
Carnality

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

***IV. THE MYSTERY TO HAVING A UNIFIED, BONDED, HOME IS WRAPPED UP IN OUR SPIRITUAL WALK WITH CHRIST!***

Any problem that you leave unresolved in the Church will haunt your home!

THE REASON WE HAVE WEAK CHURCHES IS BECAUSE WE HAVE WEAK HOMES AND WEAK CHURCHES MAKE FOR WEAK HOMES, YOUR HOME WILL ONLY BE AS SECURE AS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH!

Paul said, concerning marriage, this is a mystery but what God says about a good marriage he says about Christ and his church. As the marriage so the church as the church so is the marriage.

What is a marriage? It is but a relationship! What is a church it is a body of believers who have a relationship in Christ. A church is a group of people united in Spirit, a husband and wife are united in the flesh and spirit.

The church is one..  
Husband and wife are one..

I have had 38 years as a pastor to observe what happens in homes with people that are unstable in their walk with the Lord and unfaithful in the church. I have concluded that your spiritual condition will over flow into your home and family.

## ***V. THE MYSTERY OF A GOOD FAMILY OVERFLOWS INTO THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN***

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife [see] that she reverence [her] husband.

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Ephesians 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

Ephesians 6:3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

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

Ultimately what is the goal of a marriage? Is it not to raise up a godly family and that involves children. Children are the natural byproduct of a good marriage.

So this is Mother's Day, and what do we celebrate but the blessings that a woman receives when she has children.

To some the way to raise up children successfully is a mystery. It need not be a mystery. That mystery is wrapped up in Christ and his Church.

It takes two people living together in harmony with the principles of the Bible to raise up children who will follow the Lord. Raising children is a full time job and as the parents live their lives for the Lord this is the best way to train up children to live for God. The Spirit of the home over flows into the lives of the children of the home.

Notice what Paul says about children:

**1. Children need to learn obedience and submission:**

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

A rebel wife produces rebel children..  
A rebel husband produces rebel children...

If the parents are rebelling from what God wants them to do, don't be surprised that the children will follow suit.

The truth is that we are all sinners and sin is rebellion from God and his word. So we are all a bit handicapped in this regard. However, by the grace of God, through salvation and through Biblical teaching we can teach our children to love Christ, and if we teach them to love Christ we will be successful parents.

I would constantly remind my children that their main duty in life is to love Jesus and then love their parents. Obey Jesus, and they will want to obey and honor their parents. No human being is worthy of honor and respect, only God is, but if we honor God, we will want to honor those he told us to honor..

The best thing we can teach our children is submission and obedience.

If we teach them submission to us they in turn will be blessed...

**2. WE NEED TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO HONOR THEIR PARENTS SO THEY CAN BE BLESSED IN LIFE...**

More important than a college education, and a good job, is the blessings your children will receive if they are taught to honour their parents.

Ephesians 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;  
Ephesians 6:3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

When children are young their are commanded to be obedient.. when they get older they are commanded to honor their parents.

The idea of honoring your parents is that of helping them as they get older.

The word is used in proverbs in regards to persons wealth or substance and a warning against getting involved with immoral relationships..

Proverbs 5:3 For the lips of a strange woman drop [as] an honeycomb, and her mouth [is] smoother than oil:

Proverbs 5:8 Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:

Proverbs 5:9 Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:

Proverbs 5:10 Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours [be] in the house of a stranger;

Malachi 1:6 A son honoureth [his] father, and a servant his master: if then I [be] a father, where [is] mine honour? and if I [be] a master, where [is] my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

Malachi 1:7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD [is] contemptible.

Malachi 1:8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, [is it] not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, [is it] not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

Again, raising children is a total mystery to the world.

For the welfare and the blessing that only God can give someone it is in their best interests that we teach our children to honour us! This is more important than a college education, or a good job or making a lot of money!

The world is involved in manipulation, psychology, and a host of other things. All we need to do is follow God's Word and do what he says. Children will pick up the spirit of the home more than anything else. Moms provide a spirit of love, compassion and submission. The fathers provide a spirit of law and order and justice and equity and discipline.

### **3. THE LORD WARNS FATHERS NOT TO MAKE THEIR HOMES A PRESSURE COOKER..**

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

Father's need to teach their children and not provoke them to wrath.

A man can lose patience with his kids and provoke them to wrath and cause them to get bitter. A lot of children do not want to be around their parents because their dad is

always flying off the handle and getting angry over every little thing. One of the worst things a parent can do with his children is make their home a place of static electricity. In other words the kids never know when they are going to be shocked with a painful experience of their dad's wrath.

#### **A. How does a father provoke his children to wrath?**

By putting them down and calling them names..  
By flying off the handle yelling and screaming at them..  
By teasing them and making light of them..  
By expecting more of them than is realistic..

#### **B. How does a father bring up their children in nurture and admonition of the Lord**

Fathers need to spend time to teach their children spiritual things:

Deuteronomy 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

Deuteronomy 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Isaiah 38:19 The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I [do] this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth.

Psalms 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

Psalms 78:3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

Psalms 78:4 We will not hide [them] from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

Psalms 78:5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

Psalms 78:6 That the generation to come might know [them, even] the children [which] should be born; [who] should arise and declare [them] to their children:

This is what it is to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Family devotions are very important.

#### **Conclusion:**

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

The mystery behind a godly and successful family and home is wrapped up in Christ and his church. As the Church so is the family. Every father needs to be a spiritual

leader in the home. He is like the Pastor of his home. He needs to lead in prayer, he needs to lead through spiritual teaching and guidance. In fact this is reason in Israel, it was mandated that all the men would attend the feasts. It did not mandate that the women and children come. It was expected that if the men came, he would go home and teach their families what they learned.

Too many parents expect that the children will learn everything they need to learn in church. This is not the case. A school, the church, many cases cannot undo what is learned in the home. Character is taught in the home.

Marriage, Child training, these are but mysteries to the world. They should not be a mystery to us.

### ***Salvation is where it starts:***

It must start with salvation: Parents who are saved and know the Lord, Then parents need to work to see their children come to know the Lord.

### ***Sanctification and Dedication are where it is perfected:***

It is not enough to have a knowledge of salvation to have a successful home and family. It must work itself out in practical sanctification and dedication in the home. Too many Christians are facing marital problems and wayward children today. It is not enough to say well I'm saved and it is all just going to work out.

### ***It Takes Two:***

It takes both a husband and wife working together towards this end.. I have seen pastors' families destroyed because their homes are not in order. It takes a husband and wife team for this to work. Not just the husband, not just the wife.

This must be a team effort. Not just a solo act!

The Lord give us wisdom in this endeavor. What America needs is a revival of families that are living for the Lord.

Notice the Bible predicts there will be a problem in this area just before the Lord returns. We read this in Malachi:

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Malachi 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Today we are experiencing the curse of broken homes, dysfunctional families. Every father needs to get this vision and have his heart turned so his family can be a light to a world that is filled with broken and dysfunctional families.