

Stepping Into...

“Strong Family”

What do we need?

Proverbs 24:3-4 NKJV

Through **wisdom** a house is built,
And by **understanding** it is established;
By **knowledge** the rooms are filled with all
precious and pleasant riches...

Prov 3: 19-20 “By wisdom the LORD founded the earth; by understanding he created the heavens. By his knowledge the deep fountains of the earth burst forth, and the dew settles beneath the night sky.”

What happened to Love?

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Knowledge to build: What to know?

Gen. 2:18, 21-22, 24 NLT

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.” ...²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep.

While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man’s ribs and closed up the opening. ²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. ...²⁴

This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

1. The original design of a family

2. The reason for family

What is expected from each?

Eph. 5:21-26 NLT

²¹ And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² For **wives**, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For a husband is **the head** of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. ²⁴ As **the church submits to Christ**, so **you wives should submit** to your husbands in everything. ²⁵ For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.

What is expected from each?

Eph. 5:27-29 NLT

²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. ²⁹ No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church.

Eph. 5:31-32 NLT

³¹“A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” ³² This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one...

Eph. 6:1-4 NLT

Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. “Honour your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honour your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.” Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

Col 3:18 NLT **“Wives, submit to your husbands...”**

What is expected from each?

To all: Submission

To the Husband:

1. Headship
2. Love
3. Bring up children with discipline and instruction (that comes from the Lord)

Note: Fruit of the Spirit must be evident in discipline (Gal 5:22-23...)

To the Wife: Submission and respect

To children: Obedience

Understanding to build

Eph 5:15-17 NLT

¹⁵ So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷ Don't act thoughtlessly but **understand what the Lord wants you to do.**

1. Headship - leadership not superiority.

Husband = "house-band," connecting and keeping together the whole family.

2. Submission – humility not inferiority.

Love, Submit – CHRIST and the CHURCH

Headship

1. Christ-like
2. Sacrificial
3. Personal
4. Purposeful
5. Productive
6. Consistent

Submission / Obedience

- Christ-like
- Deliberate / volitional putting oneself under the authority of another ... **Phil 2:5-8**
- A product of who you actually belong to: Christ, not man (Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord, Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.)
- Personal
- Consistent ... **Acts 4:18-19**

Wisdom to build- choice and actions

Proverbs 9:10 NLT

Fear of the LORD is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.

Psalms 127:1 NLT

Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted...

Genesis 18:18-19 NLT

¹⁸ “For Abraham ... ¹⁹ I have singled him out so that he will direct his sons and their families to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just. Then I will do for Abraham all that I have promised.”

GOD FIRST: By Him shall our homes be strong

Let's apply wisdom...

"Life is lived forward but it's understood backward."

- African proverb

1. Abraham & Sarah: Good communication...unusual sacrifice (Gen 20)
2. Jacob & Joseph: Open favouritism ...bitterness/hatred (Gen 37: 3-4)
3. David & Absalom: Address wrongs...resolve issues NOW (2 Sam 13)
4. Eli and Sons: Put God first! Your actions will birth the character of your children, not your words. Don't be complacent with your Children-
....**This could be deadly!!** (1Sam 2:27& 3: 11-14)

“When we put God first, all other things fall into their proper place or drop out of our lives. Our love of the Lord will govern the claims for our affection, the demands on our time, the interests we pursue, and the order of our priorities.”

Ezra Taft Benson

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